

**GREG RUSSI**  
**271 Buckthorn Road**  
**New Castle, Colorado 81647**

**August 24, 2016**

Dear Mayor Riddile and Town Councilors:

It is with great respect for the unfortunate circumstances by which you have an open seat on Council that I would ask you to consider my application.

I have lived in New Castle since 2000, and served on your Board between 2002 and 2014. During that tenure, I am proudest of having raised \$2.1 million and coordinated efforts to open our three pedestrian bridges. I am also proud of the \$200,000 grant by which we finished Grand River Park, and for having organized and written much of the interpretive trail at the Park. I am likewise grateful for the opportunity to be a founding representative of Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), and for having chaired that Board during a two year period that featured considerable growth of our programs.

If chosen, I will remain a strong advocate of regional collaboration. Regional collaboration for a common purpose is the best way by which a small town can magnify its efforts to attract funding and participation. I also believe in strategic planning because it emphasizes the Town's priorities and focuses our efforts on the steps to accomplish our goals. I further believe in comprehensive planning, and look forward to continuing the success of our 2009 effort into another decade of "visioning" the Town's future.

While economic development is a key challenge facing the Town, I believe Council should view development by balancing all our economic sectors; residential, commercial and industrial. I would continue to urge Council to build from within, emphasizing what New Castle already has, particularly outdoor recreation as both a quality of life asset and a magnet for visitors. I remain an advocate of multipurpose mixed use development downtown; and in particular, multi-functional attractive buildings on Main Street which may house retail, commercial and residential properties, perhaps under a single roof. In traveling Colorado, I have found that the successful small town central areas all have adequate stock of attractive, usually brick buildings in their central core. In surveying our downtown, I believe that this stock is missing, and I would like to promote its growth. I also believe we should continue to promote infill, particularly in the central core.

Since leaving Council I have, as a volunteer, drafted four grants on behalf Council. Three of those were awarded and the fourth awaits action at this time. Through LiveWell, we started the Community Garden at the River Center which is a success, helping to educate and develop food equity in the area. A second LiveWell grant contributed to building the new pocket-park downtown. Most notably, we are under planning for a four mile stretch of multimodal trail in the Colorado River corridor east of Town. We should be shovel-ready on this section of trail next year.

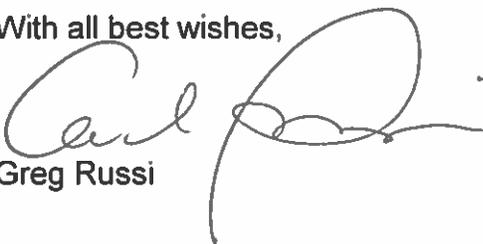
I feel strongly that we will be awarded a second planning grant for the adjacent stretch of trail, between South Canyon and Canyon Creek. I structured this grant application with the strength of a coalition of five partners; New Castle, Glenwood Springs, Garfield County, RFTA, and LiveWell. That coalition should remain in place as we move toward construction funding of the entire trail in the near future. Moreover, Art, Tom, and I have been working with several other groups in the County to provide for operations and maintenance on the Colorado River corridor (LoVa) trail once it is built. These hard surface trails fit nicely with the strong emphasis the Town is placing on its local soft surface trails network.

I have also represented you since 2014 on LiveWell's Built Environment Working Group, (BEWG) which plans and helps fund county-wide connectivity projects between existing streets, pathways, and nodes of activity. Currently I am looking for grant money to fund a bike-accessible and pedestrian friendly corridor on C Street to improve connectivity between Downtown and Castle Valley. That project appears on our 2015-16 BEWG assessment of connectivity needs which I assisted staff and Council to develop. If invited to join you on Council I will continue to support creating safe and functional bike lanes on Main Street, which I believe are necessary to complete our emphasis on local bicycle recreation and commuting.

Frank Breslin's death was an unexpected and tragic loss for our Town. At this point of transition, you may find that having a candidate with experience to fill out the vacant term is valuable. On a separate note, I learned in countless discussions with my friend Frank that our opinions were very similar on policy matters. In sum what I offer is both the experience of over fourteen years involvement with the Town, and a decent amount of political continuity.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

With all best wishes,



Greg Russi