Dear SOBO Members and Friends;

We hope your New Year is off to a great start. We wanted to update you on activities our core group has been engaged in and a glimpse of what Save SOBO will be focused on in 2018.

No development on the CU-South property can be undertaken unless and until the City annexes the property to the City and provides water and sewer services. In July 2017, spearheaded by Council members Sam Weaver and Mary Young, the City Council adopted a set of [“Guiding Principles”](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/CU_South_Principles_Rev_July_12_FINAL_CLEAN_9.8-1-201709081413.pdf?_ga=2.121110664.164459593.1517665222-1219405175.1505565342) for how the CU-South property should be used.  Save SOBO’s agenda for 2018 includes monitoring that these guiding principles are followed.  They include:

1.      No construction of any permanent buildings on the property within the 500-year flood plan.

2.     Increased public participation in the processes for development of the property.

3.     Annexation Timing: Preliminary engineering design and studies pertaining to flood mitigation, the CU levee, and habitat and wildlife will be completed expeditiously and will be used to inform the annexation agreement.

4.     Levee system. The city will seek to work with CU to evaluate removal of the levee, including potential improved delivery of open space values, ecological restoration or enhancement

benefits. CU will remain responsible for maintaining certification of the existing flood control levee on the site through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), including but not limited to any operation, maintenance or replacement.

5.     Protection of open space given its potential for high open space value and presence of sensitive species. Maintain and create recreation opportunities that do not significantly conflict with ecological values.

6.     Restoration of ecological resources. A large part of this property has tremendous wetland function and floodplain connection and could be enhanced to benefit the site itself as well as adjacent city natural areas. The city seeks to partner with CU to incorporate open space values and restoration values.

7.     Protection of South Boulder Creek: Protect and when possible restore wildlife habitat, grasslands, wetlands and streams to improve the delivery of open space values except for park and recreational facilities designed to be located within the floodplain.

8.     Collaborate with city and county open space: to maximize open space values, conservation, education and recreation opportunities to leverage city and county resources.

Revisions to the 2015 Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan, completed in 2017,[changed the land use designations](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/LUD_9.8-1-201709081408.pdf?_ga=2.124019722.164459593.1517665222-1219405175.1505565342) to 80 acres of open space (all of which are located in the 500-year floodplain).  Save SOBO is pleased with the increase in land designated, as open space and the decrease in land deemed suitable for construction of residences. We are aware, that flood mitigation plans by the city appear to still be focused on Alternative D, adopted several years ago by City Council, and involving the construction of a 30 foot high, mile-long high hazard dam on the west side of Hwy 36.

On December 10, 2017, a group of core members of Save South Boulder and community leaders, including Sam Weaver, met to assess the status of actions on CU-South and to plan how to work with the new City Council, whose composition now more closely reflects the interests of Save South Boulder.  To that end, the SOBO Executive Committee drafted a letter, sent on January 12, 2018, to the City Council for consideration at its January 19, 2018, Retreat. It outlined our concerns and asked that City Council create a working group on flood mitigation and floodplain restoration in which SOBO be represented.

That letter is attached to this email.  It constitutes what we will be working on for the coming year.  Please examine it; it includes a list of action steps that we want the City Council to take within the coming months.

**Save This Date:**  May 22, 2018:  City Council has scheduled discussions of the CU-South Property.

**Review the City Website**: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/bvcp/cu-south> for updates on current activity.

We would love to hear from you about what we can do to better engage the community and keep you informed about CU South. Email your ideas to savesobonow@gmail.com