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GPHY 365
April 2020
Public Participation Memo

NOTES

The man running this meeting is the mayor of Bozeman. In attendance is also a representative of the Armory hotel as well as other city council members.

The beginning of this meeting describes how the community can continue to provide public information amidst this pandemic. He said there is still 4 ways: the stream that we used for the class and click on the stream live link, the stream is also broadcasted on cable as usual channel 190, through WebEx, or by phone. Public comment can still be done sending a message before the meeting just as before, or leaving a comment during the live stream, and it will be filtered through the clerk. There is also a text system @ 224-3967. In the WebEx system, one can be put in a que and video in when the time comes.

Now they are talking about the city news. About COVID-19 and maintaining essential services, looking to also slow the spread and take preventative measures. Now they are talking about how the emergency services center is up and running but haven't described that process at all. And now an old guy whose name I can't make out is praising the citizens of the city for how we are all reacting.

They are hoping the apex of the pandemic to be around April 15th and planning accordingly.

Now there is an awkwardly long pause as they wait for any public requests on the COVID-19 response.

Still waiting for public comments...

Now they are talking about the Armory Hotel.

Appealing the community development filed by the Hotel

They are going over the applications that they have submitted to get the hotel build...

Going over the rejected modifications to the exterior building material that was submitted, I think they are trying to appeal that... It has to do with the facade rule that 25% of the street side must be transparent. The city is requesting that they resubmit plans. They have not provided a plan and are requesting that they city allows the original plan. Apparently, the hotel project changed the plans and did not get it reviewed by the appropriate person/committee.

After discussing a bunch of minor detail for nearly 45 minutes regarding specifics and codes and materials. They still have not come to a vote. Now there is some public votes, some of them asking about the pandemic which to me is not applicable. Some of them just ask the company to uphold the law. And I my patience has worn thin. I must log off. But good luck to them in their decision. It seems to me that there is much transparency between the hotel company and the city and I hope the decision is the right one.

REFLECTION

The time of this meeting is 6pm on 4/06/2020. The attendance is hard to gauge, but the meeting is a live stream as discussed above, as well as how the public can get involved.

In terms of the Arnsetien's ladder. The process was a good demonstration of it. The designs of the hotel were submitted back in 2014 and there was an informative period of this submission that was mentioned. There was also much discussion about how the hotel company was quite transparent and communicative with the city, however at this time I am unsure about how well they received feedback, but the vibe I got from the meeting was that it was likely good. All the city council members are citizens of Bozeman, and they (are supposed to) represent the interests of the public, and they have a huge say in the appeal and submission process of the hotel, so I would place this specific process somewhere between rung 6 and 7. Between placation and partnership. There is an obvious and significant relationship between how the planners of the hotel (power) can submit or appeal a plan, and the city (public) that allow it. The planners tried to get away with a plan that did not go through the proper process and they were being scrutinized because of it.

There was also seemingly quite the public interest in it as well, (tough to tell due to the online nature of it), but many people I know are familiar with the basic details of it. Many of them are quite upset that the hotel will be build with no parking and feel as though that will diminish the downtown experience. I think it is important for those opinions to be heard and addressed. I know that this is also a worry of a lot of developments that are currently underway in the downtown area. I would ask that the city and planners explain why they are doing what they are doing in a way that makes sense to the public, to put those qualms to rest, and if that can't be done then there is obviously a chance that needs to occur.