

MacDonald July 1

To: Mayor Jacque Whitsitt, Town Manager Mike Scanlon, Town of Basalt planning staff, Planning and Zoning Commission, and **Town Trustees.**

From: Douglas MacDonald, Basalt

Subject: Regaining Control of Basalt Development

The latest round of options presented to the town for redevelopment of the former Pan&Fork property seem to be entirely driven by the needs of the developers; not surprising in light of the fact that the architects are the same group employed by the developers.

These options continue to ignore the overview plan of the DAAC (Downtown Area Planning Committee) by clustering oversize buildings in the area most favored for public amenities and low rise structures. The driving force for this fast-track approach, which bypasses a broader view of community planning, is the understandable desire of the RFCDC to swiftly recover their investment in the Pan&Fork parcel.

After investing so much time in community planning study why does the town passively permit this process to go forward when the future nature and appearance of the entire downtown core is at stake?

There is still time for the town to slow down and influence the direction of things by taking financial control of the entire process. The Board of Trustees should actively pursue the purchase of land in the central core, starting with the RFCDC parcel.

Only when the Town owns the land can future development reflect the wishes of the people of Basalt. Appropriately scaled amenities, benefiting residents as well as businesses and visitors, can then take proper precedence over large projects driven by developers.

Copies to: Aspen Times, Aspen Daily News

*Douglas MacDonald*  
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