



May 5, 2020 Director Election Candidate Forum Questions

KARA HEIDE: Bio & Questionnaire

- Currently serving as Secretary in my second term on the Edwards Metro Board
- Executive Director for The Eagle Valley Land Trust 2009-2014
- Senior Manager for Vail Resorts Public Affairs & Charitable Contributions. Managed philanthropy and served as liaison in governmental affairs.
- Founder and Supervisor of Vail's Adaptive Ski School
- Served as Vice President for the Edwards Metro Board during my first elected term
- Board of Directors for the Vail Valley Charitable Fund
- Board of Directors for Small Champions of Eagle County
- Hornblower/Vail Valley Foundation Citizen of the Year Award
- Ambassador on Habitat for Humanity
- Executive Order Appointment by Governor Bill Ritter: Colorado Forest Health Advisory Council
- Executive Order Appointment by Governor Bill Owens: Early Childhood & School Readiness Commission. Participated in sponsoring education bills supporting the needs of early childhood education.
- National Forest Foundation Grants Committee, Chairman
- Elected to Eagle County Home Rule Charter Commission

- 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.**

I have been privileged to serve two previous terms on our Board. Our community is now at a crossroads in making decisions that will forever shape the character of our shared vision and perspectives. I would like to continue to be a voice for our residents by continuing our open door policy and actively engaging feedback. In recent months locals have exponentially increased in attendance for our Board meetings. We are all in this together and the more participation the better. Our re-vamped web site has provided another avenue for input. Communication is key and our Board has made a community pledge to transparency, which has enhanced our public engagement.

- 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.**

I moved permanently to our valley in 1976. That is 44 years ago! Visions evolve as the world changes in blinding speed. Edwards is now the largest population center in our entire valley. More than 10,000! Our population is diverse from a cultural and economic measurement. I believe our shared common perspective is one of appreciation for quality of life that our environment provides. Edwards residents have the ability to leave our front door without getting into a car to hike, bike, fish, or enjoy the arts. This is truly unique and just a short list of what we all have access to. How do we blend our urban/rural world while maintaining this special lifestyle? Protecting these qualities remains my vision. Referring and honoring our Edwards Area Community Plan is just one tool we can use. In 2018 the National Center for the Arts listed Edwards as #1 for being the most arts-vibrant in the category of populations between 10,000 and 50,000. We can celebrate this at the same time protecting this special and unique brand.

- 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?**

In my 44 years the issue of housing has ebbed and flowed but always has been a point of discussion. Long-term vision is a useful exercise because decisions made on developments will forever impact our community. There are pros and cons that need to be identified and measured. I believe Miller Ranch is an example of a win-win. This project has been mutually beneficial for locals and our economy. This project was committed to providing a formula enabling locals who support our economy to have quality of life at an affordable expense. As the saying goes, lets not build a church for only Easter Sunday...but rather look down the road and evaluate opportunities where the outcome is a win-win for all of the stakeholders of the foreseeable future. We have examples of successful developments and those ...not so much. Moving forward let us focus on historical facts, unintended consequences all the while recruiting residents input to move this issue forward.

- 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?

Traffic and population density go hand in hand. I understand the concerns, frustrations and disappointments with our current installation of the roundabout. It useful to understand we rely on CDOT and traffic engineer guidelines and qualifications. That being said, we can always improve what has been installed. This project alone is worth considering how transportation will be impacted with future proposed developments. I do not support the idea of expanding Highway 6 into 4 lanes. We do not need this kind of impact that mirrors Highway 70. A solution that isn't new is to push for an egress from Hillcrest drive to Highway 70 east. If we are able to significantly reduce the amount of cars on highway 6, this alone will make all the difference in the world. Residents west of our current roundabout could have the option of never needing to come into the core of Edwards. An example of this is the half diamond installed in Eagle Vail. I had my reservations when this idea was proposed but now appreciate how successful this plan has been. Residents living in Eagle Vail do not need to impact Avon to get access to highway 70. Yes the Hillcrest plan has challenges but that is no reason not to pursue.

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?

West Edwards has changed dramatically in recent years. Critical and valued residents live in the Eagle River Mobile Home Park yet they continue to fight for water quality as their drinking source. We as a Board have and will continue to work with public health departments and ownership of this development to support a better quality of life in many aspects.

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

2020 is the 50th Celebration for Earth Day! Where does the time go? This is just one additional example where we as a Board can support and provide education to our community by providing resources both local and beyond to support energy conservation. I believe our County is doing a good job supporting and implementing actions with respect to Climate Action and our Environment. We agree our environment is our product as well as why most of us chose to move here. Edwards Metro endorses and supports programs and opportunities by discussing within our public meetings as well as providing information and resources on our web site. In closing

2020 will continue to be challenging. While fear of the unknown is contagious, so is hope and we need to remember we are a resilient group of souls!