

## **FPC Comments for PC**

**September 28, 2021**

**Comments by FPC on an item not on the agenda. The public comment process for the Conflict Mitigation Draft Zoning Resolution (CMDZR) is flawed.**

**Friends of Park County is concerned that the public comment process for the CMDZR has been badly executed, resulting in Park County residents having neither an adequate opportunity to ask questions about the Draft and its implications nor to express their concerns.**

**Given the time constraints of a September 30 closing of public comments, and a Planning Board meeting of October 21, we appear here to make three requests of the Commission:**

- 1. To encourage the Planning Board to extend the public comment period for CMDZR,**
- 2. To open the record of comments made by the public in public meetings since the Draft was introduced in November 2019,**
- 3. To change the Planning Board's intention to deliberate possible improvements only after the review process is concluded. Rather, to allow for interactive discussion between Park County residents and the Planning Board based on transparent access to documents and interactive opportunities for deliberations among residents and Planning Board members and staff.**

**To these three points, the Commission should be aware of the changing and conflicting schedule promulgated by the Planning Board and its staff for the public to review and comment upon the Draft.**

**First it was the end of September 2021.**

**Then, at the Wilsall listening session, Mr. Inman said the public input process would close sometime before the October 2021 PCPB meeting (October 21<sup>st</sup>).**

**Then last Friday in a meeting convened by PCEC, Mr. Inman again changed his position and confirmed that the end of September, or two days from today, would be the last day for public comment.**

**The confusion caused by the lack of clarity means that not all citizens have had the chance to make their comments. This could lead to a possible mistrust in the predictability and the fairness of the process.**

**The Commission should be aware that after a year and a half of representing the Draft to the public as "excluding residential and agricultural", the staff abruptly introduced new language in an amended draft released in March 2021 for the first time requiring residential and agricultural land uses to be subject a permitting process.**

**The Commission should be aware that these changes were major and substantial but unsupported by any factual basis documenting the necessity of including residential and agricultural permitting.**

**Months later, a public meeting was finally noticed for the purpose of discussing and recommending definitions of “residential” and “agricultural” land uses. BUT THEN less than a day before the scheduled meeting, it was abruptly cancelled without notice or credible explanation. Similarly, the September Planning Board meeting was itself cancelled in the same way.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to present our concerns and the requests we enumerated at the outset of these comments.**

**Respectfully,**

**Frank C. Schroeder**

**Chair, Friends of Park County**