

Facts about the Park County Planning Board Public Engagement Subcommittee and Working Group

1. The County Commission charged the Planning Board to create a subcommittee for the sole purpose of offering recommendations to the Planning Board about how to make it easier for county residents to participate in county-level planning decisions.
2. The subcommittee wants these recommendations to come from the public. That's why they are holding public meetings around the county to hear from residents about:
 - how residents can be better informed of county-level planning issues that could impact them,
 - what needs to happen to make it easier for residents to voice their opinions and ideas about these planning issues,
 - what needs to happen for residents to know that their opinions and ideas matter.
3. The subcommittee aims to focus discussion during these meetings on process, rather than any specific legislative issues. We want feedback on how to improve the communication, participation, and representation of all county residents.
4. After the meetings, the subcommittee will inform the Planning Board about what they learned from residents. This will occur during a regularly scheduled monthly public Planning Board meeting. Subcommittee members will recommend the changes in communication practices the Planning Board should ask the Commissioners to make. The subcommittee will then disband – its work will be done.
5. The Planning Board will then recommend to the County Commission the steps that should be taken to better inform residents, make it easier for residents to voice their opinions about planning issues, and feel confident that those opinions are heard. In this way, the Planning Board hopes to build trust among residents about planning issues in Park County.
6. You may have seen a 'County Engagement Plan.' It is not a proposal. It is simply a draft, a place to begin the conversation among all the county residents. It has ideas from the residents who have participated in Park County Conversation groups, and some ideas that other communities like ours have found helpful.

Bottom Line: The Planning Board and Commissioners want to know what Park County residents want regarding land use planning so that every resident who so desires can easily stay informed and participate in planning decisions that affect all of us. The recommendations made by the subcommittee will come directly from the public.