

## Candidates talk Steep Slope

Written by

Thursday, 13 September 2007 20:28

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Last night's Meet the Candidates Forum was a stark contrast to Monday's ASU Forum.

Instead of playing teams, so called "Progressives" versus the PAC, for the most part, candidates stuck to the issues, in particular, the Steep Slope controversy.

Incumbent Citizens for Change endorsed Council candidate Dempsey Wilcox said Steep Slope and Watershed need work.

Dempsey said he would be in favor of an amendment that would allow single family residences to be exempt- but he does not want to see what happened above Wal-mart repeat itself.

Mayoral candidate Tim Wilson agreed- but his opponent did not.

Mayor Loretta Clawson says the Council's actions were justified.

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She wants to maintain the integrity and beauty of Boone, and she said the ordinance does just that.

Council candidate Liz Aycock agreed. As a planning board member, she said her research led her to believe the ordinance was in the best interest of the community.

Unendorsed Council candidate Jeremy Blocker said he favored a property owner's rights.

Property owners should be able to do what they want with land, he said, as long as they are not infringing on others' rights.

Also discussed was Boone's traffic problem- an issue Council candidate Stephen Phillips hopes to improve if elected.

He says affordable student housing close to campus would eliminate a lot of the problem-

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students could walk instead of drive.

Both Phillips and incumbent Council member Bunk Spann say a bypass may not be the way to go.

Widening roads that already exist might be cheaper and more effective.

Candidates also addressed UDO revisions, affordable housing and tax revenues. We'll have continued coverage of candidates' takes on the issues next week.