

## Leadership for Sun Valley's Future

### Nils Ribí – July 22, 2005 Press Conference - Text of Speech – Sun Valley, Idaho

"Good morning and thank you all so very much for being here.

My name is Nils Ribí and I'm running for a seat on the Sun Valley City Council. I'd like to introduce my wife Patti, without her support, I wouldn't be here today.

I first came here to ski in Sun Valley in the early 1960's with my family, and I came back almost every year after that. This place has always been incredible.

The magic of Sun Valley brought Patti and me here full time, almost 20 years ago. It has kept us here. Hard work will be needed if we are to keep that magic in the future.

Where we stand today and what we see from here represents all the great values we've come to expect and appreciate in Sun Valley: open space, undisturbed hillsides, appropriate development, a successful resort, clean air and clean water and an engaged community.

It's vitally important that these values be protected, as our City faces the potential for significant growth. The Sun Valley Resort is preparing to implement its visionary master plan, and the City is completing its 10-year Comprehensive Plan Update.

To make these happen properly, a concerted, forward thinking effort, with strong leadership on the Council is going to be necessary. That is why I'm running.

Having served nearly six years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, I have a unique view into how our City operates.

We are now fortunate to have Mayor Thorson's leadership. He has changed the composition of the P&Z and it now has a balance that more reflects our community. I am currently its Chairman, having been elected by my fellow Commissioners.

For the past 16 months I have also been part of a group of citizens who has worked diligently to draft a new Comprehensive Plan that reflects the community's vision and establishes goals and actual implementation procedures to attain that vision.

I have taken a leadership role, many times against the toughest critics, to work for those things I feel are important to the long-term values we all hold for our community.

But when I talk to members of the community I hear a loud call, that as with the P&Z, change is also needed on the City Council. It is time for fresh ideas, fresh energy and leadership.

They want a Councilperson who will be consistent in his values, consistent in his determination and consistent in his judgment. They want a Councilperson whose interests are broad in reach. I am that person.

I held firm in my opposition to inappropriate development in places like the entryway to the City above Lane Ranch, and also on the high exposed ridgeline at Crown Ranch.

That is why I was determined to make sure we secured trailhead access at places like the end of Fairway road and access to open space at several places across the Elkhorn Golf Course.

That is why I worked hard with the Sun Valley Resort and others to lead the community housing ordinances through the process to make sure they passed.

That is why I fought for the Dark Sky Ordinance and most importantly, why I fought so hard for the Hillside Protection Ordinance at the P&Z.

You want someone who will never give up the fight for what is right for our community.

As we look to the future, we need to be planning for development. It is going to happen in Sun Valley. Our citizens deserve to know that when it happens, it will appropriately respect their rights too and preserve the character of our community.

But being on the City Council is more than that.

In addition to independence, leadership, energy and a fresh perspective, I will bring to the Council a wealth of experience from the private sector that can be put to immediate use.

I have been the CEO of a publicly held corporation, served on the Boards of many private companies and understand the complexities and values of good planning, financial responsibility and accountability to shareholders.

In my current work, I help entrepreneurs with their long-range planning and financing strategies. The understanding of corporate responsibility, leadership and success, and yes the lessons learned from the occasional failure, are all tools I will bring to the Council.

The decisions made in the next four years may well determine how Sun Valley will not only look, but how it will prosper long into the future. Those decisions cannot be made lightly and they cannot be made hastily.

We must pursue a proactive interest in the City's future through long-range planning and budgeting to provide for a stable local economy. Creating a fair tax structure will keep the City healthy and protect property values, without unjustly burdening property taxpayers.

As we look to the future, we need to be thinking of the larger community we live in, and what we need to do to plan and work with our neighbors on issues like transportation, housing, water, and the local economy. Cooperating regionally will have significant benefits for us in cost savings and quality of life.

To accomplish these important goals requires a dedicated commitment to hard work, and openness to fresh thinking and ideas. This is something I am not afraid of, it is something I embrace.

As your City Councilperson, I will commit myself to this position just like I would to any other. I will give it my full attention. The complexities of what the City will be facing in the next four years will demand it. You should expect nothing less from your elected leaders.

I have an excellent working relationship with the City staff from my position on the P&Z over the years. In my P&Z role I have also established a working relationship with some of the members of the Council to solve some complex legislation issues. This is the type of positive cooperation we need to embrace.

Your leaders need to think ahead, they need to understand the people's vision and when they do, they can avert crisis, and in the long run avoid wasting taxpayers' money.

A balanced legislative environment, where citizens' input is sought, and where public debate at the Council level is open and transparent will make this happen.

This is the leadership I will bring to the City Council.

But the most important thing I can bring to the Council is actually something no one can learn in school or on the job. It is simply an ethic of hard work, dedication and a value to do one's best to do the right thing for Sun Valley, a City we all truly cherish and want to see properly managed and developed for generations to come.

Let's keep that magic alive.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity and sharing this day with Patti and me.

I would be happy to take your questions now."