

Chat Session

4/26/14

Shayla & Jason Groves host at 174 Midland Ave. – Clasen Corner

Will there be a building moratorium while this process is being finalized?

What are the common themes?

What has been suggested so far regarding things for teenagers to do?

How is this process different from the Crown Mountain Park process where a lot of work was done to get the recreation center proposal put on the ballot and then it was defeated?

We need to consider the parking situation downtown (DT) for sure, but the more important this is creating the vitality to draw and keep people here.

Could the 7-11 bridge be opened for automobiles again?

The loading zone in the middle of Midland Avenue is problematic and dangerous. Loading should be moved to the rear of buildings.

It'd help to have commercial garbage pickup done early. In Carbondale garbage needs to be picked up by 6:00 a.m. downtown.

Downtown Basalt needs a loop for delivery trucks.

If bigger buildings are going to be built we'll also need more infrastructure, like bigger water lines. DT Basalt may have to be ripped up in order to get all that put in place.

Housing in Basalt is a struggle for young professionals who want to have and raise a family.

Basalt could really benefit from having a business incubator. The idea has been tried in Aspen but monthly rent for a desk alone was \$800! That's not affordable commercial.

Childcare options DT are not available. Infant care is especially needed!

Development has taken place on a project by project basis without considering the bigger picture, especially regarding connectivity, and now we're suffering the consequences. Basalt needs to implement a more holistic approach to development starting now.

There are two questions we need to answer: 1) how do we keep the people we have here, and; 2) how do we draw more people to live here?

Right now I have absolutely no reason to bring my kids to DT Basalt. There is nothing for us to do here. There's no playground or stuff for them to do in Lions Park. If there was a playground I can see us coming to visit and then going to have lunch somewhere nearby.

The rivers are what make Basalt, Basalt.

The Ponderosa Park Trail should connect to other trails but the trails in Basalt are so disjointed and there aren't any way-finding signs between them.

Ponderosa Park and Confluence Park aren't at all welcoming.

What makes Wagner Park successful in Aspen is that there is a playground, open space for dogs, and nearby restaurants and shops.

Things like fountains, pedestrian paths, and ice rinks attract people to a place.

There are some cheap things we could do immediately like get some giant chess pieces for outdoor games and movable chairs and tables for hanging out in the park.

Regarding the proposed kayak park, a better access might be on the south side of the river.

The bike paths around Basalt aren't family-friendly. Many of them are too close to the roads.

No matter how you're trying to get to town on a bike and ride between East Basalt and West Basalt, it's convoluted.

East and West Basalt should have cross-promotional marketing kiosks.

It'd be great to have a circulator shuttle between East and West Basalt.

It seems like the Continuing Care Retirement Center (CCRC) isn't going to happen.

Few places in Basalt are straight zoning and PUDs are myopic in nature so what results is a hodge-podge of uses and lack of natural land use flow.

Basalt has a connection issue between Hwy 82 and DT but it's only about 600' along Midland Avenue and provides an opportunity to keep the DT quaint while filling in the space between with good stuff.

We need places/things to draw people off the highway into DT.

A hotel proposal had been submitted for the library parcel years ago but it didn't meet the AH requirements so it didn't happen.

The key intersection DT is at Two Rivers Road (2RR) and Midland Avenue and that's where we need to place some density and define arrival into DT.

We could create a boulevard on 2RR since it's so wide.

Without too much effort there could be a path from Riverwalk to the confluence and along the Roaring Fork down to Old Pond Park. People could walk along it and not see a car.

People who move back to the valley are coming because they miss the outdoor experience.

We need more opportunities for trail running and mountain biking close to DT. Biking on 2RR and Fryingpan Road isn't safe. You have to put your bike in the car and drive to mountain biking trails. There aren't trail signs that show where the trail goes and how to link to other trails in the area.

It'd be nice to have trails that loop around and with signs that say how long it is, degree of difficulty, points of interest along the way, etc.

Are there any plans underway to move the residents from the other mobile home park (MHP) along the river?

When developers come to Basalt the primary focus is on how to satisfy the AH requirements so other important stuff doesn't get as much attention.

Over the years, the MHPs became the de-facto affordable housing in Basalt so other AH products weren't built as a result.

Putting more density DT is a chicken/egg question. Which do you grow first; businesses or residences?

How do we go about getting a really good grocer DT? How much of the Clarke's parcel is available for redevelopment?

When you come into Basalt at the roundabout the fenced in MHP is one of the first things you see and it's not very welcoming.

Visitors to Basalt would rather stay at the Days Inn in Carbondale than at the Aspenalt.

The Aspenalt could be, and should be, redeveloped.

One nice hotel could put the existing hotels out of business but those parcels could then open up for AH buildings.

Let's get some pop-up art on the streets.

The empty storefronts around town could be put to use by putting visiting artists from the Wylie or Anderson Ranch in them with an open door policy so people could walk in to see what the artists are working on.

Basalt needs to establish its own identity. It's not Aspen and it's not Carbondale. Fishing seems to be what it's best known for, along with emerging art/gallery scene. Having a good hotel DT would help draw visitors here.

I met a couple who said they'd been driving by Basalt for years on their way to Aspen and thought that it consisted of the gas station, Stubbies, and MHP that you see from the highway. Then one day they decided to follow the road that comes into Basalt and they were so surprised to find this charming little town. They love it here and now they stay in Basalt instead of staying in Aspen when they come to visit.

There are very few flag hotels in the valley but we get lots of visitors who accumulate hotel points when they travel for business. They look for places where they can go and stay in hotels and use their points to pay for their stay. Now Willits is getting one of those hotels.

If Basalt could determine what it's going to focus on to attract people here that draw could be incorporated with a funky hotel and a good trail system.

DT Basalt has a funkiness that should be played up.

Retailers can sell brands in Basalt that have exclusive rights in some Aspen shops.