MAINTAIN THE MIDDLE AGENDA

MEETING #1: JANUARY 12, 2015; 5-7 P.M.

OBJECTIVES:

- GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER;
- GAIN A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKING GROUP GOAL;
- DISCUSS WHAT THE GROUP HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE WORKING GROUPS.

✓ Facilitator: Susan Richstone, Dep. Director Community Planning & Sustainability

✓ Note taker: Kristin Delcamp, Homeownership Program

✓ Staff Resource: Jay Sugnet, Project Mgr. Housing Boo

✓ Staff Resource: Michelle Allen, Housing Planner

✓ Guest Presenter (Jan. 12): David Driskell
Director, Community Planning & Sustainability
AND
Interim Housing Director

MAINTAIN THE MIDDLE AGENDA

Meeting #1: January 12, 2015 5-7p.m.

5:00-5:30 → Introductions & Welcome
David Driskell

5:30-5:45 → Ice Breaker ALL
THINK OF ALL THE PLACES YOU'VE LIVED...
BEST-? WORST? WHY?

5:45-6:00 → GROUND RULES, EDIT & DRAFT ALL
GOAL MEAN TO YOU?

6:00-6:30 → WHAT DOES THE WORKING GROUP
LIKE AS A GROUP AT THE END? ALL

6:30-6:45 → WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK
SCHEDULING FUTURE MEETINGS ALL

6:45-6:50 → JANUARY 26 COMMUNITY FORUM AND

6:50-7:00 → PUBLIC COMMENT
*YELLOW STICKY NOTES ON COUNTER.
PLEASE LIMIT COMMENTS TO 1-2 MINUTES.
MAY WRITE LONGER COMMENTS ON NOTEPADS, OR
SUBMIT TO "INSPIRE BOULDER"

GROUND RULES

- Please Be On Time
- Make Room For Other, Possibly Tangential, Issues, To Be Discussed
- Create the ability for ~~Connected~~ cross-cutting issues to be brought to public & staff attention
- Recognize potential impact on other city goals
- Set aside personal goals & agendas in support of the greater good
  → positive end result — not ground rule

WORKING GROUP GOAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Preserving existing housing ≠ preserving housing for a specific income group (i.e. "the Midd

Focus on preventing further loss

Welcome more Middle Income people to Boulder

Is the definition of "Middle" stagnant?

Provide housing affordable to M.I. - "how" TBD

Variety is important to meet M.I. needs

Public subsidy – or not? Change code to allow market to "Maintain the Middle"

Role of the open market in Maintaining the Abilit for the Middle to live in Boulder

Do we need a price elasticity study?

"Middle" → Relative to what? City of Boulder? County? National?

WORKING GROUP GOAL: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Protect the area "between the extremes" since "Middle" is hard to define

~~Working~~ Working Group focused on low-income? Yes → Strengthen Current Commitments

Understand impacts of any of the tools on the existing citizenry (i.e. "the Middle") ← but not exclusi the Middle

Who benefits and who pays?

To clarify: the goals have been adopted by Council — we'll help to figure out / give input int future implementation

Co

WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE AT THE END?

Open sharing of viewpoints taken in to Consideration from the group: Articulate values instead of solutions

Young professionals with decent incomes have the ability to buy a home

Choices in M.I. Housing that increase demographic diversity

No holds barred- we explore all possible options

5-6 "top" solutions that are identified and include the pros and cons of each solution

Recognize there aren't absolute winners & losers

Sacrifices & Gains will create more welcoming and diverse voices

Don't allow focus to become too narrow

Don't ignore the periphery

Necessary to make sacrifices?

WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

We explore all implications

Expand our parameters - break taboos, push people out of their comfort zones

What are the new ideas? AND Recognize how current structure is blocking the goal already?

Get deep - stop nibbling at edges

Innovation

Are there any solutions in the middle?

Come up with something that goes on the ballot and passes

Figure out - what is the right test? The public needs to approve

All Groups come together to identify goals in common that have high impact

Next:

Community forum and Scheduling Future Meetings

January 26: eTown Hall — working Group members act as listeners

↳ Lucy, Steve, Sue, Shawhin, Steve, Sally, Jean, Ben, Zak

Listeners will also have a chance to participate as well divvy participation in shifts

Second and Fourth Mondays are currently best, but we'll send a new Google Doodle — Wednesdays might be a possibility

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Schedule Meetings in a Manner That Allows Public to Attend As Many Full Meetings As Possible (Avoid Day/Time Overlaps)

Middle—what groups does it represent?
↳ Single, Millenials, retired, etc.

What house types do the middle want?
↳ Can we actually accomplish this to meet people's desires? (note: limited land = limited single families)

Address everyone—not just young professionals

The "middle" in Boulder is disappearing—precisely because of policies of the planning dept. and the City.

The City simultaneously approves a Google plex—guaranteed to stay richest cards in Boulder—while it also simultaneously gives nearly zero lee focus to low-income housing.

What's totally forgotten are the people in the middle—the "real" middle of people forgotten, and actually attacked by the City's programs.

I'm talking about the traditionally blue collar, middle income neighborhoods like mine. Many of us worked hard to save, bought the most inexpensive houses we could find, and we built lives and neighborhoods.

Now, rather than actually letting the "be" a true middle like this, the City has redefined us, using their own flawed jargon, as being "privileged, affluent." Baloney. We're blue collar, hard-working SAVERS in my neighborhood. Yet the City now turns its greedy eyes on our neighborhood, targeting us for upzoning, "multimodal density standards" and other assaults on neighborhoods' rights to self-determination.

What you're going to do is destroy the actual middle, forgotten class in Boulder, who make just barely too much for the charity programs. You're trying to have: 1) Millionaires, Google, etc. and 2) everything else will be brought down to whatever Boulder govt. has decided is an acceptably social-engineered [illegible] level, completely ignoring the majority will of the people in those neighborhoods.

If the City really wanted to strengthen the middle, it would stop its manic frenzy to attract high-salary employers, be satisfied that we have as many jobs as adults (actually more). And leave our neighborhoods alone unless we request your upzonings & densification. Stop gerrymandering.

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