

Jessika Buell for City Council  
Responses

1. Do you think the city should be pro-active and begin installing water, sewer, fiber etc for the infrastructure down La Posta Road for future business park mixed use development? Yes/No and Why?
  - a. Yes, I believe the city should be proactive in getting infrastructure to La Posta for future business park mixed use development. The Bodo area is tapped out for new development and we need space for future potential businesses to grow and relocate if we want to have quality jobs in Durango for our community members to make a living here and have sustainable economic development. Businesses will not be able to take on the cost prohibitive burden of infrastructure to this development area. As such, I think the City and County need to work together to find the best possible solution.
  
2. Do you think the city needs to begin construction on a parking garage at the transit center? Yes/No and Why?
  - a. Yes, with the bump out program and the talk of maybe making the bump out year around and a more walkable downtown, we will be putting an additional strain on our already difficult parking situation. Third Ave is continually hit hard by our downtown parking and we need to have foresight as our community continues to grow. Development areas like Three Springs are getting larger, which means more cars driving into town for work, recreation, and utilization of our Downtown. We need to make our transit system better so more people can utilize it and increase our parking capacity to make our downtown streets safe.
  
3. What can the city do to encourage development of workforce housing?
  - a. This is a big reason I am running for City Council. I believe WE NEED TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPERS TO BUILD WORKFORCE HOUSING. We can't say we want workforce housing- we need to do it. We have some dedicated taxes sunseting in the future. Does the community think they will renew it to pay for workforce housing? To buy land for it? To provide incentives for developers to build it? We say we really value attainable housing and economic development...will we vote to potentially pay for it- Infrastructure, housing, business, transit? Those aren't glamorous things... but they are essential to smart growth.
  
4. What is your vision for Durango Mesa Park?
  - a. I think the Durango Mesa Park area embodies exactly what Durango is- a cultural and recreational playground full of beautiful open space. I think the vision of tons of open space, expanded Durango trails for hiking, running, cycling and horse riding; the relocation of La Plata County Fairgrounds with equine facilities, a multi-events center for music festivals, western heritage events and gatherings, and a world-class outdoor sports complex with miles of trails and Colorado's largest bike park is the vision that aligns with the vastest amount of our community, our heritage, and quality of life.
  
5. What would be the best use of the current fairgrounds if/when relocated to Durango Mesa Park?
  - a. Looking at this prime location for the potential to strengthen and grow the North Main area is ideal. Looking at workforce housing and mixed-use development will be key. I

know there is a lot of talk about an indoor recreation field facility, and the current layout may lend itself well to incorporating that to a degree, but I think we need to really look into the cost and value and make sure we are investing in what our community needs. The URA is doing an excellent job with the MidTown Redevelopment and having the same careful evaluation of our assets and making sure we are utilizing them.

6. What can the city do to help retain businesses and help business start ups?
  - a. The city needs to have a partnership mentality when it comes to retaining businesses in Durango and helping start-ups. When we sit down with businesses regarding planning the question should be what can we do to get you moved in and operational. Many businesses chose to open elsewhere or not at all due to the costs and headaches. Can we streamline processes? I will promote partnerships with organizations like the Alliance, SCAPE, and Local First that advocate for sustainable local jobs by bringing and investing in new companies. More needs to be done with fostering home-grown entrepreneurial efforts and supporting 21st century businesses.
  
7. Please include a (home page) link to your candidate webpage.
  - a. [www.jessikafordurango.com](http://www.jessikafordurango.com) and Facebook @jessikafordurango