

2020-02-11 LAC Report

Notebook: 2020 Reports & Updates

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Legislative Advisory Coalition Update

February 11, 2020

Legislation Update

- Senate Bill 109 concerns the property tax classification of property used for short-term rentals and was introduced January 15, 2020. The bill is scheduled for a hearing by the Senate Finance Committee on Feb 11 at 2:00 pm.
- Sponsored by Sen. Bob Gardner [R], the bill aims to tax all short term rentals at the commercial property tax rate of 29%. It is currently 7%.

La Plata County Land Use Code Updates

- The BOCC and La Plata Planning Commission are working with staff on writing a new Land Use Code. Joint work sessions were held January 9 and 30, 2020 to lay out the process and begin work on a Table of Contents.
- Administrative Staff will hold topic-specific workshops and will facilitate open houses to incorporate public input. A series of workshops to present the DRAFT Table of Contents will be held from 6-8 p.m. as follows:
 - February 18 - Animas Valley/North County/Junction Creek
 - February 25 - Florida Mesa
 - March 3 - Bayfield/Southeast
 - March 5 - Fort Lewis Mesa/West Durango
 - March 10 - Vallecito/Florida Road
- Planning Staff said that the LUC undertaking has potential to cause delays in both new and current projects.
- Meanwhile, on January 21, 2020, the BOCC approved amendments to the current Land Use Code, specifically Section 82-186, which addresses water quantity and quality. See the changes here:
http://lpceds.org/planning/land_use_codes_and_plans/land_use_code_amendments

Other LPC Planning Updates

- The Planning Department has released a new tool for tracking current projects. The tool can be found online at <http://lpccds.org/planning>. Click on “Planning Project Locator Map”. When the map opens, you can zoom in and click any project for more information.
- New Planning Commissioners have been appointed. Ryne Waggoner was re-appointed for a 3 year term, Mike Scieszka was appointed to replace Jim Tencza, and Jean Walter was appointed as an alternate member.

Subdivisions approved in 2019

- **The LPC BOCC approved 8 subdivisions**
- **The Durango City Council approved 15 subdivisions**

Projects Approved in La Plata County

- On January 21, 2020, the BOCC approved the Conceptual Development Plan for proposed Phase II of Heartwood Ranch. The project is for 14 single family lots, 3 farm houses and approximately 350 acres of open space at 800 Heartwood Ln.
- On February 4, 2020, the BOCC approved the Bakhita Subdivision Preliminary Plat. The project is for a three lot residential subdivision located at 1685 S. Lakeside Drive, Hesperus.

Election Update

- Ballots for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election were mailed out this week.
- Precinct Caucuses are on March 7, 2020
 - The Republican caucuses take place at 10 am. More info here: <http://laplatacountygop.org/index.html>
 - The Democratic caucuses take place at 2 pm. More info here: <http://www.laplatadems.org/>

La Plata County Commissioners Election Information

Donating: a Candidate Committee may receive \$2,500 in aggregate per election cycle from Persons/Political Committees.

- Charly Minkler (I), District 3 candidate: www.minklerforcommissioner.com

- Thursday, February 13th Minkler will hold office hours at the Bayfield Pine River Library from 1- 3pm.
- Matt Salka (D), District 3 candidate: <https://www.mattsalka.com/>
 - Salka is seeking caucusers. Contact him for more information.
- Marsha Porter-Norton (D), District 2 candidate: <https://www.marshaporternorton.com/>
 - Porter-Norton is holding a fundraiser on February 22, 5 to 9 p.m., at the VFW Post in Durango, 1050 Main Avenue
- Jack Turner (I), District 2 candidate: <https://electjackturner.com/>

Durango City Staff Hiring Update

- The search firm Slavin Management Consulting is in the process of recruiting a new City Manager. Slavin said the process is expected to take no more than 90 days.
- On January 21, 2020, Interim City Manager Amber Blake announced the hiring of an Interim Finance Director.

City of Durango Lodgers Tax Report

- Lodgers Tax dropped 3.1% for the month of December.
- Year to date, Lodgers Tax was up 6.8%, totaling \$1,100,990.

Durango-La Plata County Airport Update

- Nearly 400,000 passengers traveled through the Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) last year, making 2019 the airport's busiest year on record. Passenger traffic increased 3.1 percent from the previous year, finishing at a total of 390,506.
- DRO was responsible for generating \$293 million in economic impact in 2018, according to a recent report by the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics.

Homelessness Strategic Plan Update

- On January 21, 2020, The Athena Group released a plan with recommendations for addressing homelessness in Durango. The major recommendations included:
 - Establishing a coordinated "Navigation Center" to help homeless people find services.
 - Establishing an oversight body/coordinating council

- A feasibility study for a managed homeless camp

Meetings attended January 14 - February 11

1/14 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda	1/23 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission CANCELLED
1/14 - 4 pm Durango Council Study Session	1/27 - 1:30 pm BOCC Work Session
1/15 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	1/27 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission
1/16 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission CANCELLED	1/28 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda
1/21 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting	1/29 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
1/21 - 4 pm Durango City Council/BOCC Joint Study Session	1/30 - 6 pm LPC/BOCC Joint Work Session
1/21 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	2/4 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda
1/22 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	2/4 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
	2/5 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time
	2/11 - 9:15 am LAC Meeting