

Andersen Chat Session
3/13/14
Wyly Community Arts Center

When you google images for Aspen you get nice photos of snow covered mountains. When you google images for Basalt you get photos of chunks of rock.

“Basalt Rocks!” – David Floria

Would it be beneficial to come up with adjectives for what we want to be such as chic, folksy, artsy, sporty?

If we're trying to get people to move to downtown Basalt, who is our target market – young people returning here after college? Dispossessed Aspenites? We need to figure that out, too.

We are working on establishing the Basalt Arts Commission and a “1% for Art” program using building fee proceeds.

Has anybody yet suggested building a central square for old duffers to sit around drinking coffee or wine by a fountain?

How about building a Wyly Community Arts Campus? That'd be unique.

The RE-1 School District and the Town are looking at ways to create a performing arts theatre in Basalt. One of the ideas is to re-do the stage at the Basalt Middle School, making it much better and bigger.

In that case, we would need to provide a better pedestrian connection to downtown.

What is the estimated completion time for the RMI/RFC complex? Response: RMI hopes to move in sometime in 2016. The Roaring Fork Conservancy is still raising money for its facility so that completion date is unknown, but most likely won't be until after RMI is built.

If the downtown core is redeveloped, what will be the economic engine driving that redevelopment - commercial activity, events center, or combination thereof?

Some of the current economic drivers on this side of Basalt are Big O, the library, and the Roaring Fork Club.

Could Colorado Mountain College (CMC) build a dedicated campus in Basalt? Right now they offer courses at the high school and maybe a few other places around town.

Maybe CMC could build a campus next to RMI. That'd be a great fit!

If Lions Park is redeveloped, where would the town government offices relocate? Response: we would most likely repurpose some other building for Town Hall. We don't need to have all the offices under one roof, either. The Town Council could share meeting space with other organizations.

East Basalt doesn't need to be building more commercial space. We have too many vacant commercial spaces now and probably will for quite a while.

It seems like the Wyly has a number of options as to how and where it can expand in the future.

The biggest determining factor for the success of this planning endeavor is the community's capacity for change.

