

Mary Cowdin

From: mhenning@berthoud.org
Sent: Tuesday, August 05, 2014 11:26 AM
To: 'Paul Alaback'
Subject: FW: RE: planning commission decision

Paul,

Well said and I agree wholeheartedly. I will be voting no on this. I will also like to make a motion at tonight's meeting that the town re-publicize the opening in a more effective manner to allow more candidates to show interest. The applicants are from Mid April. That tells me that no one since the election time frame knew about the openings.

Also, not sure what David is talking about. We have email to use for these kinds of things.

Good thoughts Paul,

Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: "David Gregg" <dgregg@berthoud.org>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2014 2:00pm
To: palaback@berthoud.org, "Mike Hart" <mhart@berthoud.org>, "Mike Henning" <mhenning@berthoud.org>, "Jan Dowker" <jdowker@berthoud.org>, "Jennifer Baker" <jpbaker3@gmail.com>, "Chris Buckridge" <cbuckridge@berthoud.org>, "Suzie White" <swhite@berthoud.org>
Subject: RE: planning commission decision

Paul (and others)

Couple quick thoughts. My apologies if I seem terse but I am short of time and wanted to weigh in on this before the weekend.

First, this is the sort of discussion that should take place in the light of a public meeting, not working to influence ahead of the public meeting. "Copy all" e-mails to fellow trustees are a wee dangerous if they contain anything other than informational content. I'm not always as careful as I should be either so I say this for all copied, not just regarding this particular mail.

Second, we don't have all the information yet so our minds shouldn't be made up. An interview committee of the PZ Chair, a respected Trustee and the Town Administrator have made this recommendation based on their interviews of the candidates. I trust that they will share their thoughts and reasoning behind the recommendation. We don't have to take their recommendation, but our minds certainly shouldn't be made up before hearing them out.

Perhaps Mr. Hardy is the better candidate, perhaps it is Mr. Shepard. Let's go through proper discovery and deliberation on the matter, in the light of a public meeting and with all of the information before us.

Thanks
David

David Gregg
Berthoud Mayor
(970) 227-7859
811 Berthoud Peak Drive
Berthoud CO 80513

Mary Cowdin

From: palaback@berthoud.org
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 3:37 PM
To: David Gregg
Subject: RE: planning commission decision

Thanks for your feedback. I plan on attending Berthoud Commons meeting tonight, in case you want to discuss further.

The key issue does not really have anything to do with the relative strengths of each candidate. My point is there is a fundamental issue of process, and what kind of message we want to send to the community.

Paul

Paul Alaback
Trustee
Town of Berthoud

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Berthoud Mayor
(970) 227-7859
811 Berthoud Peak Drive
Berthoud CO 80513
dgregg@Berthoud.org

-----Original Message-----

From: palaback@berthoud.org [mailto:palaback@berthoud.org]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2014 1:12 PM
To: Mike Hart; 'Mike Henning'; 'David Gregg'; Jan Dowker; 'Jennifer Baker'; 'Chris Buckridge'; 'Suzie White'
Subject: planning commission decision

I am writing this note to give you all a heads up on a critical issue we will be voting on next week. I consider the proposal to appoint former trustee Dick Shepard for the vacant seat on the planning commission to be setting a terrible precedent, and creating a potential disaster for the town.

Why am I so strongly against this recommendation from the planning commission? The residents of Berthoud sent the trustees and town administration a clear message in the last election by removing all of the incumbents. While I respect Mr. Shepard's willingness to serve the town in the past, Berthoud residents have told us by their vote that they are ready for someone new. Furthermore there was another excellent candidate for this commissioner seat, Tim Hardy, a lifelong resident and an active volunteer in the Berthoud community. I have worked with Tim on several volunteer committees, and have been impressed with his knowledge, skills, and his dedication as a volunteer. Mr Hardy has served on the planning commission in the past, and was on it when the innovative and successful Mary's Farm development was approved. His application shows that he advocates a balanced view on development issues recognizing current community values of Berthoud as well as the need to grow and thrive in a thoughtful way. He is clearly qualified to be a commissioner.

If the recommendation to affirm Shepard is approved by the board it will send a clear message to the people in this town that the board is ignoring the wishes of residents in Berthoud as expressed in what I consider a decisive election last spring. Shepard was an outspoken proponent of policies that were overwhelmingly rejected by the voters. I worry that the legitimacy of the planning commission will be undermined by this action, and it will call into question the towns sincerity in saying that it is listening to the concerns of residents. Allowing former incumbent candidates for trustee who were soundly defeated by the voters just a few months ago to have significant influence on land use planning decisions makes no sense. A positive vote for this appointment can only look to residents of the town that we are insular, not open to divergent input from the public and favor cronyism over real public engagement.

Please carefully consider your decision for this vote on Tuesday. Our community is split enough already on growth issues. Must we really fuel this divisive fire by affirming this recommendation? I am afraid that a positive vote for this action will send an unfortunate message to the community we represent, and that it will create future challenges for the board, especially when we must consider controversial land use decisions.

Paul

Paul Alaback
Trustee
Town of Berthoud

dgregg@Berthoud.org

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