

District 4 Meeting with Kurt Kastein – Issues that Affect You

April 21, 2005

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Coffee 101, 1721 W. Harmony Road, Suite 101

Agenda of meeting:

1. election
2. budget
3. policy agenda priorities
4. your priorities, Q & A

Citizen Questions and Comments:

1. **Staff question:** How long is the bond for the new Police building? (thinks it is \$640,000/year, but for how many years?)
2. Development should pay it's way in terms of development fees.
3. CSU shirks it's duties re: housing and students. Often students refuse to live on campus because they would have to move out in between each semester—too much hassle. Ram's Village is too expensive. The City needs to address the problem with the University. Feels like City always “caves in” to the students. We should treat them as young adults and face responsibility.
 - It was noted that CSU just opened it's first campus housing since 1968 and another one is being built this summer. CSU is facing severe budget cuts.
4. Regarding elections and campaigns:
 - A citizen felt it should be a rule that only citizens are allowed to contribute to a campaign – make it illegal for LLC's and corporations to donate
 - “At-Large” Council seats would favor business and candidates endorsed by the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Wants more Council districts to do door-to-door campaigning at the grass roots level.
 - It was noted that at-large ballots change elections in a negative way.
 - Can the City fund elections? \$10,000 per candidate?
 - At-large bids would promote special-interest groups
5. Why in the world is Fort Collins buying land near the Wyoming border?! Are there water rights associated with this land?
 - Kurt mentioned that Council does not sign off for natural area purchases but he believes they should in the future; believes a natural areas committee should be formed, per the “Open Space, Yes!” ballot language.
6. Transportation issues:
 - Blinking traffic lights at night are great!
 - Wants more right turn arrows
 - Thinks it is pointless to have stop signs on a 6-house cul-de-sac
 - **Staff question:** Why can't more sidestreets go to blinking red/yellow after 10 or 11pm?
7. Harmony and Shields – will it be a “Round-about”?

8. College and Harmony
 - **Staff question:** Why don't the turn lanes go at the same time (north and south-bound)?
 - **Staff question:** Can the lines on Harmony east of Harmony & College intersection be re-stripped soon?
9. Why do public parks (impact fees are used to build them) have more value than hiring Police officers?
 - Kurt noted that if parks are not built with the dedicate money, the fees expire and it's hard to give back the money
10. Fort Collins does not know how to retain existing businesses, nor attract new businesses
 - There are too many regulations on businesses (i.e. sign height, daily practices)
 - City Plan Review is a "dog and pony show"
 - **Staff question:** As a part of the recent City Plan update, was assessment performed of the impacts that City Plan has on businesses?
 - Parking restrictions are unreasonable
11. When will West Harmony be widened to the railroad?
12. With the recent loss of high-tech jobs, many are commuting to Longmont/Boulder. Why? Some thought that office space is cheaper there.
 - **Staff question:** There are many small high-tech companies locating to Longmont/Boulder. Can we find out if this is true and if it is, what is different in the small-business high-tech climate in Fort Collins?
 - Kurt noted that we can build infrastructure and draw grade-A companies
13. **Staff question:** What is going on with the Lifestyle Center?
14. What is Loveland doing right that Fort Collins could do?
 - Geography of their position at I-25 and Hwy 34 makes them "the interchange" of northern Colorado
 - We don't know what the end result of the development will be; can they handle the traffic, etc.
 - Comments that the Fort Collins Building Department is slow and has bad processes. Lots of developers have told citizens they refuse to work with Fort Collins since the Building and Zoning Dept is so hard to work with. The City needs to get new staffing in that department.
15. The economy and jobs should be high priority.
16. Centerra will drain money from Fort Collins.
17. Kurt mentioned that Fort Collins needs to focus on our niches and what we do well:
 - CSU
 - Downtown
 - High Tech
18. What can City Council do about Intel? It will take Intel more than one year to build with the current permit process. Ultimately, although Council did direct the City Manager to actively pursue Intel, the final choice is with Intel.
19. Fort Collins is a great city because you can drive to any part in 12-15 minutes. Housing prices should be better.
20. Can Council tell voters to reduce Open Space money and increase money for businesses? Can Council revoke the tax?

- Soapstone will attract tourists to the area who will support downtown cultural arts.
 - Bike trail are re-paved with Open Space funding
 - Maybe this could go towards parks and recreation, not only natural areas
21. Can Open Space tax go to O & M for other uses, given the ballot language of the “Open Space, Yes!” item? No. **Staff question:** What uses can “Open Space, Yes” dollars go toward?
 22. **Staff question:** Can “Open Space, Yes” go towards recreational trails? – point of disagreement
 23. is there really a market for cultural arts center in downtown with the Budweiser Center in Loveland and Pat Stryker’s proposed amphitheater?
 - We need to re-evaluate a previous study
 - Maybe the DDA can do a study
 24. Has the Larimer Fairgrounds impacted Lincoln Center revenue? Kurt stated the Lincoln Center is booked solid – but can’t attract the bigger shows that Budweiser Event Center draws.
 25. **Staff question:** \$7M for Mason Street Corridor – what is the schedule/status?
 26. **Staff question:** What is the status of the Foothills Mall?
 27. The issue of residents complaining about FNL Airport expansion should be carefully weighed with the positive economic impacts caused by an airport expansion. If it doesn’t grow, we won’t attract big businesses to our area because they will require plane landing space.