

**Two Reports from the Meeting to
discuss the Comprehensive Plan
May 11, 2016
Boulder Public (Main) Library**

Jill Marce

I went to today's Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan update, "What if?".

Two rooms of the library had city staff by charts, maps, etc. and you could ask questions and share your thoughts. You can see most of those at:

<https://bouldercolorado.gov/bvcp/what-if#anchor>

An hour was spent in the library's theater where we "clicked" our clickers to get some demographic information along with one or two questions on preferences.

There were about 40 people in the theater. I think the majority were for more affordable, dense housing. I don't know if those watching on TV could indicate anything or not.

One thing that seemed very important to city staff were the "values". To be honest, I'm not sure if these came from prior surveys or not. (They were shown very quickly. If there are other values that you think are important, please share them.)

Great neighborhoods
Inclusive-vibrant
Stewardship
Climate action (I think)

One item that received a majority of votes with the clickers was to have meetings during the spring and summer in each neighborhood. If you're not on their email list, now's the time to sign up:

bouldervalleycompplan.net

also:

bouldercolorado.gov/bvcp/get-involved-4

There is also an online questionnaire on "key choices" that I encourage everyone to fill out:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2768460/BVCP-Key-Choices-Questionnaire>

(For the May 17 City Council meeting: If you're going to talk, I'd connect what you're saying to one or more to the values. I couldn't find them on the city's website...but, I think they're probably somewhere on it.)

Jill

Judy Renfro

They said the whole thing will be on Channel 8. It would be about an hour 15 minutes. Watch it to get a feeling for it if you have time. The exhibits are also on the Internet now, as of today they said.

My take: They were not pushing density in neighborhoods as overtly as I expected, but the choices of where to put what kind of housing included

"neighborhoods" as one choice, without any explanation of what that would mean. And I don't think the non-neighborhood people cared anyway. There was no meaningful discussion of where to put it. Basically, people who want more housing want to put it everywhere and anywhere. They weren't selective. I don't see how that can be helpful to staff. All of the areas they referenced are already fully developed, no matter where they put it.

The percentage of people wanting (per the sticker count) to put every kind and all kinds of housing in neighborhoods (as well as everywhere else), relative to their age and time in Boulder, surprised me. I agree with Jill that the crowd was mainly pro-housing older folks. It surprised me that particular demographic was there as such a large percentage.

The co-op and Open Boulder crowd were conspicuous by their absence.

Three or four of those selected by staff to do the "pitches" at the end were part of the young pro-growth group, including a young subsidized housing resident with baby on lap. It also included John Spitzer and Elizabeth Black. (I have a copy of Elizabeth's info re carbon sequestering microbes. If I get her permission I'll scan it and send it on.) John was representing Plan Boulder County.

You could put as many stickers on their charts as you had the nerve to pick up.

The "resident interview" sound bites in the film at the end were the usual selected people and points of view to back "inclusiveness." I noticed one person saying we have to change our values. As usual, no one with a well reasoned opposing opinion was interviewed. (I

mean opposing further urbanization, not opposing inclusiveness, although some people want to equate the two.) No one talked about vitality of existing neighborhoods. No one mentioned Boulder being a good place to raise a family. It's still all about adding more people and affordable housing. Jobs and economic vitality were not mentioned that I recall. Just more housing.

I didn't hear so much "glorifying density" or "density to save the environment" speech. It was more subtle.

Please get everyone you know to take the online surveys and polls.

Oh, there were other departments with exhibits outside, but that was sort of peripheral to the Comp Plan. There is a Neighborhood Summit coming up in October. Historic Boulder had an exhibit.

Judy Renfroe