

Chat Session
5/7/14
Ann Knight – Wilds

When will RMI start construction?

The Taq should move over to the former Bristlecone space.

Are we doing everything we can to keep the Taq here?

I'd love it if the Taq could stay on this side of Basalt!

The top floors of the former Total Merchant Services (TMS) space should be turned into a hotel. It'd be quicker to retrofit than start from scratch.

Who's searching out developers to come to Basalt?

Does Basalt have incentives for developers?

Does the town still have growth management policies?

I've seen 180° change in attitude with this [Our Town Planning] process. People have a chance to buy into the coming changes instead of having things shoved down their throats. That's brilliant!

Is getting Trader Joe's here still a possibility?

The vitality over at Willits is infectious.

Is it true that Anthropologie and The Gap are coming to Willits (WTC)? That's what I heard.

What has changed on the Planning and Zoning Commission to cause this turn-around?

It's my understanding that this isn't Mike's [Town Manager] first rodeo. How does he like this citizen-based process?

We're happy for WTC that they're getting business but what can this side of Basalt (EB) do to draw some of those visitors over here?

Having a hotel over here would help.

Would higher density (HD) housing be deed restricted or free market?

Where could HD residential be located?

The Jadwin property is a good possible location for HD residential after the river improvements are completed.

Can/should we put affordable housing (AH) or HD residential along the river?

If Basalt is considering increasing its height limits, it has to be done right. What I'm seeing in Aspen with their increased height limits isn't very impressive. Some places won't see direct sunlight all winter.

As we understand it, the next step in this process is for a design team to consolidate the ideas presented in the drawings done by the citizens. Will the series of options they create be available for review by the public? It's kind of a dicey thing because some people won't be happy if their ideas aren't included in the final plans.

Well, you can't please everybody.

What's being done about the Highway 82 pedestrian underpass by the Valero bus stop?

In Estes Park there is a river path, pockets parks, and businesses that have doors open to both the river and the street. Is Basalt planning to have paths along the river?

We need to capture the draw of our rivers like San Antonio has done. Play them up. They're a wonderful amenity for Basalt.

The river confluence parcel is wonderful to have but it looks so junky. Plus, it's not inviting or easy to access.

Do you know how many people would love to have a river going through their town, much less two rivers? Some places have re-routed rivers just to make sure they have that attraction.

There's a little-known path that goes along the Fryingpan River that could be expanded. It needs some love and to be made more accessible but it's one of the most beautiful walks in Basalt.

Are there prohibitions to developing along the rivers?

The Roaring Fork Conservancy should take the initiative with its new river center to create an informative walking path along the rivers.

The paths along the rivers should be repurposed for both walking and biking. If that was done I'd open a bike shop.

However the new buildings are built, they need to respect and include the rivers. For example, the library's glass wall overlooking the meadow and river is fabulous. That type of feature should be a model for future buildings.

Are there plans yet to move the other mobile home park (MHP) that's along the river? If so, how could it happen without causing a ruckus?

If that MHP was moved and that area opened up, just imagine how dramatically that could change the entrance into Basalt! We could create an entrance that would really draw people into town and showcase the river.

Is there a plan yet for a town plaza?

Basalt is its rivers.

Could Midland Avenue become a pedestrian-only plaza? It'd be a great gathering place. Restaurants could spill into the street.

Louisville [the city near Boulder] closes part of its main street every summer and turns that area into a gathering place where people go to just hang out and socialize. Restaurants put tables outside and tons of people go there. Why can't Basalt do something like that?

I heard that there is a kayak park proposed for Basalt. That would be a great amenity for the town.

When will the Pan & Fork MHP (P&FMHP) parcel be cleaned up and graded for development?

How much wider will the river be when the dike is removed at P&FMHP?

Fly fishing is a big part of Basalt's identity and needs to be enhanced.

We need to capture the people who float by Basalt every summer. Give them a place and a reason to stop here.

What's going on with Clarke's Market and Tad's pharmacy?

I heard that Tad may move to the Three Bears Building. It'd be great to have the pharmacy on Midland!

What's going on with Riverwalk? It's so sad to see the empty shops there.

A sports theme is developing at the end of Riverwalk with the fly fishing shop moving in next to the gun shop. The motel being remodeled across the street is geared toward anglers.

Tourists don't know that there's more of Basalt beyond the Korologos Gallery. I told some tourists that there were more shops beyond the gallery but for some reason they didn't want to walk up that way.

Maybe having more lighting on the far end of Riverwalk would help those businesses.

I love the lit tree here in winter and when the businesses on Midland put lights and decorations around their windows.

The bookstore used to be open until 10:00 p.m. and that was a great place to go after dinner if you didn't feel like heading home right away.

Could the Riverwalk spaces be used as a business incubator? I could see an indoor market type of place with a crêperie.

Are the Riverwalk owners part of the Our Town Planning process?

A more established and continuous river path would bring people up to Riverwalk.

Have an emporium-type of place at Riverwalk.

A business incubator would have to be a public/private venture in order to be successful.

That would require a paradigm shift with participants thinking of the big picture – not just their business.

Quite a while ago Scanlon was talking about getting some arches installed over Midland Spur that would have canvas rollouts to use as a cover for events, e.g. Sunday Market, if necessary. Is that going to happen?

We need to capture the energy of this process and keep the momentum going until we get a plan for what we want as a town.