

CANDIDATES:
Council will make choice next week

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change of Sisters to aging. It's going to happen and the best thing to do is prepare for it. She sees lots of good things going on in Sisters, like the new roundabout.

Meeker sees the position of city manager to be one of a generalist rather than a specialist. She would like to "allow everyone's strengths to come forward," and work collaboratively, enabling everyone to do their job. She describes herself as energetic, admitting that sometimes she can be a little impatient.

She would like the residents of Sisters to know that she is "passionate about becoming part of this community."

David Miller

Current director of public works and community development for Folsom, California, David Miller would like to take all of his previous work experience and invest it in a small town where he can make a definite difference. He would like to leave his mark and have people say "it was really great to have him here."

"Sisters fits the bill," Miller said. He and his family have enjoyed past stays in Sisters.

"I love the community. I love rural Oregon, particularly east of the mountains," he explained.

Miller thinks to be a successful city manager it is necessary to listen to people and validate where they are coming from in order to build community. He enjoys talking with people, engaging them in looking for solutions.

Affordable housing, the private-public airport, and competition between the tourist industry and the need for family-wage jobs are three current issues in Sisters that Miller thinks need to be addressed.

"In every small town, there is the challenge to have enough financial resources to meet your needs," Miller said. "It's important to have an efficient staff who can multitask."

Miller said he likes to encourage his staff and he wants results.

Several things stand out to Miller as to what he is most proud of. On the one hand, when he was involved in private-sector development, he was proud of "the high quality, beautifully designed projects that built a great community."

In the public sector, he is

proud of the team he built when, due to the recession, he had to reduce his staff by half.

"I culled out the dead wood, paid better money, and built a team that was mutually supportive with total respect. I turned the talent around. Those who couldn't prosper, left," he said.

Miller served as the community development director for two years in La Grande, which had a population of 14,000. He would like to return to the Pacific Northwest, as he has family in Washington.

"Oregon is my favorite place in the U.S.," he said.

Miller is a musician who plays guitar and a little keyboard in a band. He graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He grew up in Spokane.

Brant Kucera

Brant Kucera has spent the last 18 years in management of small towns. That's why the job opportunity here in Sisters appealed to him. He sees Sisters as a small town that is growing, and he likes the excitement that comes with that growth.

Kucera has been the city manager of Cannon Beach for the past two-plus years. He explained that Cannon Beach is slow-growing and doesn't see itself ever being much different. The residents have a very distinct picture of what the town is and will stay.

“Employees are the key factor to success. I need to be sure we are all on the same page. It is important to make sure employees are happy.”
— Brant Kucera

He sees Sisters embracing what could be with the opportunity for growth, while maintaining its distinctive community character. Kucera has spent time in Sisters and finds it a charming town.

"Sisters has a small-town character and charm, and yet it is next to larger metropolitan areas of Bend and Redmond," he said.

Kucera manages by inclusion. He believes the workplace needs to be a place that is comfortable, since so much time is spent at work. When he arrived in Cannon Beach he found a city staff that had a lack of trust for management. Kucera concentrated very hard on building trust with the employees.

"Employees are the key factor to success," Kucera said. "I need to be sure we are all on the same page. It is important to make sure employees are happy."

Kucera described himself as a consensus-builder who is very team-oriented. He doesn't believe in micromanaging his staff.

"I am dependent on them to make good decisions," he said.

His off-work hours are spent enjoying the outdoors in any weather, where he said he finds peace. Kucera describes himself as "an avid outdoors person and runner." He is also an avid reader and likes to write short fiction.

A native of Pennsylvania, Kucera came west for his undergraduate program at University of Idaho where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in geography. He went on to earn a masters in public administration from Northern Michigan University.

Prior to assuming the city manager duties in Cannon Beach, Kucera was borough manager for the Borough of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for six years where he supervised 32 full-time employees. Before that he was city manager of Gladstone, MI, the city treasurer in Munising, MI, and the assistant city supervisor for the City of Moscow, Idaho.

When asked what he is most proud of in relation to his career, Kucera said, "Every city that I've managed, I've left a better place than when I arrived, and I think the citizens would agree with that."

Kucera "loves municipal government" and believes there is "a lot we can do to improve citizens' lives."

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