

Patterson

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up in the Santa Cruz Mountains and first moved to Malibu at age 15. He is running a dual campaign with fellow candidate Andy Lyon.

Why should people vote for Hamish Patterson?

I represent the public. I am an outsider to the political machine, I come with fresh ideas, fresh perspectives. I don't believe the Sacramento way is the way to handle local problems. I think that Malibu is the center of some sort of unique space on our planet, and I think it's time to use that cache to solve our problems, and I don't see it happening.

What is your background?

Carpenter/artist. I haven't picked up my skill saw in about six months, which has been great. [Carpentry is] my bread-and-butter fall back, but... [YouTube] kind of enabled me to pursue my artistic endeavors, which pay the bills. I sort of have an ongoing life/video blog that I make little skateboarding / surf movies, but I also interview a lot of skaters. And it's sort of Spicoli's version of spirituality. And it's kind of taken off in a real subtle way around the world, like I have a worldwide following of young kids that are watching what's going on. So, it's opened all these interesting doors, like these ad agencies have flown me out to London.

A couple years ago I had a really bad back injury. And I got scared. I didn't know if I was going to be able to work as a carpenter anymore, I didn't know if I was going to be able to work or skate. I do sharpie art, sharpie on white cardboard has become my medium. And I [showed] my first one on YouTube, and someone offered to buy it. I was kind of shocked by that, and I made a bunch of them and just put prices on them, and that first week I think I sold 3,500 bucks of art immediately and just went to Chile for a while, like, "I'm going surfing now!" I'd love to paint, but I live in a small place up at Point Dume Club where I can't make a mess.

What experience do you have in public policy or in private sector leadership roles?

My first civic engagement is being involved in getting what's now the Sarah Wan Trail. I went and got 150 signatures. That was

in the late '80s. And then I moved up to Portland, Ore. to pursue my writing career, and got really involved in saving old-growth forests... that was my first engagement with the federal government United States Forest Service

As that sort of morphed I got really involved with Portland's drinking water supply... They were trying to switch from the gravity-fed [water supply] to pumping uphill out of the Willamette River, and we formed a political action committee that was designed to change the city charter to say that they couldn't switch the drinking water supply without a majority ... we just barely didn't pull it off so it was sort of a defeat but it got my feet really wet in the process.

Then at a certain point like I faded out of that and I moved to Pennsylvania to run my girlfriend's dude ranch. I started from the bottom and ended managing the whole dude ranch. Anything from taking reservations to running the bar to making sure the food showed up for hundreds of people.

What are your two specific things you want to achieve if you get on the council, and how will you achieve them?

My most important thing is youth facilities. I think there's a dire need for youth facilities, whether it be a skate park, ballfield, I think that we need to designate an area of our city that is specifically for youth and civic activities, and brings our seniors and youths together to provide a platform for activities.

The first thing I think we need to do is create a youth facilities commission... They would go engage commercial property owners, private property owners and various entities in our community to get some acreage for these kids to have their facilities.

[The second is] the PCH. I think every civic problem in our community may stem from the PCH. We're not addressing it, that's the problem. We're being told that everything's out of our hands... I think we need to prioritize traffic safety zones. There's five major zones that I see - Trancas, Heathercliff, Paradise Cove, the fish market at Corral, and Cross Creek. [The City Council should]

specifically designate a task force zone, where we get all the stakeholders in there, get all the agencies involved, and we apply the weight of the City of Malibu, all our contacts in the state government, and we handle it immediately. We don't wait for it and say it's out of our hands and do some studies. Like, we get in there and call some special city council meetings—whatever it takes to get these issues handled. We're not using our cache as a community.

What is one of your weaknesses?

My biggest weakness is how people perceive me. People want to marginalize me as some surfer obstructionist. Which I think is the fault of our whole society, people want to judge the package instead of the content. For me that's the hardest thing for people to get around— is there a brain inside that guy? Can we sit down and discuss this or do I just get to be Spicoli? And I've heard it before, and I'm cool with it. I don't take myself that seriously. But I'm dead serious about what this [election] is about. Like this is no joke for me. I'm 100 percent serious about tackling what's going on down there. I think my other biggest weakness is people consider me an "anti-" guy. I'm a "pro" guy. I'm just pro— using the tools of our community.

Infrastructure

We live in Water District 29. Water district 29 is an aging, archaic infrastructure that hasn't been updated in a long time. At the current estimated price it's a quarter of a billion dollars to upgrade Water District 29 (in Malibu). So when I hear about Civic Center development, and the potential for them to have to treat 600,000 gallons of water on any given day, I keep asking, "Where are you getting the water from, how are you getting 600,000 gallons of water to Malibu in an aging infrastructure that needs a quarter billion dollar retrofit?" and no one seems to be able to tell me anything about that, and it alarms me... why are we adding more pieces to the puzzle when we can't address the pieces we've got right now? That chunk of development is a huge piece of the Malibu puzzle.

Debate

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Malibu Times Managing Editor Knowles Adkisson questions incumbent City Councilwoman Laura Rosenthal during a Rotary Club candidates forum last Wednesday at Pepperdine University.

Band-Aid that would stop the bleeding a little while, but would not solve the problem," La Monte said. "I don't think the amount of Starbucks you have in the place is really what determines what your city is like."

The City Council voted 3-2 in November 2012 to draft a formula retail ordinance to limit chain stores in the Civic Center area, with La Monte and current Mayor Joan House voting against the measure. The vote followed uproar over the closure of locally owned restaurant Point Pizza.

But in September 2013, with community group Preserve Malibu threatening to bring a formula retail ordinance directly to voters via a ballot initiative if the council did not act, the council delayed a vote on the measure until November. Some Preserve Malibu members later suggested the delayed vote was intended to relieve pressure and draw out the process.

Rosenthal said at last week's debate that the city council had not stalled efforts to implement some type of guidelines for commercial shopping centers in Malibu. Instead, the city has drawn out the public input process to assure all sides are heard.

"Some of the developers say, 'Well, you're stalling, you're stalling,'" Rosenthal said. "It's really about elongating the process."

Louks criticized the current council for deciding to hire a consultant to draft the specific plan and design guidelines at an estimated \$650,000 while ignoring opponents of the idea.

"The specific plan we're embarking on, here again, we're spending a

lot of money," Louks said. "...Our city can do a much better job engaging our community."

Challengers Andy Lyon, Hamish Patterson and Louks all said they were in support of the ballot initiative. "It's about people feeling connected to what is going to happen in the Civic Center," Lyon said. He suggested the city begin offering informative study sessions to the public regarding long-term projects planned in the civic center.

Patterson raised the issue of infrastructure stability in the Civic Center. With several shopping centers and a hotel project in the works, he fears the city is unprepared for an onslaught of traffic and emergency situations. "Once these developments go beyond a certain size, they begin to affect the infrastructure of our community," he said.

Nonincumbents address experience

Louks, a seven-year Malibu resident, said she spent 16 years as a Mary Kay cosmetics salesperson before becoming an architect. She would be holding her first public office if elected, but said she was ready for the new role.

"I haven't been political, or career-oriented, but I have experience speaking in front of thousands of people," she said.

Patterson has experience serving on a Malibu subcommittee that sought to find a new skate park location. He also listed his leadership experience as a former manager of a "dude ranch" in Pennsylvania and said he worked to improve watershed management problems in Portland, Ore., in the 1990s.

Lyon said the challenges he's faced as a single father of four children honed his management and budgeting skills. When asked if that experience was analogous to managing a city with millions of dollars in its coffers, he said yes.

"When you're looking at living within your means in the city and making decisions, yeah, it's just on a different scale," Lyon said. "You're going to be budgeting, you're going to be looking at what you can afford and can't afford."

Rosenthal and La Monte detailed their own backgrounds as a contrast. La Monte was involved in the Big Rock board of directors, served on the city's public works commission and on the view protection task force before being elected to the council in 2010.

Rosenthal served as a PTA board member, parks and recreation commissioner and public works commissioner before being elected to the council in 2010.

When asked whether she felt Louks, Patterson and Lyon possessed the requisite experience to serve on the council, Rosenthal said she did not.

"I just feel that you need experience working within the city commissions, committees, understanding the budgets, having gone through a lot of that," she said. "So do I think that they have those experiences within our city? No, they don't."

The city clerk's office began mailing out permanent vote-by-mail residents on Tuesday. City Clerk Lisa Pope said her office began processing new absentee ballot requests this week and mailing those out as well. Election day is Tues., April 8.

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