

Request to Planning Regarding Cultural Center

Summary

A request has been made to the Town Council to consider allowing construction of an Cultural Center north of the town hall. The council requests the Planning Commission to create a focused committee to get public input on the full range of options and alternatives for the land north of the town hall. The output of the process would be a brief General Plan amendment identifying a preferred option which may involve multiple uses and projects and additionally identifying constraints and undesired outcomes. The committee work and subsequent planning commission recommendations are requested to be presented to the council by December 2025.

Committee Structure

The committee should have representatives of various stakeholders representing the 84716 Zip code community. Official committee membership must include representatives of the Boulder Arts Council and the town Tree Committee and Parks Committee, and the Planning Commission. Committee participation should also include representatives of citizen groups such as the Boulder Wellness Committee, the Boulder Heritage Festival, the Boulder School Community Council, and other potential users of the facility.

The committee should plan and organize their scoping process, information gathering, and evaluations. Community surveys and public meetings are appropriate.

Alternatives for Consideration

The committee should consider all options that affect the future use of the town property between 300 N and 400 N. This includes but is not limited to:

Do nothing. No action by Town Council at this time.

Cultural Center as presented by the Arts Council in February 2025.

Landscaping and parking north of the town hall with minimal structures.

Outdoor sports areas (pickle ball, basketball, soccer, bocce ball, playground)

Essential worker housing (teachers, public safety workers, EMT volunteers)

Municipal storage for dumpsters, equipment and construction materials.

Mitigation Alternatives

The committee may also consider alternatives for the Cultural Center proposal if appropriate to address specific concerns that may be raised during the public input. Such alternatives include:

Location of cultural and recreation facilities on town property versus on rezoned private land.

Integrating multiple uses into plans for the town property.

Alternatives for indoor activity areas (dance and exercise).

Alternatives for assembly and performance areas.

Topics out of committee scope

The current committee is requested to focus on the long-range plan for the land north of the town hall. The following topics should be considered outside the purview of the current committee and should be considered only after a decision is made on a preferred alternative.

Architectural design of any recommended structure on town land.

Budget, financing, and grant proposals for any recommended structure on town land.