

**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](http://www.vailhomeowners.com)

### **Vail Town Council Candidate 2017**



#### **Travis Coggin**

Age: 37

Career: Building Subcontractor

Business: Hardwood flooring

Residence: Sandstone Drive neighborhood

Years in Vail: 18

Contact Info: [vha@vail.net](mailto:vha@vail.net)

#### **Candidate Dialogue:101317**

#### **Vail Homeowners Association Questions**

##### **Please tell us:**

##### **Question 6:**

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

Parking, housing, transportation, and the environment are Vail's most significant quality of life issues. We need to continue to seek ways to improve our parking, housing and transportation challenges while ensuring the environment, ambiance and natural beauty of our community is preserved.

##### **Question 5:**

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

I am in favor of making voting easier for our community members, not harder. We need to increase engagement with the community and pursue options that will increase voter turnout. I am not familiar with all of the details or regulations related to implementing mail in ballots or what election laws need to be considered in order to conduct an election by mail in ballot. So, I will need more information, but am in favor of implementing the best system(s) to increase voter turnout.

##### **Question 4:**

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

Encouraging small business growth with the goal of diversifying our economy beyond tourism and real estate. There is a push in many mountain towns to encourage entrepreneurship and there are small town incubators and venture capital dollars flowing into many ski towns. It would be time well spent to understand where there are opportunities in our community to support new businesses. I believe this should be done in conjunction with the other municipalities throughout the valley.

Question 3:

How would you suggest the TOV approach the financing of an estimated nearly \$½ 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?

This is new information to me. In order to make an educated decision, I need more information on the facilities you're referring to. Based on my background in real estate, if the assumptions that you've mentioned to me are accurate, the town would need to lay out a schedule prioritizing each of the projects and then begin moving ahead addressing the most critical needs first. Perhaps some facilities can be renovated in lieu of complete re-development. Without knowing the full scope or schedule of expenditures I don't think it's prudent to propose how the projects would be paid for.

As to expanding the parking structures, I would rather have more parking condensed in fewer locations, than parking spread throughout the community. The current parking structures serve Vail Village and Lionshead Village well. If there is an opportunity to expand those structures that is fiscally responsible, aesthetically pleasing, and meets demand I would support adding parking to the existing structures. If there are additional community needs - similar to the skateboard park - that can be met through an expansion or re-design of a parking structure we should consider that as well.

Question 2:

What are your top five priorities, for the next 5 years, 25 years, 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)?

My top five priorities for the next 5 years are the same for locals and the community at large are the same because the two groups are intertwined. Finding successes in the priorities below will benefit both the community at large and local residents.

- a. Improve parking and transportation
- b. Encourage small business growth
- c. Fiscally responsible TOV
- d. Support and protect the natural environment
- e. Seek opportunities for attainable housing

I'm hesitant to create priorities beyond 5 years because so much can change. But, I think the core of the items I listed above are both short term and long term goals. We should always seek to encourage small business growth, be fiscally responsible and to protect the environment. This will keep us competitive with our peer resorts, provide a wonderful environment to live and visit, and allow us to take advantage of opportunities to solve future challenges as they arise. Hopefully, over the next 5 years we will have made strides to improve parking, transportation, and housing and that will carry forward as the foundation for the years beyond.

Question 1:

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

Below is a bit more detail about the question, but I wanted to briefly give some background on me:

- Moved to Vail in 1988 (at age 7)
- Attended Red Sandstone Elementary, Minturn Middle and graduated from the Vail Mountain School
- Played hockey, soccer and skied with Devo and Ski Club Vail
- Attended CU Boulder
- Moved back to Vail in 2005
- Ski Patroller on Vail Mountain 2005 - 2007, was a renter in East Vail
- Moved to Aspen and worked for the City of Aspen as a Zoning Officer and on a public private partnership to masterplan 16 acres at the base of aspen mountain
- Went to CU to get my MBA 2009 - 2011
- Lived in Chicago and worked in Real estate private equity
- Moved back to Vail in October 2012
- Employment
  - Triumph Development for 3 years
  - Managed Ascent Sotheby's International Realty for 1 year
  - Work for Arrigoni Woods
  - Part time ski patroller on Vail Mountain
- Rented for 2 years and then bought my condo in October 2014
- President of the Vail Valley Young Professionals Association, 2015 - Present
- Local Volunteer work
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - 2015 World Alpine Ski Championships
  - Eagle River Watershed Watershed Clean Up

Three things I will bring to Town Council that will be critical to success are:

1. A background in real estate construction, planning and development
2. My experiences growing up in Vail and having friendships and working relationships with locals, guests and second homeowners
3. My active engagement with the young professional community throughout the valley

I have worked in real estate as a contractor, city zoning officer, and private developer. I have an intimate knowledge of the Town of Vail Land Use Code, the various zone districts and the process new developments must go through in order to be approved. I have been involved with public private partnerships and believe that constant, open dialogue between town staff, town council, applicants, neighbors and the community at large is critical. I have an MBA in finance and real estate and am thoroughly familiar with understanding project feasibility.

Our community is a special balance of locals, second homeowners and tourists and we must diligently seek to make sure we continue to make Vail a wonderful place for each of these stakeholders. Growing up in Vail was wonderful. I was able to make lifelong friendships with members of each of these groups and I believe these relationships provide me a unique perspective that will be invaluable during my time on Town Council.

As president of the Vail Valley Young Professionals Association for the past ~3 years I have worked to lead our group to improve the young professional network from East Vail to Gypsum. I have forged partnerships to provide our members access to many wonderful events that are taking place throughout our community. I have created exciting events that connect our young professionals to the Vail community. This time has also expanded my understanding of the challenges that many young entrepreneurs in our community struggle to overcome when starting new businesses. our community should always be seeking out new ways to encourage small business growth with

the hope of creating better paying jobs. The connections I have made with this demographic will be critical in seeking ways to encourage sustainable economic growth in the future.

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