

## Susan Philp

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**From:** Stephen Chase <aspensailor@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 05, 2015 8:48 AM  
**To:** Susan Philp; Mike Scanlon  
**Subject:** View Point for web site/Chase

Susan, Please add this to the view point section of the web page.....

Dear Neighbor, I was thinking about responding to the letter that appeared today (7-4-15) in the Aspen Daily News. Instead I went to our town Planning website and listened to the taped program, of the DAAC report, held at the library and moderated by Paul Andersen. After re-hearing that meeting from beginning to end, a meeting that was transparent and open to the community, it's hard to respond to that segment of the population that was AWOL for over a year, who now blame the greedy developer for hijacking the property; lecture the public for "permitting the process to go forward"; faulting the CDC for trying to get its investment back and encouraging the town to "find" the resources to purchase the entire site (as long as it doesn't require a personal contribution). "There is still time for the town to slowdown and influence things....." is a comment from a citizen who is unaware of the planning process that has gone on for 20 years and I suspect has just awakened to the realities and needs of our growing town and valley. Michael Kinsley's comments were particularly poignant when he talked about actually increasing density in the developable portion of the Pan Fork and protecting the wide swaths of open space up and down the valley from future "paving over". I always wonder where these "naysayers" stood with the 5 million dollar bond issue when we were supporting the clearing of the trailers and shoreline mitigation – where 250 people lived in 37 trailers, 1/3 of which were in harm's way. Do any of them actually have and/or have verbalized a vision for what Basalt, as a town, could or should look like? What's missing from our present state of affairs? The map that the DAAC worked with that was designed by Julie Kolar was a huge step forward in attempting to answer that question. As you've pointed out, losing a performing arts center to Willits is a huge loss! It could have been a defining amenity of the town. But without control of Frank Taverna's property, it's a distant dream while the Mariner development team steam rolls forward with plans and money from our treasury. We've spent nearly two years in this recent effort to engage the public. The outcome was not that different from what had been decided multiple time over the past 20 years. Does our council have a vision yet? Rick Stevens and Herschel Ross certainly seem to and were optimistic at that moment in time – and at least were not afraid to take a stand. How some (Whitsitt) could ignore the more than 400 citizens who actually showed up and participated, not to mention the hundreds before since 1996 is beyond me. Even at that important meeting, none of these people either bothered to show up or otherwise express a divergent opinion. Lowe enterprises was really responding to a citizen generated response – including the foregoing of the 1/3 of the property in the "Big V". Chris Touchette, an architect with CCY and a resident of Basalt with two kids in our schools, was first selected for the DAAC and then the firm was hired by Lowe and then he was selected by the town to work with P & Z and the town is now considered guilty of a conflict of interest, by some. And the mayor has said or inferred as much as she responded in kind to some of her constituents. It's just insane! If the council members would go back, as I did, and listen to the recording, perhaps they would come to the same conclusion that so many of us have reached. Lowe and CCY are not the enemy! It's time to get off their respective hands and reach out to this development team as partners and move the town forward.....Steve Chase