



**Adam Swetlik**

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**Besides being in love with Boulder, tell us who you are and what the most compelling reason is for why you're running for City Council?**

As a citizen of Boulder for the last 11 years I've seen the unaddressed inequality in our housing sector. After the 2016 election I was inspired to help those working class and young people who do not have the same options for affordable housing that existed in Boulder years ago. I've worked multiple jobs since graduating just to keep up with housing cost increases. I'm passionate about representing the members of our community that work long hours or multiple jobs just so they can stay part of this community. Most of the candidates in this race will share similar values and ideas, but we need a council with diverse viewpoints and experiences. I'm running to provide a different perspective as a young, working-class citizen.

**What do you see as the vital components to the future of Boulder's economic vitality and what specific strategies would you support as a City Councilmember to maintain a vibrant economy?**

Boulder already has one of the best job markets in the country, including some of the best tech jobs and startups. We have no problem attracting business to this beautiful city. What is being left behind are the people to work these jobs who could further contribute to the economy by living where they work. Daily commuters add little to our economy compared to having those people be permanent residents. Small businesses also feel squeezed by exorbitant lease increases, getting pushed out of our city. We should not be allowing mega hotels for the rich to overtake diverse retail spaces such as The Hill. Developing and planning affordable spaces for small businesses will keep Boulder's retail economy unique.

**What do you believe are the most pressing human service needs in the City of Boulder and why?**

Boulder faces a major question on what to do with our transient population. Having few solutions to address this problem has accelerated it as an issue over recent years. A portion of our community see this population simply as undesirables who have no intention of contributing to our community without even giving them a chance to contribute. Successful cities will always have transient and homeless populations, but addressing these populations with morality is a choice. I believe we should be utilizing social services and work programs to help people in tough situations. Providing a small amount of help can substantially reduce, crime, littering, and most importantly human suffering. As citizens who pride ourselves on progressiveness it's time to come up with permanent solutions for everyone's benefit.

**What do you believe is the appropriate role for the City of Boulder in addressing human service needs (e.g. housing, food, health care) for low income/marginalized people in our community?**

Boulder should be providing a pathway to better opportunities for our marginalized citizens. While there are several community organizations and nonprofits who provide great assistance to our citizens there's no doubt that growing inequality will accelerate growth of our low income populations. Continuing our push towards more affordable housing is the first step towards solving this problem. Renting doesn't provide a stable base for people to build their lives, and without a stable base we can never hope to build a community that will see other people's problems as their own. Boulder needs to be a community that cares, and caring for those who need assistance is where we need to begin.

**The City has spent a considerable amount of money on buying the Boulder Community Hospital site. The site currently sits vacant and debt service accrues. Should this project be accelerated and how should it be developed?**

The simplest answer is to choose a city government department or group that would benefit most from the facility and get them working. On the list of problems Boulder needs to address this is not a major issue that impacts the entire community. By being indecisive we're causing more debt to be incurred that will ultimately impact the community. This is one example of our government needing to be more decisive and prioritize our planning to benefit the community as a whole.

**Do you support the Transportation Master Plan's goal of increasing the mode share of bicycles from 10% to 30% by 2035 to achieve the community's environmental and livability goals? If so, what concrete steps do you propose to achieve this and how do you anticipate doing that while maintaining safety for cyclists and motorists alike?**

I do support the Transportation Master plan's goal. This is the right option to keep progressing toward our environmental and livability goals as a community. Continuing to increase safe crossing areas and lighting on trails will increase mode share. Partnering with community biking organizations in promoting events like "Bike to Work Day" will also generate more awareness to increase riders. Going forward we need to execute plans in a much more thoughtful way than the initial steps of the "right-sizing" initiative. Once individual plans are in place we need clear communication and marketing campaigns for the changes well in advance of their roll-out. Also these roll-outs need to be incremental in their execution to provide both cyclists and motorists time to adjust to the new flows.

**What strategies do you support regarding land use, housing and transportation policies and programs to address the impacts of our in-commuting workforce?**

Providing a free Ecopass to those within the county would help reduce congestion within Boulder. Continuing to increase the share of low and middle income housing would allow more people to live where they work and invest in our community by being part of it. Further development of higher capacity projects will increase opportunities in the city on smaller footprints. Finally reconsidering laws maximizing how many people can live in a household or how many square feet each person must have will allow us to better utilize existing spaces to reduce traffic.

**Tell us your vision for open space moving forward, including specifically the challenges regarding the success of huge visitation. Would you prioritize either protection or recreation on a hypothetical new property?**

I believe we should be approaching all open space with a balance of protection and recreation. Open space is meant to bring people together with nature, we just have to provide the knowledge and expectations of how to do that when developing space. Open spaces should be planned so that as many groups as possible can utilize it in harmony, including the pre-existing nature. While we have many passionate groups who have priorities about how open space should be used, working together and making concessions is how we learn to appreciate each other's priorities and further build caring in our community. The problem of huge visitation can be better addressed by marketing our many miles of Front Range trails instead of focusing on a very few which get overcrowded. Simply informing people of all their options will go a long way to helping congestion.

**Do you support Boulder's drive to municipalize its electric utility? If so, what are the limits on taxpayer dollars and time you are prepared to spend to achieve that goal and, if not, how do you propose to achieve Boulder's renewable energy goals?**

I am for municipalization. While this is a costly and time-consuming endeavour it is the right choice if Boulder's goal truly is sustainability. We are the tip of the spear in the fight against large energy corporations who seek short-term profits over our future. While this is a large expense, our long term financial and environmental security is better in our citizen's hands. This is a fight worth fighting to be a leader in the nation in sustainability.

**What transportation solutions would you suggest to ease congestion, especially resulting from 49,000 in-commuters, specifically those that drive alone? Would you favor solutions to improve roads and parking; bus or other transportation; cycling and walking, or some combination thereof? How would you fund transportation improvements? Do you favor higher parking costs and other disincentives to driving?**

A free Ecopass for Boulder County citizens is a good first step to decrease commuting by car. Aside from that continuing increase housing options is key to getting more people to live where they work. We have a large imbalance of housing to business activities at the moment. If large corporations continue entering Boulder and increasing jobs they should take on more responsibility for community development to allow easier commuting. I believe disincentivizing driving through higher parking cost will ultimately affect the lowest income people in our community more harshly and would like to avoid that tactic.

**Despite Boulder's reputation as a "green" community, our per-capita carbon footprint is pretty high. How can we shape our built environment and transportation systems for lower impact?**

Small-footprint housing development is key to both increasing housing and generating a low carbon footprint. Boulder is going to keep growing, so addressing the problem as we build by building the right types of housing will ultimately lower our per-capita footprint. By addressing our housing problem we'll also reduce emissions from commuting.

**Do you support Boulder's inclusionary housing ordinance requirements to produce permanently affordable housing? Should the requirements include permanently affordable middle income housing? And, what do you think is the appropriate mix of permanently affordable rental versus ownership units?**

I do support the inclusionary housing ordinance and I think it should be expanded to middle income housing. Boulder is a very successful city with a huge job market, but housing has not kept pace. Many individuals make enough to not qualify for low-income housing but nowhere near enough to afford even a small condo. We need a new tier of housing requirements for these people. Without the possibility of ownership we can't hope to build a diverse and invested community. The American Dream is built on owning your own home, so I believe we should make as many permanently affordable units for ownership as possible.

**Accessory dwelling units – otherwise known as “granny flats” – have been considered as one option for expanding affordable housing options in established neighborhoods. Please explain your position on whether or not ADUs are an appropriate affordable housing tool for our community?**

While this option is not ideal as compared to more large scale affordable housing projects this does provide a way to use existing space to help more people live where they work. ADUs also provide a source of income for people who are priced out by increasing property taxes and may help many middle and low income people retain their homes. As an added benefit utilizing existing space for more people will help lower the carbon footprint of the space.

**What's your vision for Boulders growth and development over the next 20 years?**

Boulder needs to spend the next 20 years reducing inequality and providing opportunity for all of its community members. Through representation of all citizens regardless of income and background we can build a Boulder that is prepared to face struggles as a tightly-bound community. Focusing on getting people to live where they work will build this sense of community. As we travel this path we need to keep our growth sustainable so that the positive aspects that attract people to Boulder are maintained.

**What are your specific strategies for promoting civil public discourse around growth and development? Please indicate what level of commitment you would have in regards to collaboration, consensus building and joint problem solving to address this issue?**

I think it's very important to respect the people of Boulder who have lived here a long time. This is a unique and beautiful place in the world, and they live here because of it. I can't fault anyone for wanting to keep Boulder the way it has been in past years. While keeping this in mind we have to prepare for changes that are coming regardless of our desires. Our city's success has put a crunch on many people who make its uniqueness possible. Citizens need a voice through all levels of government for the young and working class people who just want a future as part of our community. Without including different perspectives we won't be a diverse and inclusive community, which leads to poor decision making. Good discourse starts with full representation, and that's what we need now more than ever.