

Name: Colin Towner

Age: 45

Occupation: Business Owner (Tidy Paws, Inc.) and Management Consultant

Education: BS in Civil Engineering – Colorado State University

MBA – Ohio State University

Family: Dr. Sally Towner – spouse

1 child

Birthplace: Colorado Springs, CO

How long in Erie? 7 years (moved to Erie in 2001)

1. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing the Town of Erie?

Economic Development, in three parts:

- Attraction of retail and other services that the citizens of Erie have been asking for,
- Enhancing the growth and expansion of existing businesses in town, and,
- Capturing high quality employers that provide opportunities for Erie residents to work close to home and further improve their quality of life.

Erie must take the plan developed by the Economic Development Ad Hoc committee and bring it to life. We must make sure businesses and employers know that Erie is “open for business”. Erie has some significant strengths; and maintaining the quality of our Town is critical. Our community center and library are state-of-the-art, and our attention to open space and trails helps keep the ambiance that distinguishes Erie from other cities and towns.

2. What is Erie’s best course of action regarding commercial development?

The Board of Trustees adopted the Economic Development Ad Hoc committee’s recommendation and plan. This provides a roadmap and specific actions to clarify, communicate and elevate Erie’s strengths and opportunities to commercial developers and the businesses that are looking for locations in the northern Front Range area. Key items among the recommendations that must be accomplished quickly include:

- Partnering with the Chamber and EEDC to ensure a consistent message and to maximize the benefits from contacts each organization makes with businesses.

- Developing marketing and communication plan to make sure Erie's strengths and opportunities are clearly understood by a wide audience, increasing awareness and exposure to the commercial community.
- Reviewing and modifying existing Town policies as needed to demonstrate that Erie is "open for business" and willing to make appropriate investments.

Erie's a wonderful Town and a great place to do business.

3. What unique strengths would you bring to the position of mayor/trustee?

I have a broad background in several areas (engineering, consulting, management, business) and bring a balanced perspective. A Trustee must represent the entire Town, and take actions that benefit Erie as a whole.

- I am a local small business owner, and have a commitment to Erie's success. I know what is involved in locating a small business in Erie and what the Town could do to help.
- I have worked with many global businesses in my career. I understand what executives are looking for in new locations, and how Erie's strengths can be marketed successfully.
- I look at all sides of an issue, including financial. Erie must make smart investments in future growth and economic development; I understand the factors to be considered and how to make a balanced decision.

As a current Trustee, I have done the research and preparation necessary to make informed decisions.

Being a Trustee is an important commitment, and Erie's citizens deserve a Trustee who will work as hard as they do.