THE QUIET REVOLUTION GOES WEST: THE OREGON PLANNING PROGRAM 1961-2011

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THE QUIET REVOLUTION GOES WEST: THE OREGON PLANNING PROGRAM
1961-2011
By Edward J. Sullivan

I. Introduction and Background

A. Oregon’s peculiar political, social and economic history provided fertile ground for land use planning

B. Individual political leaders influential in the planning choices added to the mix

C. Article demonstrates the fortunate constellation of circumstance and leadership causing formulation of current state planning program – not easily replicated elsewhere

II. Evolution of the Oregon Planning System – Circumstances, Personalities and Luck

A. Pre-planning economic, social and political history

1. Eden at the End of the Oregon Trail

2. Effect of the Gold Rush (1849)

3. Natural resource dependence.

4. Admission to Union as “free state” (1859) but large pro-slavery element – No slavery, but no “free negroes”

5. Initiative, Primaries, Referendum and Recall (1902-08)

6. The Ku Klux Klan, the School Bill and Society of Sisters v. Pierce (1925) – Homogenous Population, Populism and Prejudice

B. In Principio Erat Zoning

1. Portland Zoning Ordinance (1918)

2. First State Enabling Legislation for cities (1919)

3. Portland Zoning Ordinance of 1924 upheld in Kroner v. Portland (1925)

4. Counties Authorized to plan and zone (1947, 1963)

5. Creation of access subject to local government approval (1955)

C. Some Political and Social Peculiarities of Oregon

1. Prohibition of discrimination in public accommodations (1953)

2. Cleanup of the Willamette River and the Greenway (1967)

3. The Beach Bill (1967) and Thornton v. Hay (1971)


5. Public Records and Public Meetings Legislation (1973)

D. The Origins of the Current Oregon Planning System

1. Exclusive Farm Zones and the Farm Tax System (1961, 1963)

2. Senate Bill 10 (1969) – All local governments must plan and zone


E. The Road to SB 100
1. Interim Committees and the A-95 process
2. Project Foresight and the Lawrence Halprin publication, *Willamette Valley: Choices for the Future*
3. Other Literary Influences – *Silent Spring, Design with Nature, Model Land Development Code Draft, Quiet Revolution*
4. Agriculture and Environmental Forces Join Together
5. The Failure of the National Land Use Planning Act

F. “That Magic Year” (1973)
   1. The McCall Speech on Planning
   2. SB 100 -- Cities oppose, counties support
   3. SB 101
   4. *Fasano v. Board of County Commissioners* – Quasi-judicial decisions and comprehensive plan supremacy for counties

G. The System Completed (1974-79)
   2. The Statewide Planning Goals – 1974-75
   3. “Coordination” and acknowledgment of plans (1976-86)
   5. The Land Use Board of Appeals (1979)

III. Crises and Conflicts (1979-2011)

A. The Effect of a Statewide Planning System
   1. Lobbyists and Pressure Groups
   2. 1000 Friends and Oregonians in Action
   3. Bare-Knuckles Fighting – Vetoes, Administrative Rules and Politics

B. Life after Nirvana –
   1. Acknowledgments Complete in 1986
   2. Post-Acknowledgment Amendments and Periodic Review
   3. The Continuing Problem of Funding Planning
   4. The Continuing Issues over Rural Land Use and Regulation

C. The Rajneeshpuram Controversy

D. Metro and Regional Planning in the Portland Area
   1. Functional Plans and the Regional Urban Growth Boundary
   2. The Road to Damascus
   3. Urban and Rural Reserves

E. Particular Planning Controversies
2. Statewide Minimum Lot Sizes for Farm and Forest Lands – Tradeoff for additional dwellings
4. Regional Problem Solving (1995--)
5. The Failure of Periodic Review
7. The “Big Look” Task Force (2005-07)

IV. Conclusion – How’s That Planning Thingee Working for You, Oregon?