



PARK CITY

1884



CREATING A ROADMAP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

COUNCILMAN TIM HENNEY WANTS TO HARNESS THE POWER OF COMMUNITY TO HELP TACKLE OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Park City Municipal Corporation: You moved to Park City about 25 years ago. What drew you to the town?

Tim Henney: In 1988, I was living in New York with my wife at the time and our two children. We wanted to get out of the city for the summer, so we almost rented a house on Long Island, like a lot of people do. But at the last minute we decided to spend the summer out west instead. We chose Park City and just made a connection with the town—spending three or four summers here.

A few years later, when we decided to leave New York for good, we moved to Park City. We assumed we would use the town as a base to explore other western communities, but we just never left. In 1992, we bought a little renovated miner’s shack on Lower Woodside—right in the heart of everything. We were walking distance to the bus stop and the library, close to the schools. It was the perfect place to raise children.

PCMC: You became involved with civic affairs

almost as soon as you moved here, and long before you joined City Council.

TH: I’m very passionate about environmental issues and the outdoors, so it was a natural fit for me to serve on the boards of Summit Land Conservancy and Mountain Trails, which I did for many years. I love running, biking, and swimming, and I want others to be able to enjoy our natural landscape as much as I do.

“I’M VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND THE OUTDOORS”

PCMC: What inspired you to run for Council in 2013 (for the term starting January of 2014)?

TH: I’ve always been interested in my community—wherever I’ve lived—and I pay attention to the issues. I think running for Council was a natural progression, a way to become engaged with my community at a deeper level.

But I also had an interesting and profound realization while I was going through some changes in my personal life. I was forced to be very honest with myself about



what makes me happy and what I want to spend my time doing. After a lot of solitary reflection away from Park City, I realized I missed the community, and I really wanted to reengage. It's something that's very fulfilling.

PCMC: It's very inspiring to hear that public service makes you happy. This is part of what makes our civic government so vibrant: the passion of the participants. Why did you feel qualified to run?

TH: That was the first thing I needed to decide—was I qualified? And I realized that most people are qualified to represent their community, so it comes down to a desire to serve, which translates to a deep level of commitment. I evaluated the practical aspects of serving and decided I could do it. The last step in my thought process was to determine whether I would add value—what would I bring to the table? My approach to the job is a deep respect for the process, so I used this as my platform for running. I also felt that incumbents should not run unopposed, so—while I wasn't particularly attached to winning or losing—I just thought my presence could benefit the process.

PCMC: What else did you discuss during your campaign?

TH: I'm pretty good at distilling complex concepts into terms easily understood by the community and feel this is a real strength. Folks need to be heard, but it's really important to deal with issues and their respective symptoms separately. I tried to



connect the symptoms with the source issue for my constituents, and I also asked them to complete a thought exercise: I asked each person to evaluate our town's current trajectory and forecast out 20 years. When you do this, it becomes obvious what our town will be: we'll have no middle class. Our residents will be the affluent and the workforce, and no one in between. If we address the core issues causing this "hollowing out," we can solve the symptoms along the way.

PCMC: One issue that has taken on greater prominence since you were first elected is energy: the city has committed to a significant reduction of fossil fuels and increase of renewable sources.



PCMC: The energy priority differs a bit from transportation and housing: it's a bit more abstract, perhaps. Do you think this will inhibit its implementation?

TH: I view the critical priorities—especially energy—as organizing principles. They create roadmaps: breaking down what can seem like an overwhelming, insurmountable problem into workable steps then laying them out in a linear fashion—almost like a subway map. The impetus to reduce our carbon footprint has always been there, but now we can put a framework in place to achieve this at the individual and institutional levels. The roadmap helps empower individuals, and once you get enough people, you have an empowered community.

TH: I'm extremely proud and pleased that the city has adopted energy as its third critical priority (in addition to transportation and housing). I originally suggested elevating energy last November because I wanted (former council members) Dick Peek and Liza Simpson to be part of the conversation before they retired, especially since they had helped designate the other two critical priorities.

I think it's also important to acknowledge why we're at this point: energy used to be cheap, but we now view it the same way we view water: as a precious commodity.



PCMC: What makes you optimistic about the future?

MB: I bring it back to our citizenry: we have a collective pride in our community, which puts us in a great place to deal with the issues. If you can understand the difference between change and evolution, you can tackle problems with a level head. We can hang on to the character of our town and still evolve. I'm very excited to be on the current council because I feel like our goals are aligned with the community's and the staff's, which allows us to make efficient and effective decisions.