

From: [Donald Zeigler](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Comments regarding item14d on the Palm Desert City Council Meeting Agenda for February 27, 2025
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:21:08 AM



My name is Donald Zeigler, and I am a resident of Palm Desert. I am also a member of one of the Citizen's Committees affected by this agenda item. I applied for and was approved to serve on the Resource Preservation and Enhancement Committee last July. I have devoted considerable time and energy to the business of this committee. I receive no compensation beyond my satisfaction that I am serving an important function by studying and providing input to city staff and the council on the critical issues that the committee considers. It was therefore a great surprise for me to read that, in appreciation for my and the committee's efforts, the council believes, in the text of Item 14d, that "the committee had been meeting without clear agenda items, leading to discussions outside its intended scope."

Every meeting of the committee has a clear agenda. A city council member and city staff are active participants in the meetings. When I attend these meetings, I have no confusion as to why I am there and what it is we are to consider. Our agenda items typically deal with complex issues so to thoroughly discuss them, it is important that we are free to explore the boundaries of the topic. If a committee member strays too far from the intended scope of any item being considered, the staff and city councilmembers as well as the committee chair can, at any time, reel in the discussion. I've seen no situation where that has been abused. Also, there is time on the agenda for member comments, and we are free to introduce topics of interest that the board may or may not choose to discuss further. That is an opportunity to introduce new items for sure, but again I have not seen that privilege abused.

So, I take personal offense at the implied criticism that I am on a committee that has somehow gone rogue. I think I and the others on the committee deserve better than that. We are

responsible people that take our positions seriously and this makes it sound like we are a mob.

I truly don't understand why this item and the language used to present it are even here. I don't think the staff is responsible for this and I don't think this proposal comes from them. I can only conclude that some on the council have a low opinion of the committee and the work that the staff and members put into it. I will be very disappointed if a majority of you feel that way about the work of dedicated citizens just trying to make life better in the city. I request that you remove changes to RPEC from this item. Allow the Committee to continue to function as a valuable resource for the city.