Planning Commission Study Session - Engage Boulder County – utilizing People Speak Software

Informational only, public testimony will not be taken at this meeting.

STAFF MEMO

SUMMARY
The County is exploring different opportunities to enhance community engagement. After exposure to People Speak software a few years ago, the Community Planning & Permitting Department (CP&P) decided to examine the People Speak solution as a possible enhancement to our public hearing process. In early 2021, a stakeholder group began meeting regularly to review and discuss how People Speak could potentially fit into the existing workflow of hearings and meetings for our many boards. After a thorough review of the software features and accompanying changes in policy and process, the group determined that CP&P would move forward with a pilot of the People Speak software for the Boulder County Board of Adjustment in autumn 2021. Once testing is complete the County will work to incorporate utilizing for Planning Commission meetings too.

In summary, People Speak allows citizens to review, seek clarification, and participate in hearings without needing to attend the hearing in person. The process and software do not replace in-person hearings but provide an additional option for the public to review materials in advance and provide comments via a site that hosts staff packets, presentations, and other valuable information. This session is intended to introduce People Speak to the Planning Commission and answer any questions about the software and process.

Resources:  
https://wheatridgespeaks.org/  
https://lakewoodspeaks.org/  
https://peoplespeak.net