

# Meeting Summary for Jeffco Advocacy Network Monthly Meeting

Jun 04, 2025 05:30 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada) ID: 840 4270 7814

## Quick recap

The meeting covered updates on housing advocacy efforts across various Colorado communities, including discussions on zoning changes, affordable housing projects, and legal challenges. Participants shared progress on local initiatives, such as the Lutheran Legacy campus development in Wheat Ridge and the Bergen Meadow senior housing project in Evergreen, while also addressing organizational matters like the new fiscal sponsorship partnership with Colorado Gives Foundation. The group concluded by discussing leadership transitions and planning a film screening event to promote civic engagement.

## Next steps

- Paige to reach out to contacts about the EDC CEO hiring process and share information with the group.
- Sara to include detailed notes and action items about reorganizing around the 4 goal areas (financial sustainability, recruitment and engagement, public education, data management) in the meeting summary.
- Sara to add the Bergen Meadow update website ([bergenmeadowupdate.com](https://bergenmeadowupdate.com)) to the meeting notes and share it with the group.
- Sara to attach Chuck's recap of Lakewood zoning ordinance takeaways and the zoning ordinance document in the meeting summary.
- Sara to include information about the Advisory Board and the nomination process for the super advocate seat in the meeting recap email.
- Super advocates to review the Advisory Board documentation and prepare for the nomination and voting process for their representative.
- Sara to organize a subcommittee of super advocates to focus on fundraising efforts.
- Sara to include a summary of the "Join or Die" film screening proposal in the meeting recap and set up a voting mechanism for the group to decide on co-sponsorship.
- Tyler to provide updates on potential costs for the "Join or Die" film screening event.

## Summary

### YIMBY Advocacy for Housing Solutions

Super explained the mission of YIMBY, a nationwide advocacy group focused on transforming the housing market by allowing more and different kinds of housing to be built, including income-restricted housing, missing middle housing, and denser infill apartments. Super shared their personal background and involvement with YIMBY, highlighting their interest in addressing the housing crisis due to the challenges faced by friends who have moved away or can no

longer afford to rent in Colorado. Super emphasized the importance of increasing housing supply to address affordability issues and improve access to housing for struggling individuals.

## **Arvada Lawsuit and Housing Reforms**

Super, a newcomer to public speaking, shared updates on Arvada's lawsuit against the state, highlighting that the city's involvement is based on misconceptions about housing reforms. Sara introduced Super and Harrison to the group, explaining the monthly meetings' purpose and inviting them to participate. Mindy discussed Lakewood's potential involvement in the lawsuit and emphasized the importance of public education, mentioning a special meeting in late June with Jess Fuller from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. Tyler provided updates on Edgewater's council meetings, noting progress on conforming to state laws and the upcoming debate on rezoning a single house, which he views as a significant opportunity to shape future housing discussions.

## **City Council Law and Housing**

Tyler discussed a debate in the City Council regarding a law, where changing a single word from "may" to "shall" would have significant implications for repealing the law if litigation is successful. The Council decided against changing the word, though it could be modified on second reading. Tyler also mentioned he might be appointed to the Charter Review Commission and expressed concerns about Edgewater's short-term rental policy, suggesting the need to develop standardized architectural plans for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to streamline the approval process. Super supported this idea but noted that while aesthetics are important, they should not be used as a means to delay housing development.

## **Senior Housing Project Support Surprises**

Marie reported that the neighborhood expected to oppose the Bergen Meadow senior housing project in Evergreen is actually supporting it, with a website and video explaining the plans. Sara described the project, which involves converting an elementary school into affordable senior housing and workforce housing, noting it was a surprising development given community resistance. Kathy discussed ongoing efforts to organize a webinar with Bell Policy and Chris Degree Kennedy about affordable housing in Golden, while also addressing challenges with the city's charter restrictions on housing subsidies and the status of the Housing Trust Fund.

## **Housing and Zoning Updates Meeting**

Kathy informed the group about an upcoming quarterly breakfast meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, where housing and homelessness plans will be discussed, including a tour of new mobile tent units. Sara provided updates on Lakewood's zoning changes, noting that Chuck has been meeting with council members and city staff about the 400-page plan, which includes updated ADU standards and reduced parking minimums to help affordable housing projects. Paige reported that the Lutheran Legacy campus zone change remains a major topic in Wheat Ridge, with Local Works hosting an educational event that attracted 75 attendees and helped clarify community concerns.

## **Colorado Mixed-Use Development Plan**

Tadd discussed a Colorado-based developer's plans for a mixed-use development project on a 100-acre site, emphasizing their commitment to preserving the history of Lutheran campus and integrating affordable housing. The developer, Chris, aims to create a diverse community that reflects the surrounding area, with 20% of the land designated as open space. Sara suggested organizing joint public events to engage people beyond Wheat Ridge, as the project presents a significant opportunity due to its size and location.

## **Fiscal Partnership and Advisory Launch**

The meeting focused on the official launch of the fiscal sponsorship partnership with Colorado Gives Foundation, starting July 1st, and the establishment of a new Advisory Board. Paige announced that contracts were signed and the Local Works Board of Directors approved the partnership, with plans to form an Advisory Board consisting of three members - two from Local Works and one super advocate seat to be voted on by the community. Sara emphasized the importance of this financial sustainability goal, noting that the organization will now have 501(c)(3) status and can pursue additional funding sources beyond Colorado Gives. The group also discussed reorganizing around four key areas: financial sustainability, recruitment and engagement, public education, and data management, with plans to have a more detailed discussion on these goals in August.

## **EDC Leadership and Film Screening**

The group discussed two main topics: a leadership transition at EDC and a film screening event. Paige agreed to reach out to EDC board members about the CEO search, as Kathy expressed interest in influencing the selection process for a pro-housing candidate. Tyler proposed hosting a screening of the film "Join or Die" in September at the Lakewood Cultural Center, which would align with Jeffco Community Network's mission of promoting civic engagement. The group agreed to support the film screening as a co-sponsor, with Marie and Kathy expressing enthusiasm for the Robert Putnam-themed event, and Sara offered funding for sponsorship if needed.