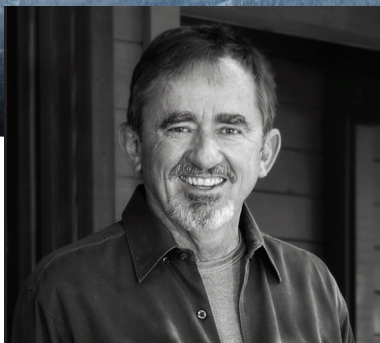


PARK CITY MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY NEWS INTERVIEW

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MAYOR JACK THOMAS



Dear Park City Residents & Friends,

Happy New Year! 2015 was one of Park City's strongest years, filled with exciting developments in our community. I look forward to what 2016 will bring, and I invite you to take part in the conversations that help strengthen and enrich our town.

Looking to the Past to Create a Complete Community

In helping forge the future of our town, I believe there is value in looking to the past. Park City's legacy helped create our modern identity and, indeed, our soul. Historically, ours was a complete town that included a full cross-section of residents and a wide spectrum of economies. Because of its remoteness, the community was, by necessity, more self-contained and more self-sufficient. People lived, shopped, and recreated within the town itself.

Opportunity for All, not just for Some

My great-grandparents came to Park City looking for a better life. Theirs was not a luxurious life, but it was rich with connections and community. And they were following in their predecessors' footsteps: miners also came seeking a better life against tough odds. I, myself, repeated the cycle. Like a lot of my peers, when I came back to town 35 years ago, I was in debt. But despite Park City's ramshackle appearance, we all felt a palpable sense of opportunity. Through hard work — and, make no mistake, a great deal of luck — folks like me were able to come out ahead and make a place for our families.

I've never felt that success was something owed to me, and I've never taken my good fortune for granted. Now I want to make sure that future generations have the same opportunities I did, but I worry that this is slipping away. I also worry when I hear folks in town express a sense of entitlement about their good fortune. This sentiment can be very dangerous, and the resulting "us-versus-them" attitude only degrades the fabric that binds us together.

Fortune smiled upon Park City once during the silver strike, and we're enjoying a second run of good luck now. But the success of our local ski industry has created a paradox: the town was built by many who

cannot enjoy the fruits of their own labor. The cost of living has become prohibitive for the working and middle classes, and we have become less complete and more polarized as a result. Vital members of our community live outside the city, commuting greater and

greater distances. Those who do reside in town often live in over-crowded conditions or spend an exorbitant portion of their income on monthly housing costs. The truth of the matter is that a sizable contingent of our community is living in poverty, and we have yet to really come to grips with the issue. These folks don't have a voice in the public dialogue, but the town couldn't run without them. We must engage them in the public discourse and community affairs.

"HOW DO WE RETURN TO THE COMPLETENESS OF OUR GRANDPARENTS' GENERATION?"



Restoring Completeness through our Critical Priorities: Transportation, Housing & Energy

City Council has designated three issues as critical priorities—traffic and transportation, affordable housing, and energy reduction. We understand that these issues are intrinsically linked: solving housing will greatly mitigate traffic, and mitigating traffic and commute times will greatly reduce energy use and air pollution. Some residents worry that bringing more affordable and attainable housing into the region will affect property values, but I would counter that a community without completeness is less resilient, less vibrant, and less desirable. We don't want to become a shell of what we "once were."

It's About all of Us, so Make your Voice Heard

As we tackle these critical priorities, I encourage you to be part of the conversation. We endeavor to be as accountable, accessible, and transparent as possible. As the phrase goes, what we lack in efficiency we make up for in transparency! Accountability also goes hand in hand with trust, and trust stems from four things: competence, commonality, propriety, and intent. If people feel they are being heard, they will trust you to manage the process.

The challenges we face as a community are daunting, but I'm excited about what lies ahead. How do we return to the completeness of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' generations? Knowing personally what my grandparents and great-grandparents went through when they lived in Park City (theirs was truly a hardscrabble existence), I am immensely grateful for our current standard of living. But my grandparents and their peers enjoyed a collective sense of belonging, and that is what will really make us happy in the end.

I hope you share my optimism about the future of our town, and I hope you will make your voice heard—whether at a city council meeting, a community event, or just a casual conversation on the street with your neighbor. Together, we can, once again, make Park City a complete community—one that reflects our collective values of empathy, dignity, cultural richness, and environmental stewardship.

