

Friends of Park County

Promoting thoughtfully planned growth in order to protect and enhance Park County's vibrant communities, sustainable working lands, and healthy natural resources.

Dear Friends,

Summer has arrived but Friends of Park County is not kicking back and relaxing because uncontrolled development doesn't take a vacation.

The County Planning Board has initiated their public review process for the proposed Conflict Mitigation Zoning District Regulations (draft "CMR".) This is Park County's first proposed county-wide regulation of land development.

Simultaneously the Park County Community Foundation has launched this year's Give A Hoot Fundraising drive. These may seem like they are unrelated, but they aren't.

They may seem unrelated, but in fact they are connected opportunities to keep Park County a place we are proud to call home.

Park County's Draft Conflict Mitigation Regulations – not a substitute for zoning but we can make them better, with your help.

Last week, Friends of Park County officially submitted the [attached letter](#) to the Park County Planning Board suggesting ten key improvements to the draft CMR. We hope you will appreciate the important suggestions we offered, and we encourage you to read the entire letter.

If our suggestions are adopted, the CMR will be far more effective in meeting its objectives, and more predictable and fairer than the present draft. But make no mistake, even improved, the CMR is no substitute for simple, clear, and fair zoning regulations.

(If you want to know, more you can view our webinar describing the CMR and its weaknesses, and the better alternatives of zoning, which you can find [HERE](#).)

Friends of Park County will continue to vigorously build the case for managed development through zoning.

But at least for now, the CMR will be Park County's only county-wide protection from excessive and inappropriate development, so Friends of Park County is proposing the ten improvements in our letter in order to make the CMR as good as it can be.

If you support a stronger, better, CMR, based on our top ten suggestions for improvement, then please let your elected officials and neighbors know.

Here are five opportunities for taking action:

1. Send a short message to the County Planning Board at planning@parkcounty.org

Your note can be as simple as "I support Friends of Park County's top ten suggestions for improving the draft Conflict Mitigation Regulations." Or you can include your personal concerns about growth and development in Park County or particular reasons you support our proposed improvements.

2. Send a short message to the County Commissioners at commissioners@parkcounty.org

3. Testify at a meeting of the Planning Board or County Commission on July 15 or August 19 at 4 pm, in person or via Zoom.

If you have never testified before a local government board or commission, there is not reason to be nervous. The proceedings, like your remarks can be informal. However, it is better to write out your remarks and practice giving them so that they are clear and concise. (Aim for remarks of no more than 3 minutes.)

The Planning Board meeting agenda, meeting location and link to the Zoom meeting can be found [HERE](#). Please pay attention to the proper item on the agenda when your testimony can be received.

4. Testify before the County Commission, which meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10AM.

You can find the County Commission agenda with information about the meeting location and how to participate on Zoom [HERE](#). The opportunity to give your testimony will probably be under the general public comment section of the agenda unless the

CMR is an agenda item.

5. Forward this email to your friends and encourage them to send comments or testify in support of Friends' top ten suggested improvements.

Help us match your donation to Friends of Park County as part of this month's Give a Hoot campaign.

The Park County Community Foundation's month-long non-profit fundraising drive "Give A Hoot" during July is well under way.

Friends of Park County is one of the participating non-profits and we've set ourselves the fundraising goal of \$50,000 and we are well underway towards that goal - \$11,876 as of July 8th.

Every dollar you contribute helps us to qualify to receive **partial** matching funds at the end of the campaign. The top donation recipients will get a \$10,000 partial matching grant and, with your help, we can enter that top tier.

To learn more and donate, please visit our Give A Hoot website: <https://www.give-a-hoot.org/FriendsofParkCounty>

Thank you for your continued support for our common effort to protect Park County's magnificent natural beauty and resources and to build compact livable communities.

Sincerely,

Frank Schroeder, Chair