



Brown Ranch Community Solutions Concludes Phase One with Vote to Keep Exploring

Phase One Report Presented to City Council During Sept 9 Work Session

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO-September 4, 2025-Last week, 34 members of the 40-person Deliberation and Stewardship Team (DST) gathered at Olympian Hall for the final meeting of Phase 1 of the Brown Ranch Community Solutions Project. After more than five months of work, the group closed this first stage with a clear signal: the conversation about Brown Ranch and community housing solutions should continue.

Of the 34 members present, 33 expressed support for moving forward—27 with a thumbs up and 6 with a thumbs to the side, indicating support but with concerns. One member voted to discontinue. While the vote was not a final decision on Brown Ranch itself, it represented an important milestone in a process designed to test whether the community could find common ground on a path forward.

“This has not been easy work,” said Clark Anderson, Executive Director of Community Builders. “But that’s exactly what makes this moment meaningful. People who began with very different perspectives on Brown Ranch chose to keep working together. That tells us a lot about both the urgency of the housing challenge and the willingness of this community to take it on.”

From its formation in April, the DST was intentionally built to reflect the full spectrum of community views—supportive, skeptical, and opposed. Through structured dialogue, surveys, and small group sessions, the team explored affordability, feasibility, and place: three priorities identified as essential to any housing solution.



The August 26 meeting used a “fishbowl” format, with participants rotating between speaking and listening, to wrestle with issues such as growth, community trust, urgency of taking action, and the challenges of Brown Ranch. While concerns were raised, most members voiced a shared recognition that doing nothing is not an option and the need to keep voters in mind as the final decision makers in the next phase.

“Phase One was about building shared understanding and clarifying direction,” said Brad Calvert, Principal Planner for the city. “The DST’s vote doesn’t decide what Brown Ranch will look like, but it shows strong interest in continuing the conversation. City Council will now review the Phase 1 report and consider how this work should move forward.”

Beyond the DST, the Brown Ranch Community Solutions Project has engaged hundreds of residents through workshops, small group conversations, and surveys. Together, these activities underscored both the urgency of the housing crisis—more than 3,000 units needed countywide—and the community’s desire to keep Brown Ranch as part of the discussion.

A draft Phase One Summary Report—capturing DST learnings, community input, and key tradeoffs—will be presented to City Council at its September 9 work session, where Council will discuss what has been learned and determine how, and if, the project should move into Phase 2.

The Brown Ranch Community Solutions Project is funded primarily through a grant from the Denver Foundation’s *Belonging Colorado* initiative, which supports efforts that bring people together across divisions. To learn more about the process, visit EngageSteamboat.net

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