



leverage additional financial resources from these partners to help meet our respective housing needs.

## **2) Preserve, Protect and Retain Locally Owned AND Locally Serving Businesses**

The Council recognizes that the Village is a tourist economy and that locally owned and locally serving businesses need support. The Council firmly believes that such businesses build community through relationships, creating places and reasons for people to gather, and are critical to the community's character. The Council will work to prioritize and incentivize the needs of our local business community and will safeguard a high-quality visitor experience while focusing efforts to serve local residents first and foremost. If it is good for local residents, then it also benefits our guests.

## **3) Increase Community Engagement to Foster Emotional Connectivity**

The Council will strive to increase effective community engagement to foster relationships, emotional connectivity and to protect community character. The Council will protect the community's character by ensuring that public amenities, events, facilities, and services enhance and meet local community needs and interests.

A sense of community is created through meaningful connections and a welcoming atmosphere. These types of connections are critical. Knowing that a variety of issues (especially increased housing costs) are negatively impacting the community, the Council will find ways to have all residents and guests be more committed and emotionally connected to the Village and our community. The Council desires to build community among all long-time residents, new residents, part-time residents, and guests with the goal of everyone feeling comfortable, welcome, and engaged in the Village.

This Town Council is focused on offering a variety of opportunities to receive feedback, create connections, and listen. It is imperative to expand citizen access to the Council thus elevating community conversation, collaboration, and emotional connection to the Village.

The Council desires to maintain high quality communications with its citizen Boards and Commissions. The Council will do this by asking for guidance and feedback from them. The Council will explore a change to the Town Charter to allow Councilors to serve as *ex-officio* members of Boards and Commissions.

## **4) Ensure Public Spaces and Facilities Meet Our Community's Unique Character**

The Town Council will strive to create and improve public spaces and facilities that promote health, safety, education, happiness, and enhance community character and connectivity. Understanding there are many needs and opportunities within the community, this Town Council remains open to them and is committed to focusing on the following projects. These are places where emotional connectivity "happen" and grow:

- 1) Implement the approved enhancements to Town Park.
- 2) Continue to evaluate the need for childcare options and plan for the expansion of the Little Red Schoolhouse. Town Council will also continue to explore other resources for expanding childcare and early childhood learning.
- 3) Reinvigorate the Ice Age Discovery as a source of pride for the community.
- 4) Encourage transit ridership by providing a Mall Transit experience that balances improved levels of service, safety and functionality with high quality aesthetics that satisfies community needs and meets our rural Village character.
- 5) Partner with Pitkin County to expand library services in the Village, including building a library facility adjacent to, or connected to the Recreation Center.
- 6) Expand recreational opportunities for our trail network, including Nordic skiing.
- 7) Commit to maintaining, renewing, identifying, and developing spaces for local community members to connect.