

Sally McLaughlin
Candidate for Seat D, a two-year term
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Biographical Information:

My roots in Gustavus are very deep having first arrived with my family on the banks of the Salmon River as a young child in 1961. Although we continued to live in Juneau in the winters, I spent summers here until 1965 when my family purchased the Gustavus Inn and moved here full time. I attended the Gustavus School, Juneau-Douglas High School and correspondence courses completed at home in Gustavus.

I have lived in Juneau, Sitka, Anchorage and Fairbanks as well as Gustavus for most summers, and now full time for the past 16 years. I have owned and operated three businesses in Gustavus, managed a restaurant in Fairbanks, spent eighteen years working for Juneau, Anchorage and Chatham school districts, and raised two daughters in Juneau and Gustavus. Both girls and my two grandchildren call Gustavus home as well. I also served on the Chatham Regional School Board for six years.

Advocacy Statement:

We choose to live in Gustavus for diverse reasons, and come from different backgrounds, but we also have many shared values and visions. I strive to find the perfect blend of living life how it used to be and embracing the changes we've seen here over the years. I will strive to find that balance as a council member as well.

Gustavus is, in my opinion, in the awkward teenage stage of growth. We kind of want to be one of the big kids but really we are still small stuff. We need to accept that, pimples and all, and work together to find ways to nurture positive growth in our community while keeping a tight rein on spending and city government overreach, until we have sufficient population growth and/or increased revenues to begin to expand services and add personnel. Change is inevitable and with proper public input and discourse we can come to consensus.

I want to see the beach Cooperative Management Plan continue to be implemented with minimal negative impact to users while making it more accessible to those with limited mobility. I would work to see that the Strategic Plan is updated and reflects the needs and wishes of the people of Gustavus. The strategic plan, and the vision and mission statements, should guide us in all of our deliberations.

My strongest wish is that disenfranchised community members feel that they are heard and valued and are encouraged to become more involved in the issues that matter to them.