

Lewis Sharman

City Council Seat A, 1 year left of a 3-year term ending 2022

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Biographical Information

Alabama born and bred, I'm a fairly long-time Gustavus resident (seasonal starting in 1982, full-time since 1991). I earned B.S. degrees in Wildlife Biology and Botany from Colorado State University, and a M.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. In the 70s and 80s I worked as a natural resource specialist (wildlife, plants, soils, etc.) and interpreter/educator at several national parks and forests in the lower 48 and Alaska. I spent a career as Ecologist at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (retired 12/2018). Starting in the early 90s I served a few years on the pre-City Gustavus Community Association. I have been active in several issues/policy areas of the city (e.g., GER, DRC, crane flats, beach, boat harbor/marine facilities) over the years. I served for several years on the Gustavus Advisory School Board, including as Chair. I enjoy solving challenging problems in team settings. Mostly I enjoy being outside.

Advocacy Statement

In general, I'm an advocate of decision-making based on data-driven science. I'm influenced by evidence, demonstrable facts, and the preponderance of professional opinion. I do not subscribe to conspiracy theories. I believe it is possible to be a social liberal and a fiscal conservative at the same time. Relevant to Gustavus, I have no particular raving agendas that diverge much from our current trajectory, and I am a strong supporter of the current Vision Statement and Strategic Plan. I do confess to dreaming that one day Gustavus could serve as a model for how to run a city government (and perhaps one day an entire community) that is effectively carbon-neutral – and I have some ideas for how to start down that path. Overall, I've been pretty pleased with the decisions made by the Council in recent years, and I look forward to helping continue that good work. I'd like to find ways to more effectively engage the full ideological spectrum of Gustavus folks. For those feeling disenfranchised, I'm interested in finding real ways to give you more of a voice in local politics. I'm a champion of good governance, high ethical standards, engagement, and transparency. I believe the best way for folks to understand one another is to talk face-to-face, building on a shared foundation that undergirds why we've all chosen to live here.