



EDWARDS
COLORADO

May 5, 2020 Director Election Candidate Forum Questions

JOANA KERWIN: Bio & Questionnaire

I grew up in the 70's in the aerospace community of Houston. My father was a Skylab astronaut and part of the Apollo space program.

I have a BA in Accounting from Texas A&M. My career encompasses a retail business owner, a Regional Territory Sales Manager covering 11 states and a Licensed Series 6 and 77 Wealth Management Private Banker. I have enjoyed working in Eagle County for over 20 years and have lived in Homestead for 12 years.

With strong manager and organizational skills, attention to detail, and interpersonal skills, I feel I would be an asset to the EMD Board. As an effective communicator with negotiating skills, I bring people together over shared interests.

Giving back to the community is a priority. Currently I volunteer with the Vail Valley Foundation as a Volunteer Coordinator and the Homestead Valley HOA as a board member.

- 1. Why do you want to be a member of the Edwards Metropolitan District? What qualifications and experience will help you contribute in that role? Please describe your recent leadership positions, strategies employed, and results achieved; be specific.**

As a strong advocate for the preservation of the quality of life in Edwards, I value informed community input and support the 2017 Edwards Community Plan. Involvement in the community is a true passion of mine. For the past 12 years I have volunteered with the Vail Valley Foundation (VVF). As a Volunteer Coordinator I schedule over 650 volunteers for the World Cup Ski Races, GoPro Mountain Games, and Vail Dance Festival. One of my contributions to the VVF has been to be part of the team to successfully introduce and implement the use of a volunteer software program. Over the 4 years we have all worked together to streamline the volunteer registration process, communicate with the volunteers and recognize the volunteers during and after events. I have enjoyed the opportunity to have a positive impact on our volunteer community members, the events success, and the experience our vacationing guests have.

I have been attending the EMD Board meetings for the past year and have a clear understanding of the opportunities for growth in Edwards and the challenges, collaboration and decisions the Board must review and decide on. Currently there is no representation for the south side of Highway 6 on the EMD Board. My accounting education, retail and private banking experience, current knowledge of real estate in the valley, as well as my volunteer experience are what contribute to my qualifications as a solid candidate.

2. What is your vision for Edwards? Discuss population, economic base, demographics and tie to current situation and explain the path the District would follow to obtain your vision.

My vision for Edwards is that it continues to be a community where residents can enjoy community events, social gathering, education, and world-class recreation, while maintaining the authentic small-town feel, of "we are in this together."

With the Covid-19 crisis, we have an opportunity to evaluate how we do business in our community, how we support our retail, professional, and residential needs. I believe the EMD needs to evaluate and implement support for our Edwards community members and businesses during the recovery process.

Since Edwards has the largest population in Eagle County, it is very important that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census, so encouraging residents to complete the census is critical, as it impacts resources for the next 10 years.

I am committed to the Edwards community and vow to be an active listener for residents opinions on growth and change that would enhance our community. I would encourage more community input at the monthly EMD Board Meetings.

The EMD has been working with Eagle County and CDOT to improve Edwards traffic and pedestrian sidewalks. I appreciate the current EMD boards partnership with Eagle County and CDOT regarding the proposed improvements to traffic flow on Highway 6 in west Edwards at Hillcrest and Arrow Grass. I will be active in getting feedback on traffic concerns in Edwards.

I support responsible growth of housing, businesses, and places for residents to recreate and gather for social and community events

- 3. There have been some controversial developments proposed for the Edwards area. What are your views on the local housing crisis, particularly workforce housing? How would you address this issue? What is your view on the county's approval of higher density residential projects and mixed-use communities?**

The EMD Board has an opportunity to listen and work with developers so their proposed projects align with the 2017 Edwards Community Plan, stay within the Eagle County Building Guidelines, and benefit the Edwards Community.

In my opinion, both the Edwards River Park proposed development and the Mountain Hive development currently being reviewed by Eagle County are asking for too many variances from Eagle County and are not taking into consideration the community needs described in the 2017 Edwards Community plan. I would like to see the benefit to the Edwards residents, described in the Edwards Community plan, incorporated into these future developments. Some of the variances the developers are requesting, like changing final plat notes so the property can be developed, reducing the number of parking spaces, changing building heights from 35 feet to 85 feet, permitting structure setbacks from adjacent properties from 50 feet to 20 feet, will all impact how Edwards will look and feel. Eagle County building guidelines were created to keep green space green, buildings at heights that do not block views and parking and traffic patterns that do not have negative impact on safety and quality of life of Edwards residents.

The Edwards Metro District and Eagle County have an opportunity to work with the Edwards River Park developers so it is a win/win for our community and for the developer. I do not support the lack of affordable home ownership, the condo hotel and the project density. The EMD Board is in a good position to have a positive impact on the needs for local workforce housing and residential housing needs that benefits our community and adds to the Edwards tax base.

The Mountain Hive project is being proposed on land that has final plat notes that indicate the land cannot be developed. I have been very vocal about my concerns and so has the community. Over 800 people have signed a petition to StopTheHive.

- 4. Some community members say that our traffic problems have not been solved with the current installation of the roundabout at Highway 6 and Edwards Access Rd. What solutions**

do you propose to address their concerns? What are your feelings about further expanding Highway 6 throughout the Edwards Corridor?

The traffic at the roundabout on Highway 6 and Edward Access Road has been a big improvement for traffic flow. Cars do back up in the morning and afternoon, however, during small town rush hours. Drivers can modify driving times to leave or return to Homestead by 15 minutes to avoid traffic congestion. Highway 6 is not slated to be expanded to 4 lanes until 2036 or 2040, depending on who you talk to. Our Eagle County Commissioners approve developments in Edwards and it is important for residents to voice objections to additional proposed 5,000 plus car trips a day on Highway 6. If additional roundabouts are necessary to keep traffic flowing due to new developments, the developer should not use tax dollars or infringe on neighbor's land for their benefit. Safety is a priority and sidewalks, underpasses and overpasses should be considered in the future to make crossing Highway 6 safe for children and adults.

5. There has been a focus on the West Edwards Community, especially the Eagle River Mobile Home Park. What is your vision for that area? What role do you see the Edwards Metro District taking in the discussion and action plans?

My vision for the West Edwards Community is for improvements in both traffic along Highway 6, improving water quality at the Eagle River Mobile Home Park for residents, and providing nearby recreation parks for children and adults.

The EMD has been working with Eagle County and CDOT on highway improvements at Hillcrest and Arrow Grass which will provide some traffic relief along Highway 6. I would like part of the traffic discussion to be focused on finding a solution for the traffic backups at the school bus stops on Highway 6. Additionally, working with the property owner of the Eagle River Mobile Home Park is essential to create an additional entrance/exit out of the mobile home community.

The water quality at the Eagle River Mobile Home Park has been an ongoing concern for the EMD Board and the community. It was really brought to light with the COVID-19 run on groceries. All of the bottled water was sold out at our locals stores and the mobile home park residents were left without access to drinkable water. I would like to see the EMD Board work with other community members and the property owner to find a workable solution to their drinking water.

The children and adults often use the elementary school after hours to recreate. I believe a park with a picnic area and small shelter would enhance the lives of residents living in west Edwards.

6. What do you think the Edwards Metro District's role should be with respect to Climate Action and the environment?

The EMD Board has been working with Eagle County and environmental improvements in Edwards. Currently there are plans to relocate the Recycling Center and establish a compost area near the parking lot at the Edwards Field House. As an EMD Board member, I would work with the board to promote more bicycling and walking in the District in an effort to reduce the impact of cars. One way to do this is to get our local businesses to act as sponsors for Solepower, a free green community challenge for the Eagle Valley that runs from Memorial Day through Columbus Day. It will be great to see the new Zagster Bike Share program come to Edwards this year. I would encourage Edwards homeowners to participate in the Eagle County Home Energy Assessment and Solar rebate opportunities available from Holy Cross Electric and encourage business owners to have an energy assessment of their business energy consumption.