

Chat Session

2/20/14

Tania Clark residence – 150 Village Court

What makes Basalt special now?

- Historic nature
- Having town hall downtown
- Having post office downtown
- having library downtown
- Having a grocery store downtown
- Walkability

Maybe Village Market could move here from Snowmass

Trader Joe's needs a larger demographic

Enhance pedestrian aspect – tied to parking

Need parking garage

Two Rivers Café and Alpine Bank businesses/buildings need to stay downtown

Put parking garage under Clarke's

Move stage closer to river where it's not so congested

Plant more street trees along roads

How much control does the Town have over Clarke's Market?

What can be done about the Aspenault? Can it be leveled?

Keep the "historic feel" of downtown Basalt

Turn Lions Park into a park – remove buildings

What are we going to do about the recycle center?

The seed garden is unique

Trails are important because they support walkability

Build another bridge across the river? Should it be pedestrian only?

It's smart to not rush things

How are we going to work with private property owners?

Some people will perceive the Our Town Plan as not being financially feasible

Developers might need more than the assurance of a fast-track approval process

Public/private partnerships most likely course of action

Allowing increased density could be an incentive, e.g. more than three stories with top floor set back (lofts)

More infill opportunities downtown

More residences downtown to support businesses/vitality

Having a roundabout by the barber shop would be important – delivery trucks need a place to turn around on Midland Avenue

These suggestions are all good but they are mostly long-term. What can we do in the short term to keep downtown vital?

Need a new housing product down-valley, e.g. fractional ownership units

Could AH fit in with fractional ownership? It might help bring in more young people.

My kids are done with college and would like to live in Basalt but they can't afford to buy anything here.

New residential housing should be built downtown

The Roaring Fork Club has about 500 members. They come into town and the restaurants do well but retail, not so much.

Another great spot to build more housing would be downstream from the library (Jadwin property) but more density would be needed to make it viable.

The original attraction when we moved to Basalt was that we didn't have to drive everywhere and we could walk to the grocery store. But that's all changing now.

The Basalt Pharmacy needs to stay downtown. Tad and Heidi are fixtures here and they help everybody, no matter the time. You can call them at midnight if you really need something and Tad will meet you at the Pharmacy.

The Aspenault is a fixture, too

There's a neat place in Denver where they have a bunch of specialty food and retail shops all under one roof. It's not a mall, though. Basalt doesn't have the demographics to support this yet.

Why can't we turn hard-to-rent downtown commercial units into small residential lofts?

Some of the units would still be bigger than a lot of apartments in NYC!

We need to repurpose and restructure our buildings and dwelling options

Is the Basalt Town Council on board with increased density and/or zoning changes?

Would we get James Surls to build a gallery downtown?

What is the track record of the performing arts center in Carbondale?

Is having a small movie theatre in downtown Basalt out of the question?

The larger question is how can we attract drivers on Hwy. 82 into Basalt?

There is a missed opportunity with the current entrance. It needs to be more attractive.

Find an old homestead to relocate where it would draw visitors

We don't need to build public facilities like a performing arts center when we have great existing assets like our fishing. Arts competition with other towns is too much.

Let's talk up and promote Lake Christine! It could be stocked and become known as the place to bring your kids and grandkids for fishing.

We shouldn't be afraid to build a hotel along the river

A convention facility would be good, too

RMI needs a hotel to house their visitors.

We cannot yet comprehend what a big impact RMI will have on the town after it's built

Salida is on a river and they have made it a great place to visit with a kayak park, parks, restaurants, and trails along the river. It's really charming.

Removing the mobile home park along the Roaring Fork will create more possibilities

Where's the Taqueria going to go? Val's old space didn't work out. Could they relocate to the former Bristlecone spot?

Redstone Pizza was great

Bristlecone's relocation to Willits has been very profitable for them

Basalt is a fisherman's bedroom, not an Aspen bedroom

Basalt is more than just fishing – we also have hiking, biking, and natural beauty

Riverside Grill has ambiance and a great location in the summer

The bus ride to Basalt from Aspen is beautiful

RMI chose Basalt for its future home because it has “that feel”

Fractionals are a viable opportunity

A lot of people won't drive to Aspen because of the parking problem

The bus system makes it so you don't have to drive

What's the plan for the intersection by the post office? We have a funny entrance into town.

The high water table is a problem

Pedestrian crossing needs to be safer across Hwy. 82

RFTA needs to keep the local bus coming through downtown every half hour