

Candidate: As a candidate for the Vail Town Council we would like to have a public conversation with you via the internet. If you wish to respond, please return your reply to my email address. We will pose questions. It is up to you whether you reply or not.

You may circulate the content of our communications through your own media platform(s). If you desire to know about the Vail Homeowners Association please access the VHA web site: www.vailhomeowners.com

Vail Town Council Candidate 2017



Jenn Bruno

Age: 47

Career: Retail

Business: Luca Bruno enterprises.

Residence: Chamonix Lane Neighborhood – West Vail

Years in Vail: 24

Contact info: vha@vail.net

Candidate Dialogue:

Please tell us:

From: Jenn Bruno

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 3:56 PM

To: JFLamont

Subject: Re: VHA/JFL/TCC: Vail Town Council Candidates - Please consider the complete series of VHA's 10 questions, attached.

Here you go - all answered.

The qualifications and life experiences you would bring to the Vail Town Council?

The advantages your qualifications, character, and experiences would bring to the Vail Town Council?

I am a homeowner, business owner and am raising a family in Vail. This give me a unique perspective from other candidates who are running. I have the advantage of interacting on a regular basis with families, visitors and second homeowners and fellow business owners. Serving on the council the last four years, I was able to utilize those interactions and relationships to best serve the community. I have lived in Vail for 24 years. Over the course of time I have volunteered on numerous boards including Bravo! Vail, the Vail Valley Foundation, 2015 World Alpine Ski Championships Organizing Committee, and the Vail Valley Soccer Club. I chaired the Town Of Vail's Commission on Special Events before I was elected to the Town Council. I have enjoyed my four years on the Town Council and would like to continue to serve our community. For the last two years, I have served as Mayor Pro Tem. We have accomplished a lot in the last few years. The Chamonix Workforce Housing Community, the I-70 underpass, Restore the Gore, Wildfire mitigation, hiring new Town Manager Greg Clifton and successfully maintaining a balanced and fiscally responsible budget. I believe we can continue the momentum and successes of the last few years.

What are your top five priorities for the next 5, 25 and 50 years to achieve on behalf of:

- a. The community-at-large (includes non-resident homeowners and local residents
- , b. The local voters (residents).

In order for Vail to be a successful resort community, we need to look for priorities that benefit all, not just residents but also our second homeowners and our visitors. Here are five priorities. They are not specifically in order of importance. I believe they are all important focuses for our community.

We need to continue the momentum of the current council and focus our efforts on workforce housing. This will be a priority in 5, 25 and 50 years. It has always been an issue. We need to continue to see that as long as we expect first class services, Vail will need employees. With space at a minimum we will need to look to our neighboring communities and find ways to collaborate. We need to continue to promote and fund the InDeed program. While we might not be able to build our way out of this problem, we can certainly take advantage of what we currently have in Vail.

We need to refocus our energies on the environmental challenges we currently face and look ahead to what might be in front of us. Forward thinking could avoid calamity. We need to continue the work on Restore the Gore. With over 220 actions in the plan we need to prioritize and capitalize on the community's passion for our natural surroundings.

We need to work with Eagle County, Avon and the Eagle to prioritize the ECO bus system. An affordable, convenient and welcoming bus system will solve multiple issues. More people on busses will take the strain off our parking problems and leaves less of a carbon footprint. Businesses will benefit from employees having easy, convenient buses that get them to work. Residents will have better options than driving personal cars. A more connected county will benefit all Vail residents.

Continue our fiscal responsibility. While we have a surplus, it is important to follow the lessons of past councils and maintain a conservative approach to spending. Economies fluctuate and we need to be prepared for any downturn. Sales tax revenues have been flat for the last few months. We need to continue to maintain our excellent services as a town, but also take advantage of opportunities to better value engineer projects and services.

Vail was founded as a resort, but for those of us who live here, we know it is an amazing community of people. We need to continue to engage our community members and listen to their ideas and dreams for Vail. We have a rich history of local pioneers, who gave up much and put their heart and soul into Vail. We need to make sure we follow their lead and make wise decisions for the present and future of Vail. While the summer community picnics bring us together, we need to provide more opportunities for our residents, second homeowners and visitors to provide valuable input for our future. I think providing more opportunities for community engagement and collaboration should always be a priority.

3a. How would you suggest the TOV approach the financing of an estimated nearly \$1/2 billion in deferred maintenance to replace the Vail Village/Lionshead parking structures and Town Hall building; also, should the parking capacity in the two main parking structures be expanded?

The TOV continually maintains all facilities. The parking structures have annual budgets to cover maintenance. With current maintenance plans in place, we continue to increase the lifespan of the structures for another 20-40 years. Currently, expanding the Vail Village / Lionshead structures does not make good financial sense. We are collaborating with Vail Resorts and the Eagle County School District to build the Red Sandstone Parking. Parking spaces for this structure will be considerably less per space than they would be if we expanded the current structures. We should focus less on building more parking and find ways to utilize the current inventory and improving our bus systems. As for a new town hall, the current council has not made this a priority for tax payer spending. While we would all love a fancy new building, we understand the importance of fiscal responsibility and do not see this as a priority. We are a debt free municipality and approach all spending with caution.

Since I do not believe we need to finance \$1/2 billion dollars currently, I will hold off on options to finance.

3b. How should your approach be financed? Totally through local taxes: property, sales, and others, i.e., user fees? What other types of financing options could be used? When does the local tax burden become so heavy as to be counter to the interest of both resident and non – resident tax payers.

As context, you may want to review the following links for VHA's analysis of the TOV's financial situation and the basis for the estimated cost of deferred maintenance for the aforementioned infrastructure.

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/VHA%20Vail's%20Financial%20Future%20081917%20Final.pdf>

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/Parking%20structure%20Research%20JFL%20072617abbreviated%20080217.pdf>

4. What do you foresee as potential pathways to incentivize economic growth for the TOV and the Vail community at large?

We need to find better ways of collaboration with our many partners. Our Local Marketing District is a great example of collaboration and success. While we have seen winter sales tax revenues decrease slightly, summer visitation has increased thanks to their efforts. The TOV, Vail Resorts and local marketing experts work together to chart a course for our economic health. Special events continue to play a major role in our economic growth. While we need to continue to these efforts, we must also look to new ways to approach and win over the next generation of Vail visitors.

5. When do you foresee the circumstances existing under which every Town of Vail election is conducted by all mail-in balloting?

We continue to lose moments of community. As we become more and more dependent on our computers and smart phones we become less engaged in human to human contact. While I think it is important to have a mail in ballot and early voting, I think it is equally important for our community to celebrate election day by voting in person. I for one would miss seeing our election judges and my neighbors who continue to show up on the first Tuesday of November. Some traditions are too important to lose to our phones.

As context, you may want to review the following VHA analysis of voter participation rates for at-the-polls vs. all mail-in balloting.

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs179/1101935191883/archive/1118136766926.html>

6. What are Vail's most significant quality-of- life issues?

During certain times of the year, we struggle with crowds. This is often referred to as a quantity vs. quality debate. We need to do a better job of mitigating the negative effects to maintain quality of life for our residents and visitors. Parking can be addressed by planning ahead and offering better options. We need to look at our event calendar and potentially move some events to prevent overcrowding. We need to constantly re evaluate ourselves to make sure we are providing quality services and experiences for everyone.

I70 has become a bigger issue not only for the noise it provides but for the congestion and traffic we are beginning to see more often. Working with CDOT and the Federal Highway Administration we can collaborate to find solutions to our problems. Lowering the speed limit within the town boundaries will have an immediate effect on noise. Getting in front of our state legislature to demand more attention to our issues might result in new projects that benefit the I70 Corridor.

We also need to pay more attention to the needs of our individual neighborhoods. Homes near trail heads and bike path entrances often struggle with parking and traffic issues. Examining these case by case with neighbors could help us find solutions not only for them but also for the future.

We are a strong and vibrant community. We are lucky of have passionate engaged neighbors who care. We need to do a better job of bringing our community together to discuss issues before they become problems.

7. Do you believe that an environmental analysis, neighborhood master plan and site development plan should be provided for public review before a zoning, rezoning, or condemnation occurs?

No

As context, you may want to review the following links to VHA's analysis of the TOV's conduct with respect to these matters.

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/VHA%20VR%20EV%20Housing%20Final%20082917.pdf>

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/VHA%20Report%20May%202017%20Final%20050917.pdf>

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/Looking%20at%20the%20bigger%20picture%20-%20Vails%20New%20Renaissance%20final%20032317%20.pdf>

8. Including existing residents, what is your estimate for the number of minimum wage workers that should be housed in the Town of Vail? I'm not really sure anyone pays minimum wage in Vail. Considering the employee crisis we currently face, I can't imagine a business retaining employees at minimum wage. That said, I believe the TOV has always had a target of 30% of the workforce living in Vail. I think if we could accomplish this goal, we would only make our community more vibrant.

a. What priority should housing for minimum wage workers be given in the next 2 years? Again, I do not believe anyone pays minimum wage. Workforce housing was the number one priority in our last community survey. As a council member, I listen to what our community says. The community survey provides us with important input from our neighbors. Housing is a priority not only in Vail but countywide. If employees are living in Vail, they will enhance our local economy and not put a strain on our parking. Workforce housing should remain a priority for our community.

9. What roles should the town and county bus systems play in providing access for the down-valley work force employed in Vail?

The town should continue to look at options to expand bus service. This summer we increased some of the routes and saw a 35% increase in ridership. We need to examine all of our routes and make sure they continue to be convenient and safe. If we can increase bus service and see more people utilize the buses and fewer people drive cars to the village, we will have succeeded.

As for county service, we need to create a forum for all of our surrounding communities to collaborate on ECO bus service. This is a countywide issue and it must be faced through collaboration with our neighboring municipalities and the county. Having more affordable, safer and convenient bus service is important for Vail and Eagle County.

1. Should tax/fee based funding be reduced or expanded to fund the bus system?
2. What is an affordable ticket price for the rider?
3. What needs to be done to improve security and safety?
4. Is it too soon to talk about commuter train service between Gypsum and Vail?

As context, you may want to review the following link to VHA's analysis of the TOV's involvement with respect to these matters.

<http://www.vailhomeowners.com/VHA%20Transportation%20Master%20Plan%20Report%20Final%20021817docx.pdf>

10.

local taxes and fees: "You can't make things more affordable by making them more expensive"?

Because we haven't raised any taxes or fees, my initial reaction would be to find out what this local is worried about and how I could help by clarifying the issue. For many of us, it is a financial struggle to live in Vail. We make sacrifices all of the time because we love where we live. Vail has always struggled with the reputation of being too expensive. Because of this, I believe our Town Council does it's best to avoid additional fees and taxes. As an example, when we implemented mandatory recycling, the Town Council created a rebate plan to pay back residents for the expense of their mandatory recycling containers they needed to purchase. We understood this was a financial burden and did not place it on our residents.

Jenn Bruno

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