

My name is Howard Dent. My wife and I own a home at 14725 Banks O'Dee Road in Newburg. Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

I spend a lot of time in writing oral testimony and letters. Each 3 minutes that I spend before you, takes me 6 to 8 hours of preparation. I have to research to be sure I can back up my points, check them for accuracy, write, edit to get it down to 3 minutes, and practice reading. I know you are listening (except when a commissioner is not present), but are you really hearing what I say?

For the Master's Child hearing, the recommendation to you from the Planning Commission said that there were no comments at their public hearing, and that error was never corrected, even though I, among others, pointed that out in both spoken and written testimony.

It's the same with the written comments.

In addition to written testimony, I understand that you receive the number of the respondents that are FOR, AGAINST, or Neutral. Each Commissioner and their assistant determine how these comments are reviewed.

So do my hours of preparation get boiled down to a single number in an up or down "vote"? Is it the same as if I signed a form letter? I have to believe that my time is worth more than that. I was under the impression that it was the content of what was said, not the number of people saying it. Public testimony is part of the planning process.

And when the Commissioners keep the record open for 30 days, do you actually read and consider those comments?

I would hope that my research and data will help inform your choices, yet I don't often hear my testimony referenced by you in your work sessions. Regarding the Master's Child, several of us

made arguments as to why this site could be considered spot zoning. The response made by one of the Commissioners was that they didn't agree with the comments that it was spot zoning, yet no evidence was offered to support that assertion. Your lawyer and the planning staff had raised concerns about spot zoning .

I'll quote from The Planning Commissioners' Guide: "Commissioners should keep and demonstrate an open mind until the last person has had a chance to comment. It is terribly frustrating for citizens to feel that by the time they had a chance to talk, the commission has made up its mind." I hope that someone can convince me that the time I spend on my comments is worth it.

And as to Commissioner Coates, she needs to recuse herself from all the discussion and votes regarding the lands around the airport. Her immediate family has financial interest in one of the subject properties; it seems like a conflict of interest. Since she is not here, I hope that the Commissioner President and Mr. Adams will convey my comments to her.

And I thank you for your time.