

2019-06-11 LAC Report

Notebook: 2019 Reports & Updates

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Legislative Affairs Coalition Update

June 11, 2019

Durango City Council Update

- The Durango City Council met in executive session June 4 to discuss the performance of the City Manager.
- Councilor Barbara Noseworthy has said in open meetings that she had received feedback from the public which needed to be discussed.
- Councilor Kim Baxter previously pushed the city council to establish job descriptions and performance evaluations for City Manager, City Attorney, and Municipal Judge.

La Plata County Potential Ballot Issue Update

- The BOCC is considering asking residents for a mill levy or sales tax increase in November.
- The county hired the polling firm New Bridge Strategy to help determine community response.
- Interviews were conducted to 371 residents of the county between May 17-23 on landline, cell phone and online via email invitation. Interviews were distributed proportionally throughout the county and are representative of those likely to weigh in on funding in a November election.
- Polling results show there is not strong support for a mill levy or sales tax increase, although between the two, sales tax is favored more.

Homelessness Update

- A recent forum by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless stated an increase in the number of homeless in LPC, following the nationwide trend.. The number went from 91 homeless people (35 unsheltered) in 2017 to 294 homeless (145 unsheltered) in 2019, not including students.

- The city of Durango and La Plata County continue to work with the Athena Group towards crafting a strategic plan to handle local homelessness.
- Officials receive bi-weekly updates on the work, while a final report is expected in November.
- Faith-based initiatives are meeting separately but no short-term or long-term remedy has come to the surface.

Region 9 Housing Report

- Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado released updated housing data, available here:
https://www.scan.org/uploads/Housing_2019_Final_Report_5-6-19.pdf
- This report looks at the number of homeless individuals and families in the region, the cost of rental units, as well as for sale home prices in each of the communities in southwest Colorado.
- A couple takeaways from the report are:
 - Many households are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing.
 - In almost every local community actual rental costs were substantially higher than Fair Market Rent estimates.

Durango Sales & Use Tax Update

- City of Durango sales and use tax rates increase from 3.0% to 3.5% starting on July 1, 2019.
- See the monthly sales tax snapshot here:
<http://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/13720/April-2019-Sales-Tax-Snapshot-Report?bidId=>
- The Sales & Use Tax history report is here:
<http://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/13706/Sales-Tax-History-Report?bidId=>

La Plata County Hiring Update

- Neil Starkebaum was hired as La Plata County's new Community Development Director.
- Starkebaum will oversee the Planning Department and Building Department.
- He began in the role on May 28.

- Starkebaum is a western Colorado native who comes to La Plata County from Gunnison, where he has been the Assistant Director of the Gunnison County Community and Economic Development Department since 1998.

La Plata County District Plans Update

- [Bayfield's District Plan](#) and the one for [Vallecito](#) are currently underway.
- District Plan for [Southeast Durango](#) is also in process. The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 25th at 6pm at Spring Creek Hall, but may be rescheduled sooner.
- District Plans are scheduled to be certified by the Planning Commission in groups starting in August, with the first being North County, Junction Creek, West Durango, and Florida Road.
- In September, the PC will certify Animas Valley, Ft. Lewis Mesa and Florida Mesa District Plans.
- Bayfield, Vallecito and Southeast are scheduled for certification in October.
- District Plans are on the Planning Commission agenda the first Thursday of the month. The meeting is held at 6 pm at the County Administration Building. Visit the [District Plan Update webpage](#) for an overview of the update process.

Bonita Peak CAG Update

- The Bonita Peak Community Advisory Group (CAG) is a voluntary advisory group to EPA and their agency partners regarding the Bonita Peak Mining District Superfund site.
- Because of some life changes, two members have resigned, and the CAG is looking for replacements.
- Members must live in the area affected by the site (the Animas River watershed). Appointments are generally for three years. Meetings occur monthly and are open to the public.
- If interested, send an email by June 18th to bonitapeakcag@gmail.com

Durango Projects Approved

- On 5/21, Durango City Council approved the Preliminary Plan for the 238 E Village Project located at 756 CR 238 (Goeglein Gulch Road). The proposed project by Tracy Reynolds will be comprised of 10 patio homes, an internal access drive and sidewalk.
- On 6/3, Durango Planning Commission approved the Frederick Minor Subdivision. This is a proposal from Brian Fredrick to subdivide the 11,289 square foot lot at 875 E. 5th Street into two smaller lots.

La Plata County Subdivisions Approved

- Echo Family LLC Preliminary Plat was approved by the LPC Planning Commission on 5/23. This is a subdivision of a 70.1 acre parcel to legalize an 18.79 acre lot that was previously created in 2010 through resolution. Location: North of and adjacent to U.S. Hwy 160, East of Co Rd 225A.

Meetings attended May 14 - June 11

5/14 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda	5/28 - 4 pm Durango Council Study Session
5/14 - 1:30 pm BOCC Work Session	5/29 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time CANCELLED
5/15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	5/29 - 2 pm Affordable Housing Meeting
5/16 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission CANCELLED	6/3 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission
5/21 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda	6/4 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
5/21 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	6/5 - 2:30 pm Durango Council Study Session
5/22 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	6/6 - 5 pm LPC Special Planning Commission
5/27 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission CANCELLED	6/6 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
5/28 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda	6/11 - 9 am LAC Meeting