

Lance Fitzsimmons, running for District 2 Commissioner.

A couple of weeks ago at the post office, someone said I was brave, I said crazy. We do this every 2 years, promises made, promises broken while nothing improves. Perhaps it's time for a fresh perspective, unfortunately, unapproved opinions & ideas are not welcome by some. The fact that there are so many of us running shows things are not as good as we are led to believe.

Are we wasting our time here? Maybe. We have an appointed successor to Kevin Andrus, Rex's hand picked successor and a place we can go to determine who our other choices should be, no thought required! To make your choices even easier don't forget about all of us unqualified by our improperly placed sighs. It has also been made known that fresh faces need not apply.

Perhaps Austin should arrange cage fights to avoid the drama. It would be a great fundraiser and we could be done with everything in an evening.

I find it unfortunate the amazing people here are afraid to share their ideas and opinions because of criticism and loss of friends. Add to that the so called fresh faces are not considered acceptable by the grumpy faces. In my 16 years here I have seen a lot of fresh faces come with optimism, sharing their time and talents only to become burned out and apathetic because they are treated like 2nd class citizens by the grumpy faces. Is this a worthy attitude? We are supposed to be better than that.

We need fresh solutions, the old ones have proven over and over that they don't work for most of us. if you really love Bear Lake let's be willing to try some fresh perspectives while we still can.

According to people I have been talking to, government transparency is a problem. This should be one of the easiest items to fix.

Our reps should be challenged by the commissioners to do what is in our interests, not be buddies with them. Recently, our reps voted to take more local control away from the STR's and give it to Boise. Why?

Many people have been negatively impacted by STR's. People should be able to do what they want with their personal property but not at the expense of their neighbors.

There are also serious safety concerns, especially fire hazards. The fancy houses are raising property taxes on us. People will be priced out even more due to that. The STR's are encroaching on the open spaces and causing late night noise. There are things that can still be done to push back. We are told nothing can be done.

Lance Fitzsimmons, running for District 2 Commissioner.

A local lodging tax would help pay for the cost of the tourists and help finance our needs, becoming more self sufficient. Instead, we are told no.

Then there is the Senior Center. For much of the time I can remember, it has been at risk of closing. I was told about someone that could help. After some investigating I found there was a proven way to help which I then showed to one of the board members.

By asking questions and listening I have found the people here know what is wrong with Bear Lake and how to fix it. The main problem is nobody will listen to them and stand up for their ideas, creating more apathy.

One thing I learned from my mother is CAN'T is a dirty word often used instead of WON'T.

Kalene and I have built a good business, starting with nothing. I have defended our business from a 7 billion dollar corporate bully and intellectual property theft. We bring in outside money and have put almost a million dollars into Bear Lake with local purchases and payroll.

1 commissioner can be limited. That being said, I know that I can work with Wynn. I appreciate his humble nature and being out in the community.

I listen to everyone as the best ideas often come from the least likely sources. One who listens to all sides of an issue gains true perspective. I will practice the same tenacity representing the interests of Bear Lakers as I did in protecting our business from the bully.

My service will be done similarly to how I run customer service. I have found that by sincerely listening to someone's concerns often leads to resolution.

imagine what we could accomplish if we worked together instead of against each other. Let's move beyond ugly politics and make this place the best we can.