

## 2009 RRROC Election Candidate Statements

### **Business Owner/ Business Property Owner**

*Vote for no more than one (1) candidate*

#### **Elio Buck Sierra**

Thank you for considering me for RRROC.

I have a degree in International Diplomacy and World History. While working for the Forestry Department at the World Bank in DC, I collaborated with urban planners. Afterwards, I taught history in San Francisco and Oakland for over fifteen years and ran an after-school arts program. I moved to the Russian River two years ago. Currently, I'm co-owner of Nexus Organic Design in Guerneville. I'm very committed to seeing the lower Russian River area reach its full potential as a sustainable vibrant resort area.

I have great skills in bringing people together to brainstorm solutions to existing problems and to be creative in developing ideas for sustainability. I believe in purposeful development that is able to beautify, grow and sustain commerce strips in the area, while being respectful of and protecting the gorgeous natural backdrop. I'm committed to seeing more greening of Main Street and preventing over-development. I believe in bringing all ideas to the table, finding consensus on a masterplan and moving into action.

I have been very active in the beautification and redevelopment efforts of the commercial areas through the RR Chamber of Commerce board and the ED Task Group for the Redevelopment Agency.

### **Residential Tenant**

*Vote for no more than two (2) candidates*

#### **Chris Auzston**

I am running for the RRROC because I want to give back to my community. I feel I can offer valued input from a life-long tenant perspective, and that as a long-time resident of Rio Nido/Guerneville. Since moving here in 2001, I have developed an interest in the redevelopment of the Russian River area. To contribute to that, I offer my experience as a former high school teacher, banking officer, and human resources positions in employment and management training. I hold a Bachelor of Science from Southwest Texas State University. I live with my partner on Rio Nido Road.

Although I am permanently disabled, I see this as an opportunity for me to commit myself to my neighbors and friends who have supported me through difficult times. I offer my time, my knowledge and life experiences to the community and committee members, as a way to give back to the place I call home. I seek to represent the various communities that I identify with, and those I want to understand, by giving them a voice on the RRROC.

I ask for your vote for the RRROC.

### **Dawn Robinson-Warner**

I am running for a seat on the RRROC because I am interested in being involved with my community. I have lived off and on in Guerneville since I was a small child, visiting my grand parents' cabin during the summers and later as an adult I worked for the Guerneville Bank of America and rented a house on Neely Road. At that time, I also served on the LGBT Merchant Association and organized numerous fund raisers for worthy causes for the Sonoma County LGBT community.

Recently, I moved back to the area and now rent a house on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Guerneville, across from the new Burbank housing development.

I have experience working with nonprofit organizations as well as employed as an advocate for women and children's rights and housing. I am interested in having a voice in the development of this area that I have come to love and often share with my seven grandchildren. I care about the future of Russian River as this has always been a very endearing and magical area.

Please elect me to this position and I will strongly advocate for the preservation of this special place for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

### **Amber Twitchell**

I moved to Guerneville because I believe in the importance of community and I appreciate the diversity the area offers. In the past year, I have had the opportunity to become involved in many local groups, including serving on the Board of Directors for River To Coast Children's Services and serving on the Board of Directors for Community Housing Opportunities West.

I currently function as The Economic Recovery Director at California Human Development, a nonprofit organization in Santa Rosa that focuses on providing workforce development activities to vulnerable populations. I am certified in collaborative policy making which has taught me to effectively facilitate partnerships and to create sustainable projects.

I believe that we all share the responsibility of mobilizing the community and addressing the needs that exist. I also believe that serving on the RRROC is part of this responsibility.

I appreciate your support.

### **Residential Property Owner**

*Vote for no more than two (2) candidates*

### **Rex Good**

I have owned several homes in the Russian River area for 8 years. I'm running for RRROC because I want to help the Russian River community organize a cohesive plan for use of redevelopment dollars in a way that helps all of us feel connected and thrive.

I own and operate my business in Guerneville, and see a strong need to help a great number of our residents find shelter and social, medical, and psychological assistance so that they aren't self medicating and living on the streets. As a property owner and a main street business owner I see the neglect of this situation as the single biggest problem in our community. It is my belief that this beautiful one of a kind area in northern California can thrive best both by taking care of

those in need, and also by promoting a tourism trade that will bring in much needed revenue for the business community.

I'm a pro-active, win-win person, who believes that a positive attitude and the will and desire to listen to others creates an environment where all people flourish.

I look forward to your support, and to bringing positive energy to our redevelopment challenges.

Thank you for your vote.

### **Tom Lynch (incumbent)**

I've served on the Russian River Redevelopment Oversight Committee since its beginning in 2001. We've gone through a learning curve, of how best to serve our communities; making the Lower Russian River area a better place to live and work. My experience will help meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

If honored with re-election, part of my goal is preventing Sonoma County from reducing our funding levels; we need to keep local tax dollars here serving our community. Our library, Fire Services and Recreation and Parks Districts, along with services to children and seniors need help. I serve on the Housing Task Group with some exciting new solutions to affordable housing.

Like the Scottish singer Susan Boyle singing "I Dreamed a Dream" on Britain's Got Talent. I share with others a dream of revitalizing the River area. Ideas include improvements to Guerneville and Monte Rio Parks, and creation of a new conference facility and event center at the River Theatre. A seismic retrofit and flood elevation, making a 500 person capacity indoor venue, with a beautiful river view deck, lots of permeable parking; and downstairs, an indoor swimming pool open year round serving visitors and locals alike.

### **Ken Wikle (incumbent as business owner)**

I have been a member of RRROC for four years, and its chairperson for the past two years. I have served on and chaired RRROC subcommittees and task groups.

The Russian River Redevelopment Project will have a great deal of money to spend in the coming years, money that can bring important improvements to the community. I will continue to insist that it be spent wisely, and that we protect the fragile rural charm and natural beauty of our community.

Some of my other credentials: I have undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, and have been a lawyer for 39 years. As a volunteer firefighter/EMT for Monte Rio Fire, I respond to about 370 emergency calls per year. I'm a member of the board and past president of the Friends of Villa Grande, a non-profit that recently purchased Patterson Point/Villa Grande Beach so that it will remain in public use. I'm a columnist for the Russian River Times.

I'm a RRROC member in the "business owner" category, however I plan to retire from the practice of law. Therefore, as a nine-year homeowner in Villa Grande, I am running this time in the "residential owner-occupant" category.