

Candidates Election Forum 2011

Vail Homeowners Association

Town Council Candidates Questions and Responses

10/25/2011 8:00 pm

Vail Town Council Candidates:

We are forwarding to each candidate a summary of position statements in the VHA October Newsletter, as well as questions to which you may respond in writing. These items summarize issues of concern to the Vail Homeowners Association and the community-at-large.

Your written responses will be posted on the Association's website. The compilation will be updated as additional responses are received from each candidate. Please forward your responses by email to the below email address.

We are available to discuss these matters with each candidate.

The Association believes that each candidate should have the opportunity to respond to pressing community issues in your own written words, rather than being filtered through others. We are open to receiving suggested questions from the candidates and the public at large.

Candidates there are no specific deadlines for submission of your responses. You may modify or elaborate upon an earlier response. Your responses will appear as you submitted them and in order that they are received. They will be posted daily to the Association's website.

You will be sent a separate email for each question, please "reply" by email in a standard Word or TXT format so that the posting of your responses can be expedited.

Thank you.

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Conference Center Fund Ballot Issue Clarification to VHA October 12, 2011 Newsletter: The Town of Vail, should the ballot issue fail, will refund "the taxes by lowering the lodging tax over a period of twenty years".

VHA 2011 Vail Town Council Candidate Questions:

Question #1: Agenda: Outline and explain your proposed agenda of issues and policies, which you desire to address and accomplish during your term in office.

Question #1: Candidate Responses

[Stephen Connolly](#)

10/15/11 12:13 pm

Transparency of actions and inclusion of the citizenry

I was very disappointed with the process used by the current Council to determine the use of the funds generated by the conference center tax. In the opinion of more than a few people in Vail, sending an emissary to talk with select groups was not a very good outreach. Nor was telling people to go online to send ideas and/or comments an effective forum to find any great ideas for the use of the funds.

We should have held a community meeting where the great minds of this town could have held dialogue and exchanged ideas. Since the proverbial "silver bullet" or great idea was not found, we should have delayed the decision to put the measure to a vote.

MAKE NO MISTAKE - VOTE "YES" ON BALLOT QUESTION NUMBER 1. Regardless of whether or not you agree with the projects or the process, we must pass this measure. There will be no refund checks sent out to the citizens of Vail if it is rejected. We must spend this money.

There also appears to some that too many closed sessions are held by Council and Staff regarding topics of grave importance to the community, Ever Vail and Timber Ridge being the two that come up in conversation most often.

If we truly need an Executive Session to deal with the details of a negotiation or the legality of a situation, I can agree to this. But if we are discussing the details of a project that has an impact on the community at large, by all means they should be included.

I would use Executive Sessions and Closed Meetings judiciously.

Creation of a better marketing infrastructure for the Town of Vail

God bless all who have served as volunteers tasked with creating a marketing plan for Council to approve and fund, but the time has come for a serious change in the process.

I propose replacing the VLMD, more specifically the VLMDAC, and the CSE with a Chief Marketing Officer. Marketing by Committee is not the most effective way to accomplish this ever increasing function of the Town. The current system is rife with the potential for politicization and conflict of interest. The current process is too cumbersome to react to time sensitive opportunities, simply because they may present themselves before a committee can convene a meeting, especially committees compromised of such large numbers. The process lacks the capability for long range vision and execution due to membership change over.

I would keep the VEAC as a think tank for the CMO.

Environment

If we truly are stewards of the environment and strive to be leaders in the Green Movement, we need to seriously consider taking some drastic actions.

In my opinion, the plastic bag is a terrible thing. I have been talking about this long before our neighbors in Aspen made recent headlines. We need to drastically reduce the use, on the way to total elimination, of this serious threat to our planet's well being. San Francisco, where tourism is a major economic driver, banned plastic bags in 2007.

We can find a way to do this without alienating our guests, domestic and international. Banning smoking has not caused our European guests to seek other destinations. We may actually be able to change the world with this idea. Guests are susceptible to new experiences while on vacation. We may be able to start a trend that would travel "back home" with the opinion leaders that come to Vail, thus spreading the idea to "reduce, reuse and recycle". What a marketing concept to have people return home with reusable cloth bags emblazoned with the Vail name and a multi-lingual appeal to help save the environment.

We have a vehicle idling ordinance on the books that allows vehicles to idle for 20 minutes. This is ridiculous. We should look at laws in other cold weather areas - Toronto and Sweden come to mind - and modify this ordinance to something reasonable. Or stop being hypocritical and drop the ordinance altogether.

Not only that, not all of our Code Enforcement Offices are aware of the ordinance. It is common knowledge that our CEO's vehemently enforce our other traffic and parking regulations. As a proponent of common sense enforcement - "No harm, no foul. Play on.", why not enforce a law that truly does harm and foul?

We are smart enough to implement environmental guidelines that will have a long term benefit for all of us, without hurting our ability to attract guests.

Ever Vail - By all rights, this looks to be a good project with a good partner. We should move forward, with the caveat that it is done in a way that is good for the community. We also need to have the requirements for development, i.e. employee housing, public parking, art in public places, provided BEFORE the project is completed and open for business.

Employee Housing - While debatable as to government's role, we need to ensure that the working class backbone of our community has a decent and convenient place to live. How many current homeowners and contributing members of this community originally came to Vail for "just one season"? There will always be a need, but the Town's involvement should expand and contract as that need changes. Until we are completely built out, the Town will play a role in this issue, either by outright ownership of properties such as Timber Ridge or the implementation of codes requiring new developments to provide a private component.

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/16/11 11:30 am

I would like to see the Ever Vail development move forward. Down the road this is a potential windfall for all of Vail and a sure step for our continued standing in the ski industry and world renowned reputation.. Another ski portal, add'l parking, retail, dwellings, contribution to the RETT fund, increased sales tax returns, improvement to our transportation services, guest distribution and a second Gondola are a few of the benefits our Town can help to achieve. I hope to assure close in easy skier access to the mountain is included in this development. This is one area where I believe we have dropped the ball in past development improvement agreements and have the opportunity to address this deficiency moving forward. Customer service and satisfaction has been identified as a key element in our continued success and I would think this ease of skier access would be a common goal for all of our partners.

I am intrigued by the potential expanded partnership with the medical community and expanding on the idea of health and wellness as a vehicle to increase our year round business offering us an additional industry not based entirely on Mother Nature. Realizing this as a viable way to expand our economy here and add additional jobs for our workforce. This could be a really big thing for our Valley. It is an exciting opportunity for Vail and should be fully explored.

I would propose more open public discussion formats rather than increased Executive sessions when dealing with our partners concerning major redevelopments. If it is a good thing for our Town we should be able to have open negotiations, not closed door negotiations. While I know from my past 2 terms on Council that some issues require executive session due to private proprietary information and legal client / attorney privilege items, more could be done to open discussions up to the public. Executive session time seems to have increased as of late.

Financial prudence should continue. During the past years when the economic downturn hit, Council made sound decisions to keep us ahead of the curve and to protect our fund balances, assure cash flow level to operate, study areas where we could tighten our belt without reducing our excellent guests services while maintaining Vail's outstanding credit rating. This should continue. I would recommend is to take another hard look at the financials and encourage a line item review of each department to explore the nooks and crannies where more efficiencies can be recommended. I have had to do that the past 2 years in my business and while time consuming and somewhat tedious, several areas were identified to cut expenses and improve overall operations. I believe it is time to do it now for our Town.

While parking is not a screaming issue as in years past I feel the long term solution still needs to be discovered. More to come on this.

Park preservation. More and more our public neighborhood parks are being intruded on as viable solutions for skier parking. I am not a fan of this tactic. It originally was discussed as a temporary solution. I would like to keep it a temporary solution. Developments should shoulder parking solution responsibility.

Marketing and special events have been working much better and our numbers confirm that. We should continue and expand on this approach, it is producing results.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

I have three goals for the upcoming council term. First, we must maintain our strong financial position through continued conservative fiscal management. We have maintained a balanced budget throughout my tenure on the council, and have created a budget surplus in the general fund in each of the years I have served, despite dealing with the largest recession in a generation. We intervened early to cut expenses and increase revenue. As a result, Vail has weathered the storm better than most communities. I will not spend tax dollars on projects that do not demonstrate a positive return on investment for the community.

Second, we need to create a basis for a sustainable year round economy in addition to tourism and real estate development. Tourism is the foundation of our economy and we must continue to support and expand it. The recession of 2008 has seriously impacted the real estate market, and it is not likely to come back to pre-recession levels for many years. Therefore, we must find another engine to drive our year round economy, and I believe that should be a focused effort on the health and wellness industry.

Our consultants tell us that we are well positioned to exploit the health and wellness industry. Our natural environment draws people to the outdoors, both in summer and winter. Our community is physically active. We have world class doctors, particularly in orthopedic medicine. We also are home to the Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI) "An International Center for Research and Education—Keeping People Active." The health and wellness industry will create good paying jobs for the community by attracting medical professionals and the businesses supporting them. Well paying jobs are the key to maintaining a well rounded and diverse community.

Third, we must continue to protect our environment for ourselves, our children and our visitors. Our mission statement includes providing "outstanding environmental stewardship." I take that commitment seriously because it is vital to our success as a community. I was proud to support our Facility Wide Energy Conservation Project which will give us energy savings of \$156,000 annually and \$260,000 in total operational savings over the 15 year term. The entire \$3.1 investment in this project will be paid back in 15 years. I will continue to support programs that promote environmental health and sustainability.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/19/2011 5:39 pm

I don't have a specific agenda other than that Vail flourish as both a resort and a community. This will require good governance, solid processes and a pragmatic approach to problem solving. The upcoming answers will highlight some of what you can expect if you vote for me. *For more information: like Moffet For Vail on facebook*

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:14 pm

I would like to see Vail maintain and increase Vail's economic vitality and expand the Vail Brand worldwide.

Vail is a small community, but world large and they expect a level of service and sophistication with a quiet reserve. We offer that and much more but continue in raising the bar. The areas we can do this in our ambassadorship to our guests, more layering of what the town has to offer. Vail Symposium, Vail Jazz, Vail Film Festival, Bravo, Dance could expand their programs year round. Add an element of live theatre, comedy club, more live music. People come from the worlds

greatest cities and they play hard during the day, but it shouldn't end at dinner. We market "No Place On Earth" lets make it so.

I would like to see Vail become a year round sustainable community. This can be done. We have an established medical community that is known world wide. We need to cultivate this partnership, it would create jobs, bring more families to Vail and be well on our way to a year round economy.

Timber Ridge is Vail's opportunity to provide year round employee housing for families, not just for the seasonal workers or the student that is coming for the "ski season". Full time residents have a sense of pride for the community, great ambassadors for our guests and an opportunity to grow in their position. There wouldn't be the drive from down valley, it would help with the parking issues they can use our transit system. Timber Ridge redevelopment could be part of growth of the year round economy.

I would like to encourage more public forums. I believe more conversation and resolve to make things easier for homeowners and business owners to work with the Town of Vail. Having open and ongoing conversation will help clarify issues and reach mutually successful resolutions.

Lastly, to work at keeping our relationship with Vail Resorts, strong, positive and ongoing. Ever Vail development is on the horizon and is a great opportunity for all, the community, the ski industry and Vail itself. This is a partnership and both parties need to move forward to making this a positive for Vail.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

My general agenda will be to assure that Vail remains economically and socially healthy for our guests as well for local businesses and inhabitants. To continue to make Vail the kind of place guests want to visit, and locales can live, work and play and raise families in. I will also work towards making the Council the most effective leadership group it can be; reduce the "micro manage" syndrome; encourage and support the efforts of the professional staff to provide council with the best information and opinions to base decisions on.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

- Continued Strong Fiscal Condition - Improve operating efficiency of Town government: We have an antiquated budgeting system which needs to be updated to ensure adequate tracking of operating expenses, as many operating costs are now obscured in capital budgets. Operating costs are eating up our capital reserves jeopardizing the ability of the Town of Vail to sustain top quality infrastructure necessary to remain competitive.
- Timber Ridge – Complete Phase I redevelopment, thereby reducing substantial debt risk for Town of Vail.
- Drive Economy – Joint Venture with VVMC, Steadman Clinic and Steadman Philippon Research Institute to expand research and clinical practice space insuring growth of their destination orthopedic practice, and bringing more jobs to town. This joint venture then creates space on the VVMC campus for the hospital's growth, thereby assuring their continued presence in Vail.
- Ever Vail – Complete the process for Ever Vail in a timely manner.

Question #2: Personal Qualifications: Define your personal qualifications to accomplish your proposed agenda.

Question # 2: Candidate Responses

[Stephen Connolly](#)

10/16/11 10:50am

TOWN BOARDS, COMMITTEES and ORGANIZATIONS

Participation on Town Boards and Commissions since moving to Vail in 1987. First as a member of the VRD's Citizen's Advisory Committee in 1987. Most recently helped to create the current form of the Commission for Special Events, and then serving as an advisor immediately after its inception, followed by becoming a Member and then Vice Chair.

Former Director of the Vail Chamber and Business Association.

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

Involved in sports marketing at the international level since 1981. Includes working for International Management Group (IMG) which at the time was the world's leader in sports marketing. Prior to that, worked for Fairchild Business Publications, at the time the world's leader in trade publications.

Locally worked and/or consulted for a number of small businesses in the publishing/media and event marketing fields.

Guest relations include working in the Town's Information Booths and at local ski shops.

EDUCATION

BA in Communications from Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison

Served as Station Manager for KWSB-FM

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/17/11 10:10 am

I have been a successful business operator in Vail for 20 years. I have 36 years of business experience behind me in construction, real estate and property management. All successful. I can make hard decisions and I have no special interest group driving me to serve again. I am beholden to the Vail citizens. My past two terms served on the Vail Council were highly instrumental in positioning Vail for the stability the Town is now experiencing during these difficult economic times. I am forward thinking with respect for the past. I base my decisions on sound facts and research. I currently employ between 15 and 35 employees, handle marketing, oversee finance, responsible for all aspects of running associations and rental programs. I am a business man. I listen. I am a problem solver. I am motivated and rewarded by results.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

I have demonstrated the skills and abilities to make prudent decisions for the Town. The most current Vail Homeowners monthly report identifies qualities which it believes are required for a position on the Town Council and I meet those requirements. The "desirable traits of a good decision maker" noted in the article are a good starting place to measure:

Higher Education. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Loyola University of Chicago. My law degree is from Northwestern University.

International Travel. I have been fortunate enough to travel to six of the seven continents (Antarctica is still on my bucket list), and I agree that travel, both international and domestic, is invaluable.

Successful business experience. I was the eighth lawyer in a Chicago law firm which grew to over 100 attorneys, and 200 support staff in three cities. Being a partner in the firm meant management of what started as a small and became a medium sized business. Before my retirement, I was the senior partner in the Denver office. Running a law firm is no different than running any other business. I've successfully dealt with budgets, long term planning, personnel issues, work flow, recruitment, client generation and daily management.

As a business litigator, I advised and represented companies both large and small in industries ranging from a small high tech startup to a major railroad.

Respect for cultural differences. In many ways, respect for cultural differences is a natural byproduct of my international travel. This quality is especially important as we reach out to new destination visitors from countries in Latin American and Asia. I enjoy the energy that international tourists bring to Vail. Events I have supported such as the Vail Soul Music and the South of the Boarder Festivals celebrate our differences and are a really good time.

Working knowledge of how town hall operates. I was a member of the town's Design Review and Art in Public Places Boards prior to my election to the town council. Service on the town boards was an important introduction to the way things are done in the town. My experience on the council in the last four years not only has given me a thorough knowledge of how the town works, but it has also allowed me to influence its workings in a positive way through increased transparency, such as allowing the televised recording of the council's work sessions in addition to the evening meetings.

Financial, analytical and communication skills. Analytical and communication skills are the major tools of the legal profession. Because of my training and experience, I carefully analyze the issues before the council, looking at all sides of a question before coming to a decision. Equally important is the ability to communicate to the public. They have the right to know the basis for my decisions, and I try to explain my reasoning as clearly as possible.

In the current economic climate, critical analysis of financial matters is what has kept us ahead of our competition and will determine if we continue to prosper. Conservative fiscal management has been a core value of my tenure on the council and I intend to continue with it.

I have qualities that make me an effective member of council in addition to those identified by the VHA. I know how to negotiate. Matters coming before the council often represent competing interests and I know how to compromise to get things done. I will also hold the line if I believe that it is in the best interests of the community. I learn fast and I work hard. I am experienced, accountable, and committed to taking Vail to the next level.

Greg Moffet 10/21/2011 8:06 am

-Graduated Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota Law School (and had the good sense to quit being a lawyer almost immediately)

-Raised two daughters here in Vail

-Was a second homeowner before I moved here full-time

-Own a business that relies on other Vail businesses for a sizable portion of its revenue. I talk to the business community, merchants, restaurateurs etc. for a living. I understand the business community and it's issues.

-My business also involves other ski towns, yielding a great deal of perspective on the issues facing the industry and related communities.

-Served on Vail Town Council for eight years from 1999 to 2007.

-Served on Vail Planning and Environmental Commission for four years from 1995 to 1999, chaired it for three of those years,

-Served on the Local Marketing District Advisory Board for eight years,

-Served on the Eagle County Open Space Advisory Committee for two years (was chairman for several months),

-Serve on the Eagle County Planning Commission since spring of 2008

-Serve on the Vail Economic Advisory Commission since its inception

-Served on the I-70 Corridor Coalition for two years,

-Served on the Vail Valley Chamber and Tourism Bureau/Vail Valley Chamber merger board,

- Vail Rotarian since 1994
 - Avid mountain sports enthusiast
 - skied 30 days last season (love the new chair 5, and could ski it no stop by season's end)
 - nordic ski (blame my younger daughter)
 - snowshoe (only uphill)
 - mountain bike
 - Road bike (scars to prove it!)
 - Trail run/hike (including sponsoring the VRD's Berry Picker race)
-

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:15 pm

Residence - East Vail
Education: BFA in Technical Design - College of Santa Fe
Business: Director of Masters Gallery and Galerie Zuger in Vail Colorado.
responsible for all marketing, budgets, employee's, artist contracts

Meadow Drive Business Partnership - Vice President 2 year term
Construction Mitigation Committee - during the construction on Meadow Drive
Vail Economic Council - Since its inception to present
Committee of Special Events - 2 terms – Current

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

I have many years of experience on most aspects of the resort industry: I have been involved in managerial positions in the private sector in Vail and Beaver Creek as well as overseas, and have served in governance, specifically as a Vail Council Member and Mayor.

I am on the Boards of the Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, and the Beaver Creek DRB.

At least twice per year I spend time in European resorts and study international market trends and approaches.

I pursue many of the activities Vail provides for its guest and locals.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

- Successful business leader and entrepreneur
 - President of Vail Resorts - 10 years
 - Raised a family in Vail
 - Vail Valley Medical Center Board of Directors - 9 years
 - Service on many charitable & service organization Boards over the past 20+ years, including Huega Foundation, Eagle County Land Trust, the U.S. Ski Team and Ski Club Vail among others.
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Question #3: Sustainable Population: - How should Vail encourage an economically and culturally diverse population?

Question #3: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/11 10:56 am

We seem to have been doing a pretty good job on this front for the last 50 years.

The Town should continue to support a diverse mix of events while encouraging housing and employment opportunities for a range of socioeconomic classes. What the Town CANNOT do is focus on one group at the expense of all others.

The Town offers a variety of cultural experiences. Bravo, the Farmers Market, Spring Back to Vail, piano bars and dive bars, restaurants with five stars and no stars, all surrounded by the great outdoors. It is the combination that attracts a variety of visitors who can become residents and business owners.

We must strive to maintain a mix of offerings to attract a diverse population.

[Farrow Hitt](#) 10/17/11 10:19 am

By assuring Vail's world class reputation continues on. We currently have a diverse community spanning all economic levels. Our community is comprised of people from all around the globe. We demand excellence in and from our community. Fostering our cultural activities, Bravo, Ski championships, world class skiing and restaurants, famous chef's, vast array of visiting musicians and artists, galleries, extraordinary golfing opportunities, world bike racing, Health and wellness, world renowned doctors, surgeons and medical facilities, ease of accessibility and the backdrop behind it all will best encourage economically and diverse population. By maintaining, protecting and expanding our assets we can stay on top.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

Vail is not just a resort area; it is a community. I recognize that Vail is an expensive place to live and in order to support a Vail's **families the town needs to make sure we maintain excellent schools, we promote family-friendly special events, and** we continue our down payment assistance program and support of worker housing.

Expansion of our recreational and cultural activities will bring more people to Vail. Hopefully, some of them will decide to stay. Supporting businesses that bring good jobs to Vail is the best way to encourage an economically strong community.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/21/2011 8:14 am

We, as a Community, are pretty good at attracting the edges of the socioeconomic spectrum, and not so good at attracting the spectrum's middle.

There are several businesses in Vail that provide middle-class and better livelihoods to their employees, but the people making those livings can't reasonably afford to live here. This is a problem we have to solve if we want to maintain our community.

The town's historic focus on housing its seasonal workforce has borne fruit. Consequently, It's time to shift the emphasis to filling the center of our community. Hotel and retail managers, doctors, ski instructors, medical researchers, teachers, police officers, nurses and Town and County employees, all ought to see themselves living in Vail. We know they want to live here. Achieving this objective will involve shifting our focus from dorm style to family-size housing. The town has several tools at its disposal including adopting development standards to encourage the private sector to develop housing for local families. Also the town can deploy its assets with the end of a more diverse community and a robust middle class in mind. The town can also attempt to work with the school district to create a magnet school at Red Sandstone. It makes sense to take advantage of the current buyers market in construction, either on the town's own behalf or as a partner with the private sector.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:16 pm

Vail is on course in maintaining a diverse community. People come from all over the world and many decide to stay which adds to the cultural depth of this community Vail must continue in supporting its schools, sports programs and businesses. The next step is to move to a year round sustainable economy. This would encourage families world wide to make Vail their full time residence. This can be done by working with the medical community and support their growth and expansions.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

By providing an abundance of cultural, athletic and academic opportunities for our population to take advantage of. By encouraging medical tourism to attract young professionals to our town. And by adding a variety of events to the present mix of attraction

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

- We must continue to build on our tourism base by developing programs and resort infrastructure that support non-winter seasonal business growth. Continued improvements to domestic and international air service are a critical component.
- Continue to diversify Vail's economy through supporting medical tourism and wellness activities that attract families – joint venture with VVMC and Steadman is an important opportunity to bring in good jobs that we need to consummate if benefits to the Town of Vail can be substantiated.
- Requiring office space in future developments is a critical component. Without quality office space to accommodate health related, financial, R&D and service type businesses, we cannot grow and diversify our economy.
- Community Focus- Vail is a unique community of families and individuals that are deeply committed to the community's continued success. We must continue to invest in community facilities, as we are with the reinvestment of the conference center funds, in order to provide a quality of live that will keep these folks living in the community.

Question #4: Public Parking – How can we better managing our public and private parking resources without building more parking or increasing the number of days, in summer and winter, that parking is allowed to occur on the Frontage Road?

Question #4: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:29 pm

In the Town of Vail, parking is arguably the number one issue, that we have control over, on the minds and lips of residents and business owners. Council will not be able to remove it from the priority list for the foreseeable future. All ideas need to be considered and then reconsidered as changes occur within the community and marketplace.

I am not certain that we can accomplish either of the ideas outlined in this question. If our goal is to attract more visitors, won't we need more parking capacity and how do you do that without more spaces?

It appears that we are moving down the path of owning the Frontage Roads. Let's determine if this is where we want to go or not. Then we can act accordingly. If we do own and open up the Frontage Roads to everyday usage for parking, this will allow us to offer value priced parking to our residents and workers, thus freeing up space within the structures for guests paying potentially higher prices.

If we are not going to own the Frontage Roads, we must maximize the real estate that we already have in play. Can we add another deck to the LionsHead structure? What about the land adjacent to Timber Ridge? Do the current requirements for development deliver enough or too much public parking? Should we sell and privatize the parking structures?

The private parking structures, after the Town requires a specific number of public parking spaces per development codes, are going to manage themselves. With this in mind, one idea we might want to consider is demand based pricing in the structures to see if we can stem the lose of parking revenues.

One thing that might help us find solutions is to force the powers that be - top Town officials and Council Members alike - to occasionally give up their parking privileges, causing them to deal with the parking trials and tribulations that our guests and residents are forced to endure on a daily basis. We may learn something when forced to deal with it first hand.

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/17/11 10:16 am

If no cars on the frontage road is the goal, summer parking could be improved by requiring both structures be filled prior to allowing parking on the Frontage rd. regardless of even location. The current Council is trying this and I fully support their decision. I have some ideas on adding to it's success. While there will be pushback, understandably because everyone enjoys being close to the event, these easy steps should reduce and even eliminate the overflow in many instances. Increased TOV express bus service from the structures and outlying parking assignments to the event would be necessary for its success..

There would be transportation costs associated with this change. The budget for transportation would increase. We should explore the feasibility of "Event" required private shuttles or discuss shared cost with event planners. Explore revenue opportunity associated with events to offset costs.

With this plan parking should be predictable throughout the summer. There will be some resistance from certain groups. By improving the shuttle service from the structures, and outlying areas, making it easy and simple to get from point A to point B, peoples hesitations would soon fade. In time visitors could be commenting on how nice and easy Vail makes it for their guests to get around town.

Winter parking is a different animal.

No easy answers but here goes. We could implement economic incentives to encourage carpooling or local public transportation. During my term on Council we made the difficult decision to raise the parking fee to \$25 per day. By taking this measure we reduced the number of vehicles coming into town, car pooling increased and locals use of Vail public transportation saw an increase. While not popular it does seem to work.

We should explore public private avenues for better utilization of the privates spaces that could absolutely have a positive impact on Frontage Rd overflow. These private spaces are new coming on line so we should study the individual data combined with our structure's data. to find trends and opportunities. Clearly communicating additional parking locations to all Vail's guests would be key to success. People need to know it is available and where to find it. .We should take advantage of our new information signs to help achieve this goal.

These private spaces are just that, private, so participation would be voluntary to help create a solution. These folks are all business men and women and a potential revenue stream from filling empty parking spaces may just be a win-win opportunity they might consider. It's worth exploring. Leave no stone unturned.

Reality may require additional structured parking.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

The major caveat in this question is “without building more parking.” I don’t believe we can have a permanent solution to parking in Vail without construction of new parking. That being said, managing our existing public parking resources was a challenge the current council addressed when we made significant changes to the parking policies for the 2010-2011 ski season and instituted the managed parking program for summer events.

Specifically, we expanded the free parking from 1 ½ to 2 hours and kept the “free after three” policy. Use of the additional 400 outlying spaces was increased to 7 days per week from the prior use of Friday through Sunday. We extended the ability to purchase value passes to all Eagle County residents and allowed value pass holders to park anywhere in the structures rather than only on the designated spaces on the upper levels. We did not raise the price of parking; keeping the rates at the same level they were two years ago.

A significant, and successful, change to the parking policy involved the managed parking program for summer events. We did not allow parking on the South Frontage Road, except for a few specific events. Instead, we directed people to park in the structures and provided express busses to and from Ford Park for events. We should expand the express bus program as usage of Ford Park increases. In addition to continuing these programs, I would reach out to ski clubs in Denver, and other groups, to encourage them to make use of our free van parking program. I would also work with ECO to increase bus service from down valley towns.

The increase in private parking resources has significantly helped to alleviate the parking issues in the town. I have no intention of trying to tell these private owners how to manage their parking businesses. However, I believe the town and private parking owners can work together to make sure our guests are aware that there are many parking options in Vail. The locations and rates for all parking should be readily available to the public, both through online media such as Facebook as well as on the town website.

In addition, there are many private parking lots that are virtually empty on weekends – when the town’s parking needs are the greatest. I would like to institute a program where the owners of these properties would work with the town to sell a “private parking pass” which would allow weekend parking in their lots. The price for the pass would be paid to town, but would be remitted by the town to the property owner, thus generating income on an asset that would otherwise sit empty. It would benefit the town by adding to the parking inventory.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:18 pm

Better management of our public and private parking is the key. This last years parking policies made a significant difference. Town Council expanded the free parking to two hours and kept free after three policy in place. I feel this alone was a positive for the guests, merchants and skiers. The access to the private parking structures added to this success with fewer days of frontage road parking. I attribute this success to Town Councils decision of signage for the private parking areas. I would like to entertain the idea that on the days that there is overflow to the frontage road, that we could implement parking meters along with designated cross walks. Also, a better shuttle service from outlying parking area's would be beneficial as well. Making it clear, convenient and easy will help dissipate many of the frustrations of our guests and residents.

Summer - A major plus..... Town Council once again stayed strong on their decision not to have frontage road parking and managed a parking program for special events. It made it easy to park in Lionshead, catch a bus which took you directly to the event in a timely manner. Again making it clear, convenient and easy will alleviate many frustrations.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

I believe some, if not all of the problems of the past have been mitigated. The reduction in construction parking during the million dollar renewal has opened spaces for the general public. The addition of private parking garages has had some impact. Public parking management has greatly improved and has been especially beneficial to the local population. I would propose that we consider the winter of 2010-11 as a marker, and not make any hasty decisions regarding the

addition of structured parking. I agree that overflow parking is a nuisance to all concerned, but not necessarily a massive problem.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/24/2011 9:4 am

I've always thought overflow parking is a high-class problem.

If last season is any kind of guide, the problem may be largely licked. 2010-2011 was a near record season and Frontage Road parking was at its lowest in memory. Several factors contributed to reduced overflow despite a truly awesome snow year (powder days almost always result in the highest parking usage). The conclusion of most of the construction (those workers weren't taking day parking spaces anymore), the addition of several new lots and garages including Solaris and Arabelle, and the routine utilization of the frontage road in West Vail all contributed to lower overflow from the main parking structures. Barring a significant change in the nature of Vail skier visits it seems reasonable to expect that 2010-2011 represents the new normal.

As noted elsewhere, parking is more a symptom than a disease. If we can house more of our workforce we will create more skier parking without building a single space. Additionally, Vail Resorts success in encouraging destination and overnight guests very positively impacts parking. We know Vail Resorts likes that customer base and has been very deliberate in adapting its marketing to encourage that kind of business. Every skier/boarder in a lodge, condo or house in Vail is one that likely to walk or take the bus and consequently less likely to take a parking space, and that's a win all around. I would suggest we don't interfere with but rather encourage Vail Resorts successful efforts in this area.

Summer presents a different challenge, and given the percentage difference in revenues between the winter to summer it makes no sense to discourage summer visitation to our commercial cores by charging for parking in the summer. Ultimately if we end up with more Frontage Road overflow in summer than winter, we're going to have to find a less capital intensive way to solve the problem than building, or forcing the building of, new parking spaces.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

- Winter parking demand fluctuates based on the destination/day skier mix. Work with VRI to continue to build destination traffic, deemphasizing front range day traffic.
 - Modernization of the parking management systems in main Vail & Lionshead will result in better utilization and more timely parking information to our guests while also reducing the spaces required.
 - Work with private developers to encourage improved utilization of existing underground parking. The addition of Solaris and Arrabelle has helped reduce overflow parking.
 - Frontage road and trailhead skier parking is unacceptable long term. Additional structured parking in Vail will likely be necessary although significantly reduced in scale if these and other suggestions are implemented. Also an intercept parking at Dowd Junction may be a long term solution.
-

Question #5: Job Creation: What is the role of the Town of Vail in stimulating local employment opportunities?

Question #5: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#)

10/16/2011 10:29 pm

The Town should make it as easy as possible, short of total chaos, to conduct business within its boundaries. If we hear that there are too many hoops to jump through, or that our fees are restraining, or that our processes are too lengthily, we need to critically review the point of contention and consider modifications based on the pros and cons.

We should help and not hinder the business community.

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/17/11 10:21 am

I support the Town's reaching out and pursuing public / private ventures. I believe the private sector is better at creating jobs and employment opportunities. The Town's role should be to explore these opportunities and if it is good for Vail they should help facilitate the journey of going through the process.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

Tourism and real estate development traditionally have been the two foundations of the Vail economy. The primary driver of job creation in these, and any other segment of the economy, is the private sector. The role of the town is to create incentives for private employers to create jobs here. For example, it can assist real estate development by making our processes as simple as possible and by having a staff whose first priority is customer service. I discuss the issue further in my answer to question 8. As it relates to tourism, please see my answer to question 7.

I do believe it is the proper role of the town government to assist in developing a third economic driver which will foster a sustainable year round economy. As I discussed in my answer to question 1, I believe that driver should be the health and wellness industry.

We may have an opportunity to partner with the Vail Valley Medical Center, the Steadman Clinic (SC) and the SPRI (the "Medical Group") to expand their facilities in conjunction with development of a new municipal building. Although there are many questions still to be answered, I believe we need to give this project serious consideration. The Medical Group is our second largest employer and provides \$1 million/year in demonstrated revenue primarily through lodging and sales taxes.

The Medical Group has provided us with a report by BBC Research & Consulting which shows that SC supports 266 jobs in Vail. Sixty-five percent of the SC patients come from outside Eagle county. SC generates 100,000 visitor days per year. SPRI, which is staffed and operated in Vail, provides clinical research, biomechanics, information technology, a fellowship program and educational seminars. It has already attracted Arthrex, an international orthopedic and educational company, to Vail.

This group, and others in the health and wellness industry, operates 365 days a year and provides a much needed diversity to the Vail economy.

[Rayla Kundolf](#)

10/21/2011 2:20 pm

The private sector creates the jobs and employment opportunities. Vail has the opportunity to help stimulate the economy by encouraging the Medical center to expand here in Vail. It will bring huge employment opportunities that will assist in sustaining a year round economy. The Town should also assist in making it easy for businesses to open and thrive here in Vail.

[Ludwig Kurz](#)

10/23/2011 4:59 pm

If the local economy remains healthy, job creation will not need to be very high on the list of Town priorities. The Town can indirectly help by providing excellent civic services, including convenient and frequent transportation.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/24/2011 9:4 am

The Town doesn't have an employment issue, per se, That's a problem at the county level. That's not to say that we can't benefit from more businesses like Steadman Clinic, the Medical Center and the Steadman Phillipon Research Institute creating high-paying careers in our town. Town Council's job is to make sure that the economy continues to grow. That focus, rather than emphasizing employment growth, needs to remain the priority. Remember, employment growth for its own sake creates a raft of problems including:

- parking demand
- a workforce un-invested in the community
- greater pressure on housing stock.

To the extent that there is any specific focus on employment, it needs to be on quality not quantity.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

Town of Vail has no responsibility for job creation. The Town must create and sustain a supportive, business friendly regulatory environment which should result in greater employment as the real estate market returns. We have described our economy as a three legged stool with tourism, real estate and medical/wellness as the principle components. Town of Vail must provide appropriate infrastructure, long term vision and strategic planning to ensure the Town can continue to be a competitive, cutting edge, world class resort with all three legs of the stool.

Question #6: Voter Rights: How and should the Town of Vail pursue granting the right to vote to non-resident property owners through an amendment to the Home rule Charter?

Question #6: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:45 pm

It may be a difficult decision, but residents with two homes need to decide for themselves where they want their vote to count. This is their choice. By all means, regardless of where non-resident property owners vote, just like business owners who reside outside of the Town's boundaries, Council has an obligation to consider their concerns and ideas.

The Home Rule Charter has served us well to this point. I do not feel compelled to amend it at this point.

If elected, I will seek input from a variety of viewpoints on all matters of importance to the community.

[Farrow Hitt](#) 10/17/11 10:20 am

They should encourage non resident property owners to become a full time resident..Vail would benefit from more full time residents. I do not support voting rights for second homeowners.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

I do not believe second home owners should have the right to vote in Vail simply because they own property here. Although there are a few jurisdictions that do permit it, I don't believe that double voting is the way we do things in America.

In 1776 the right to vote was given only to property owners who were white and male. As early as 1792, New Hampshire got rid of the requirement that only property owners could vote and by 1856 North Carolina became the last state to eliminate this constraint.

It is important to note that second homeowners are not being denied the right to vote. They are only being denied the right to vote two, or more times, depending on how many properties they own. For more than 150 years the basis for the right to vote has been residency, not property ownership. Second homeowners are free to vote in Vail, if they declare that this is their primary residence, even if they spend more time in some other jurisdiction. I have been a registered voter in Vail since 1990, although I only moved here full time in 1997. I bought a house and established my residency here in 1990 because I knew from the first time I got here that this is where my heart was and that I wanted to be here permanently, as soon as I could make it work. I also knew that my vote would have more weight in Vail than it would in Chicago, so I made the decision to elect Vail as my primary residence. I also owned real estate in Illinois at the time, and I gave up the right to vote there when I declared Vail to be my home. Frankly, it never occurred to me that I should be entitled to vote in both places.

One person, one vote, regardless of the ability or desire to own property is a system that has worked and I am in favor of keeping it.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:21 pm

I do not support granting the right to vote to non-resident property owners. What I would like to see is for them to become full time residents of Vail.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

Based on the ratio of non-resident to resident property owners, I do not believe that this approach would benefit the Town of Vail at this time. The simplest and fairest way to be able to vote in Vail is to establish permanent residency.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

The success of Vail has been the result of dedicated efforts of so many long term residents and business owners who have worked tirelessly to build this extraordinary resort community. If we are not able to sustain such permanent, invested population within the Town due to rising real estate values and social change, then I would support giving second homeowners voting privileges in order to balance the affordable housing population voters.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/25/2011 5:55 pm

The premise of this question seems a little un-American to me. Kind of like outright tying votes to wealth.

It also begs several other questions including:

How many votes can one person have? If I own a couple rental properties in town, should I get three votes? What about in the town where I own a second home? Now I'm up to four.

Should someone that owns a 450 ft studio get as many votes as someone who owns a 10,000 ft house? Who would get to vote? People that let their property sit empty? People who short term rent? Long-term? What about properties owned by legal entities (trusts, LLC's etc.) should we enfranchise legal fictions?

If you don't have to live here to vote why bother imposing residency requirements on Town Council members? Could we run our town like a condo board, with absentee elected officials?

The fact is that it's very easy to get to vote in Vail. Register. Live here a significant part of the year. Vail really is a great place to live. Join us. We love having neighbors, especially ones that keep the lights on! Heck, maybe we can even talk you into running for office.

Question #7: Community Marketing – How should the Town of Vail participate in the promotion of international destination guest business and what countries should be targeted?

Question #7: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:34 pm

The real question is what can we afford to spend on the promotion of Vail to the international guest without hurting our current efforts that are for the most part U.S. centric.

By making our community most appealing to international guests, we can encourage their RETURN to Vail and, in doing so, create the best form of advertising - word of mouth.

I would encourage a stronger presence of Summer Vail promotion throughout the winter, when most of our international guests currently visit.

Just as Burger King lets McDonalds do all the market research on where to build a store and then builds across the street, I would first consider Vail Resorts' lead as to the countries we should target. Determining the specific countries would be a great project for our first Chief Marketing Officer.

[Farrow Hitt](#) 10/17/11 10:25 am

The Town Council sits as the Vail Local Marketing District (VLMD). Directing our marketing dollars towards international guests has been productive in years past. I would suggest expanded marketing to our South American friends. Brazil has been identified as a potential strong market and perhaps Argentina. The VLMD does a great job of compiling information and stats on guests and travel trends. I would tap into their knowledge and also take lead from Vail Resorts Marketing Dept. Those guys have great insight and a strong marketing team and share their thoughts with the community. Combined efforts have been utilized in the past to achieve more bang for the bucks. That option can always be visited again.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

The Economic Development Council was created in 2007 to bring year round business to Vail. This umbrella organization conducts marketing and research, and coordinates with the Vail Local Marketing District, (which is supported by the lodging tax), the Vail Economic Advisory Council and the Commission on Special Events to bring guests to Vail, particularly in the May to October time period. These are the entities the town has created to promote economic development, and I strongly support them.

The VLMD receives its funding through the lodging tax, and will have a budget for 2012 of \$2.1 million. The combined marketing efforts of the town and Vail Resorts directed at the Mexican and Latin American markets have shown positive economic benefits. Therefore, the portion of the VLMD budget dedicated to international destination visitors was increased 16% from 2011 primarily to focus on Mexico and other Latin American countries.

I support increasing the funding for the CSE so that we can improve and expand the many events which bring us our destination guests. I also support expanded use of the Eagle Airport, both for commercial flights and private charters. Ideally, the airport would develop an international terminal which would permit the direct arrival and clearing of customs for international charter flights.

I would also focus attention on the growing Chinese tourist market. With 1.3 billion people, many of whom are embracing foreign travel, it doesn't take a large share of their market to make a significant impact on a town like Vail. I know that Vail Resorts is pursuing this market, and the town should assist them in whatever way we can. I would like Vail to be "the" ski resort for the Chinese tourist.

Perhaps our best effort at showcasing summer in Vail was the town's sponsorship of the time trial for the US Pro Cycling Challenge. This race was broadcast in over 161 countries; the two hour live broadcast from Vail was watched in 150 million households. The day was perfect, the Vail Valley Foundation and race promoters did an excellent job and the event was the most exciting and well received TOV event in recent memory. I expect the positive economic benefits will continue long after we have calculated the increase in sales and lodging tax revenue from the race. We need to make this event a permanent part of our summer events program.

Our support of the 2015 World Alpine Ski Championship will similarly give Vail extensive international exposure and based on our hosting of past world cup championships, will increase international tourism.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:23 pm

The VLMDAC and Committee of Special Events work year round. The VLMDAC directs marketing dollars Nationally and Internationally to drive business to Vail. One of the vehicles is through events. VLMDAC compiles information through surveys and stats and follow travel trends. These two groups meet four times year and have board members from each group attend each others meetings. Vail Resorts has done an amazing job driving business from South America and Mexico. They continuously are trying to bring Vail to forefront in Europe and Australia. The Pro Challenge is an event that set us on the world stage. The upcoming 2015 World Championships will keep us moving up on the International scale. All of these groups work as a team to keep the ball rolling in keeping us on the world stage.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

Continue to support well defined and proven efforts by VRI, the Vail Valley Foundation and other marketing entities and groups in promoting events and activities which resonate with the international as well as the national audience.

Based on the volatility and shifts in the global economy, it is imperative to keep close tabs on which countries are doing well and are positioned to do well in the future. "Follow the money"!

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

As a town, our ability to market pales to that of Vail Resorts (VRI). During the past several years in particular, the Town has been highly successful in its marketing endeavors, as measured by relative sales tax growth, by coordinating and tagging along with VRI positioning and marketing efforts in domestic and international markets. I would take VRI's lead on which countries to target, since their efforts in Brazil and Mexico have benefited the Town particularly during the past summer. China is also an intriguing possibility.

Further, we must continue to support growth of air service in cooperation with other entities to bring more domestic service to Eagle. The development of an international terminal to service charter flights should be supported if the business plan substantiates the economic return.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/25/2011 5:55 pm

While the idea of the Town participating in the international marketing is appealing, it is financially unrealistic. That's the bad news. The good news is that we benefit from a huge marketing machine in the form of Vail Resorts and the lodging community. They already successfully focus on the international market. Even better; they're doing it without spending tax dollars.

Even if the Local Marketing District mission was diverted from summer/shoulder marketing to increasing international visitation, it would not, in the financial scheme of things, have a significant impact. Moreover, it would leave a hole behind that would require an alternative funding source. The current Vail Resorts led initiatives to Mexico and South America (they are there right now!) are managed by some of the best marketing minds in United States business. The last thing they need is elected or appointed amateur marketers gumming up the works.

Question: #8: Development: Would you roll back mandatory development requirements, i.e. inclusionary affordable housing, in order to incentivize private sector development, if so which ones and why?

Question #8: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:34 pm

As the market place changes, so should the laws set in the attempt to govern such enterprises. I would seek more education before making specific recommendations.

[Farrow Hitt](#) 10/17/11 10:28 am

I am not inclined to do so. It actually fulfills a need for housing that otherwise would go unanswered. Inclusionary housing was approved so the impact of developments would be mitigated by the developer and not thrown onto the shoulder of the Town. Inclusionary housing is not the cause of slowed private development. In order to maintain our work force it is necessary. I am sure developers would like to see it removed but it best serves the Towns interest. It really addresses, in a concrete way, the long-term viability of our town's workforce.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

When I ran for office in 2007, the primary focus was managing development. What a difference a recession makes. With the exception of Ever Vail, development of large private real estate projects is currently on life support and is not likely to return any time soon. Although there are almost as many Design Review Board and PEC applications being filed in 2011 as there were in 2010, the projects are primarily individual and small multi-unit residences. For example, the Oct. 5, 2011 DRB agenda showed 49 separate staff approvals, primarily for smaller projects.

I would like to streamline the development approval process by eliminating duplication and by quantifying standards. The community development department has done a lot of work to simplify approvals when they can do so administratively. However, we have requirements on the books which cause delays and frustration for both the applicant and the staff. For example, if an applicant wants to install a fire pit, we should have standards for things like the diameter of the pipe required, distance from the house, use of non-combustible materials, and whatever else is necessary. Once these requirements have been met, it should not be necessary to be "subject to" design review or fire marshal approval. An exhaustive review and revision of our codes to make them as simple as possible will assist developers of all sizes of projects.

There is no question that we need to be flexible in addressing the concerns of developers of major real estate projects. We are no longer in an economy where exactions can be demanded without regard to the burden it will create for the developer. Each case must be looked at individually, however, to see what makes sense for the town and the developer. We must also be careful that we do not impose a competitive disadvantage on those developers who complied with the mandatory development requirements in place when they were going through the process.

The town still has significant inventory of high end properties that were completed during the last several years. I do not expect any new projects to be started until that inventory is sold. When that does happen, we should encourage development and examine what the economic realities will require from the town.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:24 pm

Not at this time. It provides housing for the workforce and serves the Town.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

Considering the present state, (flux) within the State, national and local economy, I believe it would be wise to not change the approach the town has taken over the past few years. Nationally we have had a difficult time, yet Vail seems to have weathered the situation rather well, specifically for the past twelve months. I continue to think that it is advantageous to have as many employees live within the town as is practical.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

Given the current and projected mid-term forecasts for the mountain resort real estate industry, most recognize that a fundamental market shift has occurred which reduces the viability of projects that were planned during the past 3-4 years but now face the new reality as they look to begin construction in this challenging economy.

There are numerous redevelopment projects such as The Roost, Ever Vail, Timber Ridge and Evergreen, which would benefit the Vail Community if the projects were to move forward. To support initiation of these projects within the next three years, I would support reconsideration of inclusionary employee housing zoning, which would indirectly benefit Timber Ridge. I would also consider relooking at parking requirements in multi-use projects that increase parking utilization through installation of modern parking management technology, thereby, potentially reducing the number of required parking spaces. Reducing demands for public benefit and Art in Public Places (AIPP) should be considered for modification in order to encourage initiation of development projects.

I would not compromise on design elements, including design quality, setbacks, density or landscaping.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/25/2011 5:55 pm

" Hey hey don't pull on that you never know what it's attached to "
Buckaroo Banzai

The question begs a more fundamental question: is the historic housing shortage the status quo or an aberration? Moreover, it also begs the question: are we comfortable with the vast majority of our workforce commuting from 30 miles away with the attendant parking challenges and the inevitable loss of community that follows it? I tend to think (as a matter of analysis, not ideology) that having more our " community" living in our town solves more problems that it creates. That said, I'm not at all averse to considering alternatives to both our inclusionary zoning and employee generation approaches. If we can keep the broader objectives in mind, and invest developers in our objectives, I'm confident we can come up with some alternative approaches that will work for the town and developers. We need more than one tool, lest the whole world look like a nail.

Question #9: Visioning: Would you pursue:

- A. A publically financed convention or conference center?**
 - B. Burying or relocating Interstate 70?**
 - C. Expanding financial subsidies to encourage more commercial airline flights into the Eagle County Airport?**
 - D. Encouraging the hosting of the Winter Olympics in Vail and Beaver Creek?**
 - E. What other visioning objectives would you recommend?**
-

Question #9: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#)

10/16/2011 10:19 pm

A) PUBLICLY financed convention/conference center.

I have seen us go down this road a couple of times, all leading to the same dead end. While I am open to the discussion of just about any idea, I do not currently believe this to be at the top of our priority list.

I would not pursue this idea.

B) Burying or relocating I-70

Living as close to I-70 as I do (it runs 200 yards in front of my home), this is always on my mind. While some claim "you knew it was there when you moved in", I believe we can do something that will help just about everyone that lives in and visits Vail. There are few places one can go to escape the noise. Many great projects start out as crazy ideas.

I would pursue this idea.

C) Expanding flight subsidies

This is one of those crazy ideas that has paid dividends to the communities that have participated. I need more education on the topic as it is currently being implemented before I can say that I would expand the program.

I would pursue this idea.

D) Encouraging the Olympics in Vail or Beaver Creek

This will be a spirited debate, especially in hind sight of the debacle that took place in Colorado in the early 70's. While I am sure there is a compelling list of reasons NOT to host the Winter Olympics, I would have to weight those concerns against the potential dividends.

I would pursue this idea.

E) Visionary Project

The one thing that I feel Vail is missing, is a decent venue that is capable of holding 3,000 to 3,500 people for concerts (or meetings). By no means am I saying that we need a convention center with a climbing wall that has good acoustics for theater and can be used for High School graduations.

The time has come for the serious consideration of making Ford Amphitheater a year round facility.

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/17/11 10:29 am

I would consider expanding financial subsidies for commercial flights into Eagle County. Vail directly benefits by air flights into Eagle.

Hosting the winter Olympics in VAIL and Beaver Creek would be a big deal. I would need to know more about the costs and logistics before making that call but off the cuff it sounds like a worthy endeavor.

I have seen the numbers for burying Vail and they are massive. Show me a plan that would work, be supported by the community, not break the bank and can be implemented without shutting down the Town and we can discuss it. Never say never.

A monorail or skyway from Ever Vail to Golden peak with stops in Lionshead and Vail Village could be fun to consider for the future. Getting busses and cars off the roads would be a good thing. Ease of movement across our portals in an environmentally friendly mass transit kind of way would complement Vail's unique character.

I firmly believe the Simba Run underpass should become a reality to ease Vail's roundabout traffic and provide a needed pedestrian walkway to Cascade and Ever Vail from the North side of I-70. It should be constructed in conjunction with the Ever Vail project.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

The current economic environment demands conservative use of taxpayer funds. All expenditures must be measured against this standard and a positive return on investment should be demonstrated before I would support spending that money.

1. I would not support a large publically financed convention center. This question has been posed to the voters and it has been rejected. This is why the Nov. 8 ballot will propose uses for the conference center funds which will promote putting heads in beds by other means. I am in favor of using public funds for smaller conference facilities, such as the third floor of the new Lionshead Welcome Center and the proposed expansion of the golf club house.
2. Although visionary, this project is massively expensive and I don't believe it could ever be funded with public money. In the current economic environment, I don't believe it could be privately funded.
3. Yes, as described in my answer to question 7, I am in favor of this proposal as it would bring more tourists to Vail. The airport should be an important partner in our effort to attract destination guests. The question becomes, however, how much of a subsidy will be requested and what will be our return on any investment made.
4. This is another enormously expensive proposition that the town of Vail could not pursue on its own. If the City of Denver, the Vail Valley Foundation, or another private entity decides to pursue an Olympic bid, we should see if Vail's participation would benefit the community. However, I would not spend town resources on this project independently.
5. As explained in the answer to other questions, my vision for the future of Vail includes making it a sustainable year round economy based on tourism, real estate and health and wellness.

[Rayla Kundolf](#)

10/21/2011 2:26 pm

A - A publically financed convention or conference center - No

B - Burying or relocating Interstate 70 - I think this would be a Marvel. The price of the project would be astronomical and not fiscally prudent for the Town of Vail to take on. There would need to be some kind of partnership with the State,

County and Private Sector to make this happen. I won't be closed minded about the idea. I am for a train, monorail etc... to run up down the Valley floor from Gypsum to Vail.

C. Expanding Financial subsidies to encourage more commercial airline flights into the Eagle County Airport? I would consider it, but the questions would be what would be our return of investment?

D. Encouraging the Hosting of Olympics in Vail and Beaver Creek? - I would entertain the offer, however, I need to see the proposal, budget, logistic of this. I think it would be a wonderful opportunity if works in Vail's favor.

E. What other visioning objectives would you recommend - There is a need for theatre in this town. It would be used year round for all kinds of events; Symposium could use it for guest speakers, Bravo, Vail Jazz, Vail Film Festival, International Dance could expand their programs year round, Medical Seminars, Groups, Retreats, Concerts, Graduations, Vail Theatre Company the list goes on and on. It is the missing layer to our community. A 200 to 300 seating would be just right. If you sold out, do a second performance on demand. Breckenridge, Aspen, Telluride, Granby all have a major venue like this.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

A. Let's give that one some time! We'll need to find out what the future holds for the meeting and convention business.

B. Great idea, would be fiscally daunting.

C. More frequent flight and better connections will benefit the whole region, including Vail. We should participate within reason.

D. Yes, but let's just go for the alpine events!

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

Conference Center – Would not pursue, although I would consider a smaller community advanced learning center, to provide a state of the art facility for continuing education for physicians and other professionals. It would provide a suitable venue for education events sponsored by organizations such as VVF and Vail Institute, bringing world class forums and intellectual resources to the Valley.

Burying I-70 – Not for now since the collapse of real estate values makes it unfeasible.

Eagle County Airport –As indicated in other answers, I do encourage support for both domestic and international flights and charters as long as it provides a good return for any town invested funds.

Olympics –I am a big fan of the Olympic movement. I saw the positive impacts at Park City and Whistler. It should be a long term goal. Managed carefully, it would provide enormous long term reputational benefits with only reasonable cost to the town.

Other – Community Advanced Learning Center – as previously described. Advanced Energy Institute – making Vail a world recognized center for energy efficiency idea exchange – first session is now scheduled for February, 2012.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/25/2011 5:55 pm

A. I continue to think the most effective way to increase use of our existing assets (hotel rooms, great retail and restaurants) to round out our economy is to devise a product that will result in people "having to" visit during our otherwise slow times. All the marketing in the world will not turn Vail into an October destination for independent travelers. Consequently, I'm open to any idea that can accomplish that objective in a fiscally responsible way, including a

conference center, a medical tourism destination, some combination of both or any other good idea.

B. I am, and have always been, in. Now we just have to find the money.

C. Until recently, the private sector quietly handled this exclusively. I prefer that model, but I'm not close minded to ROI-based arguments.

D. I'm in!

E. If you're still reading at this point, good for you. I've said about enough, don't you think?

Question #10: Town of Vail Budget: How would you increase revenues and decrease spending?

Question #10: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:24 pm

I am not currently educated on the specific details of the proposed budget to make such recommendations.

[Farrow Hitt](#) 10/17/11 10:37 am

One approach would be by improving efficiencies and conducting a line item review of each department's budgets to identify saving opportunities.. This should be done especially in light of a still tough economy.

I would stay focused on proven effective marketing efforts to increase our guest base. Spend our budgeted marketing monies wisely. Continue to cross sell our seasons for increased summer business. Increased visitation equals additional revenues.

[Margaret Rogers](#) 10/18/2011 11:14 am

I have discussed how I would increase revenues in my answers to many of the earlier questions. Generally, we need to continue to support and expand tourism, make real estate development easier and promote the health and wellness industry. Our progress in these areas has been substantial. Our sales tax collections for the month of August are up 11.3% over 2010. Overall, August collections are the second highest in history, following a record July. For the summer season to date (May – August) sales tax collections are up 13% over last year.

I will decrease spending by looking for projects that will reduce our expenses, like the Energy Conservation Project with Johnson Controls (which will result in decreased spending on energy of \$120,000 in 2012). We cut \$2.4 million from the budget in 2009, and reduced 16 staff positions over three years. I will continue to be alert to areas where we can reduce spending without impacting the services the public has come to expect from us.

I am in favor of hiring a consultant to analyze whether we are using our resources in the most effective manner.

[Rayla Kundolf](#) 10/21/2011 2:26 pm

I am not prepared to answer this question at this time. I have not been working with the Town budget.

[Ludwig Kurz](#) 10/23/2011 4:59 pm

The Town has done a very good job of managing the budget. As more businesses come on line, (shops, restaurants, galleries), sales tax, the most significant contributor to the budget should show some steady growth. If the Town, and all it's merchants and businesses provide the kinds and levels of services our guests, locals and visitors desire, the consumer will take advantage of our offerings and sales tax will continue to grow.

[Andy Daly](#) 10/25/2011 5:40 pm

As mentioned in previous questions, I would improve the business regulatory environment, particularly as it relates to redevelopment projects; continue to improve the focus and coordination of the Vail Local Marketing District Advisory Commission (VLMDAC) and the Committee on Special Events (CSE) to those events that will drive destination business and support continued improvements for air access through the Vail Eagle Regional Airport.

Regarding decrease in spending, I would commission an efficiency study in order to identify additional areas where outsourcing and technology can be used to improve productivity or reduce cost. Also, I am anxious to improve the budgeting system so we are able to better understand the true operating cost of the Town, as differentiated from capital costs, so as to better manage these most important cost centers.

[Greg Moffet](#) 10/25/2011 5:55 pm

Given that the lion's share of the Town's revenue comes in the form of sales tax, the obvious answer is to implement policies that encourage people to spend money in our town. Having more year-round residents will help with that. So will having more occupied office space. More importantly, we need to find a way to build our business during shoulder seasons and mid weeks. I'm open to any idea that furthers that objective whether it's more participatory events (how about the Spa Olympics?) or partnering to develop hard assets and/or programs that attract " attendees" year-round. Minor point: the Town needs to come up with a mechanism to get paid for the out-of-jurisdiction services that it currently provides for free, like emergency service protection to unincorporated Eagle County.

Given the recent belt-tightening, further budget increases will impact service levels. If it gets to that, we have to make sure we involve the community in the process of what to cut next. In the current economic environment, it's important to maintain our competitive position. To the extent that we cut budget in a way that impacts the quality of our product or our marketing we do ourselves a current and future disservice.

Question #11: Economic Development: Do you favor a joint development of office buildings on the municipal building site in conjunction with the Vail Valley Medical Center without first receiving voter approval to finance the Town's portion of the proposed project, why or why not?

Question #11: Candidate Responses:

[Stephen Connolly](#) 10/16/2011 10:24 pm

The idea to redevelop the municipal building as been around for a long time.

I am not currently educated enough on the topic to favor or oppose the project as it is currently proposed.

I am also unaware of the specific outreach that has been done to seek community input.

Based on these factors, I would have to call a "time out" and consider all facets of the project and the process. Regardless, based on the work already done and the involvement of a private entity willing to finance a portion of the project, this project should be on the priority list for the new council, at least until the current direction can be determined as the correct one based on economics and input from the community.

The project does have one piece missing in my mind. Why don't we have one centrally located, easily accessible, Guest Information Center in this plan?

[Farrow Hitt](#)

10/17/11 1:49 pm

I favor the joint development idea but am not up to speed on the nuances of the deal. If voter approval is necessary for finance options then we would obviously follow procedure requirements. It is my understanding that the TOV would not necessarily need a new revenue stream to actually make this happen. We would not be vying for a tax increase or new tax burden to make it happen so I am not sure why the voter approval question is even being asked. Public input has always been sought after to gauge support from the citizens on projects such as this one being considered. The TOV have not yet made a proposal and are continuing rightful due diligence while studying this joint venture. More discovery is needed prior to calling this a go but I do like the concept.

[Margaret Rogers](#)

10/18/2011 11:14 am

This is an exciting project which fits well with my focus on development of the health and wellness industry. However, many issues remain and we are still in the beginning stages of learning whether or not this project can work.

If we do proceed, voter approval will not be required under TABOR because our current thought is to use certificates of participation, a method commonly used to finance municipal buildings. It is currently anticipated that the town's portion of the project will be between \$10-12 million. Over a twenty year period at an interest rate of approximately 4%, our debt service expense will be less than \$1million/year. Although this is real money, it is half of what our current debt service is costing the town. The current debt will be paid off at the end of 2012.

It will be important to have community support for the project before we commit to it. This was done for both the West Vail Fire Station and the Lionshead Welcome Center, neither of which was put to a vote. I believe community support is best determined through vetting at public meetings by all parties involved. If the majority of the public does not support the project, I won't support it, and I suspect neither will anyone else on council. At that point the proposed method of financing will be irrelevant.

[Rayla Kundolf](#)

10/21/2011 2:27 pm

I am in favor of this joint development this is the RIGHT direction for our community. I don't believe it needs voter approval, but it does need to have the support of the community. As I keep saying this project will bring us a facility that will help create jobs and get us on our way to a year round economy.

[Ludwig Kurz](#)

10/23/2011 4:59 pm

I believe the Vail Valley Medical Center and the organizations connected to it are a great asset to the community, and we should support their efforts in running a first class operation. As the possibility of a joint development is in its very early stages, it seems somewhat premature to entertain thoughts of how a deal could be structured. I believe that the community should get involved at a time when more concrete details become available.

[Andy Daly](#)

10/25/2011 5:40 pm

I support this joint venture project since it will create expansion space for VVMC on its existing site ensuring their continued presence in Vail, while providing critical expansion space to the Steadman Group, which will result in numerous new, high paying employment opportunities as well as more destination medical business. The combined effort of this joint venture further substantiates the third leg, health and wellness, of our economic stool.

The suggestion has been put forth that the Town should fund its costs associated with this project, likely \$8-10 million, using a bonding hybrid methodology, certificates of participation bonds, that would avoid a public election to approve this replacement debt. While it would not result in new taxes, since it would substitute for the expiring parking garage debt, the approach makes me uncomfortable and I will likely insist on a vote.

[Greg Moffet](#)

10/25/2011 5:55 pm

Maybe. It's too soon in the process to make a decision. I support the decision to engage in the next phase of planning. What I do know is that retirement of the towns bond debt creates more than enough capacity to cover the cost as proposed to date. We also know that the Steadman Clinic accounts for over 6% of the Town's revenue. That's not only material, but also very hard to replace.
