

James Lindt

From: Pam Schilling
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 8:14 AM
To: Mike Scanlon; Judi Tippetts; Susan Philp; James Lindt; Tom Smith (Office); Denise Tomaskovic; Bernie Grauer; Bernie Grauer; Gary Tennenbaum; Gary Tennenbaum; Gary Tennenbaum; Herschel Ross; Jacque Whitsitt; Jacque Whitsitt (Jacquewhitsitt@comcast.net); Mark Kittle; Mark Kittle (Work); Rick Stevens; Rick Stevens; Rob Leavitt
Subject: FW: can you send this to mayor, council, Mike etc.. THANKS

Forward per request of Stacey Craft.
P.

From: Stacey Craft [<mailto:stacey@happyrealestatebasalt.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2015 5:15 PM
To: Pam Schilling
Subject: can you send this to mayor, council, Mike etc.. THANKS

Hi All- Here's my Letter to the Editor that the Aspen Times published this weekend. It would be great if the town can re-energize their partnership with the school district to support mutually beneficial, cost effective projects like this.

An events center would be a great addition to Basalt and it would help bring much-needed vitality to our downtown core. Building an events center on the Pan and Fork parcel makes no sense however, unless you want to turn much of that land into a parking lot to service the center. Here's a better idea: The Town of Basalt and the RE1 School District should work together to build a phenomenal performance space and community events center. The school district has already said it wants to renovate the existing Basalt Middle School auditorium. Aspen has a terrific performing arts stage at one of their schools- why can't we do that too?

This location is so logical: It already has seating for 100's of people, it is surrounded by close to 200 parking spaces and it is located downtown. Imagine how magical it would be to dine downtown, walk over the river via the swinging bridge and head into the new Basalt Performing Arts Center to hear a great band, see a movie or watch a terrific theatre performance? Once it is renovated, the BMS auditorium would be a huge asset that locals, visitors and school children alike would benefit from.

There is land behind the BMS auditorium space that could be utilized for an expansion. There is already a nice circular driveway that could be landscaped to create an inviting entrance into the building. A really vibrant, sustainable community arts and events space is already located our downtown... we just need to polish up our "diamond in the rough".

September 29, 2015

TOWN OF BASALT

SEP 29 2015

RECEIVED

Dear Editor:

Yesterday's letter to the editor from Jim DeFrancia (Monday, 9/28/15, "A community center downtown") outlined a plan supported by locals, including Mr. DeFrancia, to convert the current Aspen City Hall into a community center if the City Hall offices are moved to a new building elsewhere in Aspen. What a great idea!

However, I have an even better idea – how about a community center in downtown Basalt between the new RMI building and the new Town Park. This space is available right now and Basalt has a developer already interested in this parcel, Lowe Enterprises (which just happens to be Mr. DeFrancia's business). Throw in the fact that Lowe Enterprises has already partnered-up with the non-profit, social justice advocating Roaring Fork Community Development Corporation which, in turn, has partnered-up with the Town of Basalt and the business pieces are in place. With regard to the Basalt community, there are currently two similar petitions circulating in Basalt advocating some form of a community, events oriented meeting center on the space between RMI and the Town Park. The support among the majority of Basalt residents for such a facility is without question – the only question in play is size.

So, Mr. DeFrancia, I strongly urge you to bring your idea for a community center down to Basalt. You just might find a surprising level of support across the board – the Town of Basalt government, the citizens of Basalt, local non-profits and a developer, Lowe Enterprises. Sounds like a winner to me – what are you waiting for?

Carpe diem,

Greg Shugars

Basalt