

GPHY 365 Spring 2020
Geographical Planning
ONLINE VERSION

Instructor

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Public participation memo

Due April 14

This assignment must be typed (single spaced; 11- or 12-point font)

2-3 pages (not including citations or the meeting agenda which must be attached)

Format: MS Word

Upload to D2L by 11:59pm Mountain Time on 4/14

Purpose, skills, and knowledge:

This assignment is designed to introduce you to planning discussions and processes in Bozeman or Gallatin County, while allowing you to analyze and reflect upon the public process you observe in relation to planning theory.

- Use theory to help explain what you observed, while critically reflecting upon whether the theory is a useful lens through which to analyze public processes.
- Evaluate the efficacy of the public process in terms of theory; including power, voice, history, translation of data/science/issues, and whatever else interests you.
- Gain experience writing a professional memo to be utilized by your fictitious boss (the planning commission).

Tasks:

For this assignment **you must watch one public meeting** (instead of going in person, you must watch online). You must spend at least one-hour watching the meeting. Choose a meeting from the recorded meetings here: <https://www.bozeman.net/services/city-tv-and-streaming-audio>. While you watch the meeting, write notes about your observations: What planning issues are discussed? What are the concerns/viewpoints of local planning staff about the issue? How do they work to engage community members in the issue? Who is attending the meeting? What voices are missing? What questions, issues, and thoughts does observing this meeting bring up for you?

In your memo, include an overview of the meeting including the date, time, place, type of meeting, public in attendance, interactions between staff and council, and council, staff and the public, and a brief summary of main issues discussed. Relate what you observed to the Arnstein's Ladder reading¹. Demonstrate an understanding of the reading and how it relates (or does not relate) to the meeting. Please be analytical and use a critical eye. Express your opinion (positive or negative), but make sure you back up your claims with evidence either from what you observed or from the reading(s). Include at least one recommendation (or explain why the process does not need improvement). Include a copy of the meeting agenda.

¹ Arnstein, S. R. (1969). A ladder of citizen participation. *Journal of the American Institute of planners*, 35(4), 216-224.