

Chat Session

4/2/14

Lions Club – St. Vincent’s Church

Has the Town government considered relocation sites for its offices if Lions Park is changed?
Response: Yes, the Town is willing to relocate, and to split up offices if appropriate.

The Police Dept. has always been the red-headed stepchild of the Town. Now it’s located over at River View Plaza which seems like a good place for the rest of the Town Hall offices to relocate.

All Town government offices should be located next to each other.

Well, Public Works should probably have its own facility somewhere else because they need to store equipment and require more space in general.

What is happening to the entrance to Basalt? Response: We’re getting a new monument sign in the roundabout this year. CDOT and the Town could partner on installing an underpass at the Basalt Avenue and Hwy. 82 intersection. However, if the Town decides to relocate the entrance to line up with Midland Avenue that would be its own financial responsibility and would cost many millions of dollars.

I thought that we already had a plan for the Pan and Fork. Isn’t that being put into place?
Response: During the negotiation process it was discovered that the developers weren’t as financially sound as they had presented themselves to be so the Town stopped the negotiations.

Can a river really be moved? Rivers go where they want to go. What’s being done in the river now that will make it stay in place? Response: A lot of accumulated cobble has been removed and the riverbank is being reinforced to maintain the desired channel.

Gold Rivers has problems with water coming into the garage during runoff.

Do the mobile homes have to be out of the Pan and Fork by April 15th? Response: The goal is to have all the mobile homes off that land by April 15th and trailers are coming out of there pretty much daily.

When is the dike being removed? Response: Not sure of the date, but sometime in late summer - August/September-ish.

Who owns the rest of the Pan and Fork parcel that isn’t owned by the Town? Response: The Community Development Corporation (CDC) out of Carbondale (the same group that created the Third Street Center) owns the developable area now but they are looking for a buyer.

Would it be possible for the entire Pan and Fork parcel to become a park? Response: Yes, but only if the community decides that’s the best use for it and that’s what they want to see

there. However, it'd be a very expensive park so that's why there is pressure to sell and develop the area that's out of the floodplain.

What's happening to the park over by the library? Response: The most recent work has been to replace a sewer line but that'll be wrapping up pretty soon. As part of the overall river improvements in that area the Midland Park riverbank will be reinforced to prevent erosion and the side channel will be re-established. After that work is done paths and other park features will be installed.

Should the Roaring Fork Mobile Home Park be removed, also? Response: That mobile home park is privately owned and is not within the Town's boundaries. It's a donut hole that's partly located in Eagle County and partly in Pitkin County. But, yes, that park has the same flood plain location issues as the Pan and Fork MHP and it's gotten pretty wet during some high runoff years. The dike that's in place there isn't FEMA compliant, either.

One of the ideas I heard was to get rid of the road between the Pan and Fork and Lions Park and combine that area into one big park.

What's going to happen with the Clark's Market building? What's Tad going to do? That building needs a lot of work. Pretty much everything that could need fixing, does. Response: Frank Taverna owns the building and he's looking for a buyer, too. He meets quite regularly with the Town Manager to talk about options. Tad wants to stay on this side of Basalt and he's going to expand a little into the grocery store space and change the entrance so it comes directly into the pharmacy.

If Frank really wants to sell that property he needs to lower the price. You can't ask for pre-recession prices in this economy.

This is all very intriguing. There are a lot of different possibilities and that could be of great interest to developers.

Could the former Total Merchant Services (TMS) office space be turned into a hotel? Response: The Town is actively looking into this possibility. It would have to be a 'mom and pop' type of operation because no brand is interested in something that small. It'd probably end up being between 40 and 50 rooms.

Parking has always been a problem downtown. How's that going to be addressed?

It doesn't help when store employees park in the few spaces where customers should be parking. Maybe the Town should designate all-day employee parking where the recycling center used to be.

Has anybody noticed if there's a difference in parking availability since TMS shut its doors?

It seems like there are more parking spaces open along that section of Two Rivers Road now than there were before they closed.

What's needed for a viable downtown is a hotel, movie theatre, and at least a small grocer.

A decent hotel would draw skiers who don't want to, or can't afford to stay in Aspen.

What's happening on the property across from the barber shop? Response: Fryingpan Anglers bought it and they're turning it into a fishing motel. They also bought the commercial space at the end of Riverwalk for their flyshop.

If you have a hotel you also need something for people to do in the evening.

I buy food and go out to dinner in Basalt but that's it. I don't buy clothes here because there's no place that has men's clothing. Even if I was a woman I wouldn't buy clothes here because they are too expensive.

The hotel that's been proposed at Willits will be competition for any hotel built on this side of Basalt so it'd be good if we could get a hotel settled in here before then.

Any hotel in Basalt has to plan to capture some of Aspen's guests. That's the only way it could survive during the winter months.

Basalt used to have wooden boardwalks but they were removed sometime in the 1980s. Maybe we should put them back in to add some character to the main street. Make the sidewalks look old to match the historic buildings.

We need a shuttle from Aspen to Basalt during the tourist season. Advertise Basalt up in Aspen and drive people down here a couple times a day so they could come and go easily.

We need free shuttle service between East and West Basalt. Like Aspen has around town.

I wouldn't mind seeing the old library building go away and that area turned into a park. It seems a bit cramped when there are events on the stage.

Basalt needs a town hall building that's two-stories high.

Lions Park used to be swampy and we filled it in with dirt - just some guys with shovels. After that it became Lions Park and the town hall and library were built.