

From: Jae Gregory [<mailto:jaeg1@comcast.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2015 9:31 PM

To: 'jacque whitsitt'; Bernie Grauer; Gary Tennenbaum; Herschel Ross; Mark Kittle; Rick Stevens; Rob Leavitt

Cc: Susan Philp; Pam Schilling

Subject: Please take action now

Town Council, Mayor, Town of Basalt, it's time to do what the citizens want with the riverfront park area.

I've watched the original RFCD video, read the results of the original surveys, read all the comments generated when the office was open on Main Street, AND read all the post-meeting comment cards, website comments, and letters to the editor that are on the website for anyone to see.

From the get-go, the majority of citizens had a general consensus. A big park, fountains, walkways for strollers and families, a town square, a large arts and entertainment venue, perhaps a restaurant, perhaps a boutique hotel. The suggestions are compellingly consistent over the years. Virtually no one other than a few vocal and very active folks, mostly in the building and real estate trade – felt that more condos and commercial space were the solution to the empty condos and commercial space in Basalt.

Basalt Council Members, even people without much imagination can look at the modest open space there now and can envision how the with the addition of the RFC building, there will be comparatively little useable open space. We want you to do what the vast majority have been requesting for quite some time and keep the little open space left from being developed into a hotel, or worse, condos.

We gave you our time, our ideas, made personal sacrifices to participate and attend meetings. We trusted you. We don't understand the delays to talk still more development. So few advocated that, why are you pursuing it?

Why not move forward with the suggestion that the CDC and the town financial advisor made several months ago and acquire that property so we are not at the whim of developers – or risk getting a bad rep among developers while you take extra time to mull over options?

Many of us offered to help find private funding to support a much larger park and/or concert/arts venue. This is still an option. I urge you to take action - pick from the top 5 ideas suggested so many times, and make it happen. We are chomping at the bit to stroll in the park, dance at riverside concerts, impress visitors with our accessible riverfront, sit and catch up with friends while watching kids play in a fountain.....

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