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PLAN-Boulder County

Newsletter

November, 2010

November is a time of Thanksgiving, and politically PLAN-Boulder County has much for which to be thankful this fall. City Issue 2B, the utility occupation tax, passed with an overwhelming majority. Boulder Citizens for a Clean Energy Future deserves enormous credit for its remarkable, grass-roots campaign in favor of Issue 2B. To our delight, the County Open Space tax squeaked through, and the County social services tax and Boulder Valley School District tax also passed easily. Almost all of the local candidates whom we endorsed won, and at the state level the victories of Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper were a welcome relief. We were also very pleased to see "The Ugly Three"—Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101—suffer resounding defeats. We are grateful for the political courage of the Boulder City Council, the discernment of Boulder County voters, and the hard work of various PLAN-Boulder members and many others who took to the hustings.

Board Transitions

We're pleased to announce that Eric Karnes and Max Taffet were elected to the Board at its November 1 meeting. Eric is already very familiar to many PLAN-Boulder members. He served on the Board

Upcoming Fora

Friday, November 19, noon to 1:30 p.m. Boulder Creek Room, main Boulder Public Library, *Jefferson Parkway*. Panelists: to be determined.

Please visit the [PLAN-Boulder County website](#) for updates to the forum schedule.

Join us

PLAN-Boulder County is on the Web at [www.planbouldercounty.org](#). To become a member, please join via our [website](#) or send your check to P.O. Box 4682, Boulder, CO 80306. Our regular dues are \$25 a year, \$35 for a household, \$50 or more sustaining, and \$15 for a student or someone on limited income. Please include your e-mail address and phone number.

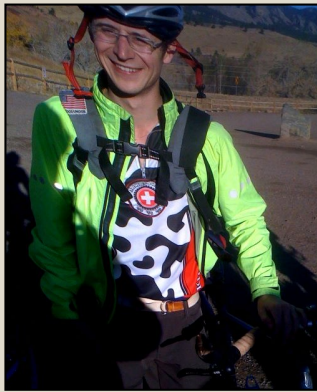
PLAN-Boulder County Board

Board meetings are open to members and are usually the first Monday of the month. Please call to confirm, 303-473-9979.

Board members

Pat Shanks, Co-chair

from 2005 until 2009, founded and wrote the highly acclaimed *People's Advocate*, and has moderated our fora. Eric moved to Boulder in 2003 after selling his real estate research company in North Carolina. He continues to be involved with several local organizations and hosts the weekly "A Public Affair" interview program on KGNU.



Max is a native of Boulder, and a graduate of Mapleton Elementary School and Boulder High School. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of British Columbia, where he majored in political science. He currently works as Program Research Associate at the Community Foundation for Boulder County. He is seriously considering pursuing a graduate degree in city planning. Max is an avid bicyclist and led the pack at the Tour

d'Open Space on October 30.

We're sorry to report that former vice-chair and long-time PLAN-Boulder stalwart Gwen Dooley resigned from the Board at the end of the summer and that current City Planning Board member and Washington neighborhood activist Mary Young also resigned in October. We miss them both and remain most appreciative of their very valuable service.

Anne Parker, a Naropa University professor and Orchard Grove activist, was elected to the Board in September, but then felt compelled to resign in October due to unexpectedly heavy work demands. We hope that she may be able to join the Board another year.

13th Annual Tour d'Open Space



About 25 people participated in some or all of the 13th Annual Tour d'Open Space on October 30.

Mayor Susan Osborne generously provided bagels, cream cheese, orange juice and coffee to the riders at a table she set up at Coot Lake, and at Chautauqua PLAN-

Boulder co-chair Ruth Blackmore offered a variety of refreshing snacks and beverages, including beer, to all who straggled in from the 38 mile bike ride. About eight hardy souls then hiked the last

Ruth Blackmore, Co-chair
 Liz Payton, Vice-chair
 John Spitzer, Treasurer
 Alan Boles, Secretary, forums, newsletter editor
 Ray Bridge
 Dick Harris
 Suzanne Jones
 Eric Karnes
 Scott McCarey
 Leonard May
 Susan Morris
 Susan Peterson
 Morgan Rogers
 Max Taffet
 Molly Tayer
 Archivist: Bruce Bland

"leg" of the Tour back to the Dowdy Draw trailhead, where it had begun a little before 9 a.m. that morning.

Morgan Rogers won the contest for best female costume, and Scott McCarey for best male costume. Several riders attached yard signs for various ballot issues, including the County Open Space tax, to their bicycles. The weather was close to



ideal. Unfortunately, parts of the bike trail around Wonderland Lake and around Eben Fine Park were blocked off due to the Dome Fire, and riders had to make impromptu detours.



The Tour was founded by PLAN-Boulder Treasurer John Spitzer in 1997 to help build support for a sales and use tax extension to fund a \$45 million City bond issue to buy open space land. The first Tour attracted about 100 participants. It was continued after then by a

handful of die-hards on a much diminished scale in late October every year except 2008. Last year it was formally adopted by PLAN-Boulder and moved ahead to September 26 to coincide with PLAN-Boulder's 50th Birthday celebrations. About 40 people participated in the event at that time.

The Tour consists of a 38 mile bicycle ride and a 7 mile walk in a giant loop around the periphery of the City of Boulder's Open Space holdings. It traverses Marshall Mesa, the Flatirons property, Teller Farms, Whiterocks, Gunbarrel Hill, the Boulder Reservoir property, Boulder Valley Ranch, Wonderland Hills, 4th Street, 6th Street, and a final stretch on the Mesa Trail.



Forum Summaries

Mountain Bikes in the West TSA, October 15



The City of Boulder's Community Collaborative Group ("CCG") could not agree in September on a proposed mountain bike trail running north and south through Boulder's mountain parks, and at a PLAN-

Boulder forum on October 15 a panel of mountain bikers and conservationists could not agree, either. [Read the entire article on the Blue Line.](#)

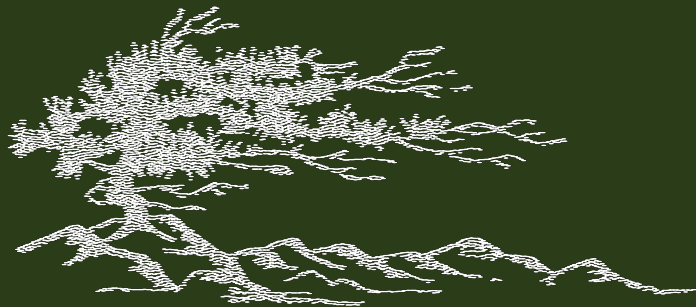
Boulder's Water Supply Under a Changed Climate, October 25



Climate change may not significantly affect total precipitation in the City of Boulder's watershed, but it will cause warmer temperatures in our area, earlier spring run-off, increased variability of supply, and drier summers two local experts predicted at a PLAN-Boulder forum on the evening of October 25. [Read the entire article on the Blue Line.](#)

Advocacy

The PLAN-Boulder Board authorized a [position statement](#) on options for the Area III Planning Reserve, which Board member Susan Peterson read to the Boulder City Council at its October 12 meeting. The Board endorsed the option of evaluating and proposing revisions to the Area II service area expansion process, while not pursuing service area expansion in the near future. The City Council, however, chose another option which allows for the possibility of service area expansion within a couple of years. The City staff was directed by the Council to implement that option.



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