

**From:** [Kooiker Sam](#)  
**To:** [Community Planning Group](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Important message regarding Planning  
**Date:** Monday, January 19, 2015 5:01:19 PM

---

FYI.

---

**From:** Kooiker Sam  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2015 5:01 PM  
**To:** Kooiker Sam  
**Subject:** Important message regarding Planning

Dear Planning Commission members,

Soon you will be hearing some proposals to do something unusual – and that is to transfer some of the appointment making from the Mayor and to the Planning Commission (with confirmation by the Council). When I arrived in office in 2011, we had approx 86 committees – all Mayoral appointed. We now have about 42 standing committees, and of these remaining committees, I believe some can be better organized. Three examples are **Air Quality, Zoning Board of Adjustments and Historic Preservation Commission.**

Let me give you a real world example of why I believe this will work, and why I hope you will support these proposals.

A few years ago we had the Parks and Rec Advisory board, Beautification Committee, Urban Forestry and Urban Wildlife. All important committees, and all independently operating, and all Mayoral appointed. We changed the ordinance so that the Beautification Committee, Urban Forestry and Urban Wildlife are appointed by the Parks and Rec Advisory board. The Parks and Rec Advisory board is still appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council. It's working great, and provides more responsibility for the Parks and Rec Advisory board while providing more meaning and better connection for the other three committees. The key difference between these appointments for Parks/Rec and Planning commission appointments, is that the Planning Commission appointments by law require confirmation by the Council. Because the Parks and Rec Advisory board is advisory and not legislative/judicial, the appointments for their subcommittees do not come to the council.

I ask that you keep an open mind to the presentation on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. I regret not being available to attend – I will be at the Travel and Tourism Conference in Pierre. Please contact me or Brett if you have any questions between now and then.

To summarize, we are taking a “flat hierarchy” (where all four committees are appointed by the Mayor) and changing it to a hub and spoke model that connects these three important boards to the Planning Commission by having the Planning Commission assist with the appointments for Air Quality, Zoning Board of Adjustments and Historic Preservation Commission. This will help further streamline and bring more synergy to the planning process.

Sam Kooiker

Mayor of Rapid City  
300 6th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
605-394-4110  
[mayor@rcgov.org](mailto:mayor@rcgov.org)