

## Sustainability Board Proposal

February 7, 2022

Addressed to: Mayor Lebsack; Council members Young, Berg, Mellon, Molinar, Tallent, Stevens; Town Manager LeCerf; Director Meyer,

As citizens and constituents of the Town of Johnstown and Weld County, we come to you to respectfully request the establishment of a Sustainability Advisory Board to the Johnstown Town Council.

As you already know, Johnstown is currently growing at a rate of 6.70% annually and its population increased by 75.81% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 9,887 in 2010. Our population base hosts citizens under the age of 18 years as the largest age group. Families with young children are attracted to Johnstown because it is small, friendly, available amenities, proximity to resources.

Weld County's population grew by 76,186 residents which is more than 30% in a decade according to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Population growth leads to increased need for goods, services, schools, employment. Our Town is planning for these via the Comprehensive Plan, which provides direction to Town Staff and Council on the future of Johnstown. The thoughtful planning in the Comprehensive Plan, and resulting deliberate action, will enable Johnstown to become a sustainable community.

Sustainability will be imperative as Johnstown develops its Transportation Master Plan, Downtown Johnstown Improvement Master Plan, Landscape Standards and Specifications and the Parks, Trails, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Sustainability, broadly defined as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, is comprised of three pillars:

1. The economy
2. Society
3. The environment

A sustainable society is founded on equitable access to the vital resources we all need to thrive:

- health care
- nutrition: access to affordable, healthy, whole foods
- clean water and air
- a sense of safety and community
- access to affordable housing
- education
- energy
- economic opportunities
- employment

Sustainability Advisory Boards, Groups, and Services are currently in place and evolving within Colorado. A few examples are:

- The Colorado Department of Local Affairs Sustainability Planning
- City of Longmont Sustainability Plan
- Sustainability Services and Futures Committee, City of Fort Collins
- City and County of Denver, Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency

Some Colorado businesses focusing on sustainability:

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- \* Wunder Capital: online investment and solar project management
- \* Simple Energy – consumer rebates for purchases of cleaner products and services which average 6.7% savings in energy costs and over 10% during peak months
- \* Sunrun – the nation’s largest residential solar, storage and energy services company
- \* Agribotix – software platform providing cloud-based data and analysis for precision agriculture providing University research and education about responsible drone use
- \* PlaceMatters-think tank focused on civic engagement and public process
- \* Open Tech Collaborative – hardware co-op campaigning for the open source economy
- \* Coolerado – produces air conditioning units for light commercial and residential use which expends 90% less energy than traditional systems

Embracing and implementing sustainability in tandem with the Comprehensive Plan, and guidance from Town Council, Town Staff, and community members, is a sustainable way of getting its valuable work done.

A decision to create and appoint a Sustainability Advisory Board for the Town of Johnstown, we believe, is the way for the Town to

- ❖ save valuable resources and money in the long run
- ❖ become more efficient in delivering services to our citizens and businesses
- ❖ truly create a vibrant Town that is environmentally healthy, economically prosperous, and socially equitable
- ❖ demonstrate the Town is taking the lead in reducing the effects of climate change

Sustainability is critical because of the realization that governing a city or leading a business in the same way that we have in the past is not sustainable. Expenses are increasing. Valuable resources and available workers are becoming scarce. Our **Town** must become more efficient and aware of how we can continue to provide services and products sustainably.

Opportunities Moving Forward identified in the Comprehensive Plan are achievable when engaged citizens with diverse talents, experiences and knowledge help guide our Town’s policies and practices to create a more sustainable community.

Sustainability vision and plans will benefit our Town citizens as they will be part of an engaged community that promotes environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity to create a sustainable and thriving future for all and for generations to come.

- ✓ Potential savings from lower utility bills
- ✓ greater sense of community
- ✓ volunteering & connecting with neighbors and local businesses
- ✓ improved health and quality of life from cleaner air
- ✓ affordable and energy-efficient housing
- ✓ active transportation options
- ✓ regionally produced healthy and affordable food
- ✓ well being knowing the Town is having a positive effect on the community
- ✓ help create a bright future.

We respectfully request the Town Council authorize and implement a Sustainability Advisory

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Board.

The Advisory Board's vision will be committed to the environmental health, social equality, and prosperous economy for the Town. The Advisory Board would help the Town provide an efficient and consistent level of public services and amenities resulting in a resilient, vibrant and connected Town and successfully accomplish Goal S2 of the Comprehensive Plan, "[e]nsure town planning efforts and investments are sustainable and contribute to the community's quality of life"

In its capacity, the Advisory Board would identify topics related to sustainability to advise the Town Council and Staff on plans, policies, and actions related to those topics.

Topics could include:

- ❖ Air, water quality
- ❖ Pollution prevention
- ❖ Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- ❖ Green building, waste disposal and recycling

As such, the Advisory Board would stay true to the Mission of the Town of Johnstown: "Enhancing the quality of life of our residents, businesses and visitors through community-focused leadership." It would preserve the town's Vision of "[c]onnecting community with opportunity." And espouse the Town's Values denoted by the acronym CARES:

Communication  
Accountability  
Respect  
Excellence  
Stewardship

The Sustainability Advisory Board would be organized as other Boards currently serving the **Town**

- ⇒ Seven volunteer citizens of Johnstown appointed by Town Council
- ⇒ Term limited to provide opportunities to serve for citizens
- ⇒ Identify a staff member to serve as liaison between the Town Council and the Board
- ⇒ Initial meetings between the Board, liaison, staff and City Council to determine goals and projects for the upcoming year

The Sustainability Advisory Board will commit to work with Town Council and Staff to assist in decision making processes to manage our beautiful natural environment and ensure that policies and practices provide for a sustainable and growing community, now and for generations to come, as described in our Guiding Principle:

"Johnstown celebrates our small-town heritage built from strong agricultural roots. We promote dynamic approaches to innovation and new trends while maintaining our quality of life. Johnstown is a resilient, vibrant, and connected community that offers diverse and inclusive opportunities for generations of residents to live, work, and play."

Respectfully Submitted,

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Manager LeCerf; Director Meyer,  
Pauline Migliore, MBA, Johnstown, Colorado  
Dan **Edwards, Johnstown, Coloardo**