

From: [Pam Schilling](#)
To: [Susan Philp](#); [James Lindt](#); [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](#)
Cc: [Mike Scanlon](#); [Judi Tippets](#); [Denise Tomaskovic](#); [Tom Smith \(Office\)](#)
Subject: FW: response to the P&F petitions
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 3:01:56 PM

Received 01/26/16

From: 9lax@comcast.net [mailto:9lax@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:51 PM
To: Pam Schilling
Subject: Fwd: response to the P&F petitions

From: "PR" <phillipmring@gmail.com>
To: jacquewhitsitt@comcast.net, "mark kittle" <mark.kittle@basalt.net>, "bernie grauer" <bernie.grauer@basalt.net>, "gary tennenbaum" <gary.tennenbaum@basalt.net>, 9lax@comcast.net, robleavitt@basalt.net, herschelross@basalt.net
Cc: "mike scanlon" <mike.scanlon@basalt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 2:20:43 PM
Subject: response to the P&F petitions

Dear Mayor and Council –

I regret that I will not be able to attend tonight’s Council meeting to voice my opinions in person. As a young professional trying to make it in Basalt, I am deeply troubled by your lack of action to make Basalt a more reasonable place for the next generation. The Mayor and multiple councilmen have given plenty of lip service to affordable/attainable housing yet, when push-comes-to-shove, **what actions has this council taken to improve the affordability of Basalt?**

Giving tonight’s plea a platform is yet another failure in leadership. While I certainly appreciate your desire to listen to the electorate, in this case it only serves to further confuse the issue. The community has already spoken - we were all invited and encouraged to participate in the countless hours of the Our Town Planning Process. The petitions being forced upon us do not reflect the outcome of those efforts. By entertaining this “discussion,” what message are you sending to all those that spent their valuable time volunteering on those committees and sitting through the countless meetings?

I strongly urge you to reconsider where and how you’ve allowed the conversation to stray since the Our Town process concluded. There was plenty of acreage reserved for park, trail, and other open space uses in the vision laid out by the community. A small vocal group (being supported by an investment team that “just wants its money back”) has done a remarkable job of convincing fellow citizens that we should ignore the previous work and create a ‘Park for the Masses.’

While it may be a lovely concept, a 4.6-acre park in the heart of downtown Basalt is completely out-

of-scale by any rational measure and for any reasonable use. The park would be roughly twice the size of the field in the Town of Snowmass Village used for the Jazz Aspen Snowmass Labor Day concerts (attended by more than 11,000 people)! Furthermore, the finances for such a park are wildly irresponsible. The millions spent to acquire and make the CDC parcel developable were only justifiable because of the return promised to the citizens of Basalt. Turning almost all of this into a park would be a failure to uphold this commitment (*besides the morally questionable end result of evicting the Latino population from downtown for a park they'll never use*). Finally, this would create a significant burden on future generations on the order of tens of millions of dollars in acquisition and perpetual maintenance costs for the park. But the greatest fiscal impact may be forgoing the long-term economic value retail, commercial, and hotel developments along Two Rivers Road will provide. Is this the kind of legacy you want to leave?

Nothing about these petitions helps make Basalt a more accessible, affordable, or plausible place for the next generation to live. It gives up development opportunities that would create jobs, housing, and vibrancy. I believe the public has been misled by these petitions and it should be your job, as the elected leaders of the community, to respectfully decline to entertain this distraction. There are plenty of important issues for Council that could be beneficial, productive, and bring our community closer together – I urge you to move on to those.

Thank you for time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Phillip Ring