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PLAN-Boulder County

Newsletter

September, 2010

Slurry bombers are roaring overhead, smoke is filling our homes, and some of us, hopefully not many, are suffering directly from the Fourmile wildfire. Our thoughts and offers of help go out to anyone affected by the fire. PLAN-Boulder County members are available and willing to provide whatever aid is needed. Please feel free to contact Liz Payton (303-442-7721, liz@bouldergarden.net) with requests for aid and offers of help.

Otherwise, we trust that all our members have enjoyed a wonderful summer, perhaps highlighted by reading "Does Dense Make Sense?", PLAN-Boulder's incisive report on the likely effects of possible, increased urban density. Sadly, of course, summer is drawing to a close. School has started, and most people are back at work. It is time for us to get to work, as well, on critical questions on the ballot in November. As the enclosed summary of PLAN-Boulder's August 13 forum reveals, some of these questions, such as State Amendments 60-62 and Proposition 101, are genuinely scary, and will need our help to defeat; while other, beneficial ones, such as City Issue 2B, will need our help to pass.

Lit Drop Volunteers Needed

Upcoming Fora

Friday, September 17, noon to 1:30 p.m. Boulder Creek Room, main Boulder Public Library, *What's in Store for SODA (South of Downtown Area between Canyon and Arapahoe)?* Panelists: Sam Assefa, Senior Urban Designer and Louise Grauer, Senior Planner, City of Boulder

Monday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sherpa's Restaurant. Topic to be determined, please check the [PLAN-Boulder County website](#) for details.

Monday, October 25, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sherpa's Restaurant, *Boulder's Water Supplies under a Changed Climate*. Panelists: Ben Harding and Lee Rozaklis, principal engineers, AMEC Earth and Environmental.

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

What could be more satisfying than strolling through Boulder's lovely neighborhoods on a beautiful fall day, admiring the autumn colors against clear blue skies, feeling the crisp leaves crunching underfoot, all the while distributing literature for a worthy cause? PLAN-Boulder is coordinating the literature drop for the franchise fee replacement tax, Ballot Issue 2B. Issue 2B simply replaces the franchise fee we've all been paying to Xcel all these years. Passing 2B gives the City authority to collect this fee, which is used to fund critical City services, for five years in the event that Xcel discontinues its collection. Issue 2B is not a tax increase. To inquire about volunteer opportunities, please call Ruth Blackmore at 303-494-3009.

Endorsements

At its August 30, 2010 board meeting, PLAN-Boulder County adopted the following positions on this year's election:

Issues, Questions and Initiatives

- **YES** on County Issue 1A, County Social Services Tax
- **YES** on County Issue 1B, Open Space Tax
- **YES** on City Issue 2B, Franchise Fee Replacement Tax
- **YES** on Boulder Valley School District Issue 3A, Mill Levy Override
- **NO** on State Constitutional Amendment 60, Property Taxes
- **NO** on State Constitutional Amendment 61, State and Local Debt Limitations
- **NO** on State Constitutional Amendment 62, Definition of Person
- **NO** on State Proposition 101, Motor Vehicle, Income and Telecommunication Taxes and Fees

Candidates

- **YES** to Cindy Dominico, Boulder County Commissioner
- **YES** to John Tayer, RTD District O
- **YES** to Dickie Lee Hullinghorst, State House District 10
- **YES** to Deb Gardner, State House District 11
- **YES** to Claire Levy, State House District 13
- **YES** to Bernie Buescher, Secretary of State
- **YES** to Stan Garnett, State Attorney General
- **YES** to John Hickenlooper, Governor
- **YES** to Michael Bennet, Senate

Forum Summary

Statewide Ballot Issues, August 13

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

- Cochair: Pat Shanks, 303-473-9979, patshanks@comcast.net
- Cochair: Ruth Blackmore, 303-494-3009, rutheb@hotmail.com
- Vice-chair: Liz Payton, 303-442-7721, liz@bouldergarden.net
- Treasurer: John Spitzer, 303-443-5931, jspitzer011@comcast.net
- Secretary: Alan Boles, 303-447-3280, alanboles@gmail.com, forums, newsletter editor
- Ray Bridge, 303-499-8496, rbridge@earthnet.net
- Gwen Dooley, 303-447-0582, gwendooley@comcast.net
- Dick Harris, 303-499-1551, rharris@indra.com
- Suzanne Jones, 303-449-0565, suzanne_jones@tws.org
- Scott McCarey, 303-589-2982, scottmccarey@gmail.com
- Leonard May, 303-443-2407, lomay@may-yin-architecture.com
- Susan Morris, 303-666-9263, susankmorris@gmail.com
- Susan Peterson, 303-594-3844, susanp@cadence.com
- Morgan Rogers, 619-808-6079, morgankalom@hotmail.com
- Molly Tayer, 303-499-5444, molly@tayer.net
- Mary Young, 303-447-9378, marydyoung@comcast.net
- Archivist: Bruce Bland, 303-499-8612, bruce_2u@hotmail.com



Three November state ballot issues—Proposition 101 and Amendments 60 and 61—would collectively cripple state and local governments in Colorado and have so far drawn strong support among the electorate, despite near universal opposition from business and civic groups and both major political parties, according to Abigail Hinga, outreach director for the Bell Policy Center, Rollie Heath, Colorado state senator from the Eighteenth District, and Richard Valenty, a former *Colorado Daily* reporter and now aide to Senator Heath, at a PLAN-Boulder forum. [Read the entire article on the Blue Line.](#)

Advocacy

Call to Action

Tonight, September 7, 2010, the Boulder City Council will hold a public hearing on Smart Regs, the proposed energy efficiency requirements for residential rental properties. Please show your support for Smart Regs by speaking to council tonight, or sending them a quick email at Council@bouldercolorado.gov.

Proposed Developments in the Area III Planning Reserve

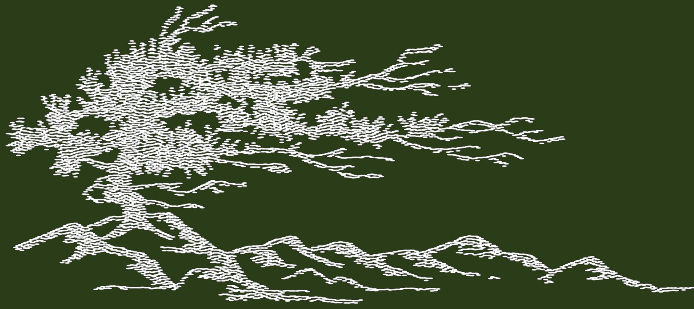
At a meeting of the Boulder County Planning Commission on June 16, Alan Boles, representing the PLAN-Boulder Board, spoke against proposals to "move" two properties from the Area III-Planning Reserve to Area II--Service Area Designation to accommodate a professional sports training complex and a housing and truck gardening project promoted by the Palmos family and Thistle Community Housing. The Planning Commission voted unanimously not to advance consideration of these proposals any further and to recommend to the Boulder County Commission and the Boulder City Council that a study be initiated to determine potential, visionary and appropriate uses of the Area III-Planning Reserve. In a dictate that left heads spinning, the Boulder County Land Use Department then announced that the Planning Commission's June 16 decision was invalid, because the applicants had not received a mailed notice of its hearing and also because the Land Use Department had subsequently determined that the Boulder City Council at its May 25 study session had made no recommendation on these proposals. The County Land Use Department further recommended to the County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners that no action be taken

on these proposals pending further action on them and transmittal of a formal recommendation about them from the Boulder City Council.

At a hearing on August 18 the County Planning Commission adopted the staff's recommendation and at a hearing on August 24 the County Commissioners made the same decision. Alan Boles again represented the PLAN-Boulder Board at those hearings. Although he did not oppose the staff's "no action" recommendation, he pointed out that the process to "move" properties out of the Area III-Planning Reserve had been badly bungled by the Boulder City Council on May 25 and that the community "visioning" process for the Planning Reserve that the County Planning Commission had requested should begin.

Media

PLAN-Boulder County board member Scott McCarey and land use attorney Ed Byrne participated in a televised discussion of density, hosted by Ralph Gregory. The program, Controversy & Consensus, is broadcast on Channel 8 and may be viewed online at [this link](#) (choose the "August 2010-Density" selection from the dropdown episode list).



PLAN-Boulder County

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