



Gore Valley Wildlife Habitat - Vail is a city designed to coexist with nature.

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Letters to Vail

Working to Make Vail Better – Part 2

July 17, 2023

The Vail Homeowners Association will host its Annual Meeting on Monday, July 17th at 1:00 p.m., in the Vail Public Library. The meeting is open to all, and we urge concerned citizens to attend. Parking is available in the Lionshead Transportation Center. Subjects for discussion include events of the past year and what the VHA forecasts will be up for consideration in 2023-2024.

Vail is transitioning to a new era. Many of the issues driving and dividing the community are coming to resolution, a sign of healthy progress. Special thanks to the current Town Council and other community groups who had the foresight and political courage to initiate the Booth Heights condemnation proceedings.

This Booth Heights condemnation decision is important on many fronts. It shows that a determined and dedicated group of citizens, using truth and the moral high ground, can prevail against seemingly overwhelming odds. Our efforts to preserve what is good about our community is resonating throughout the tourism industry. We have struck common themes among other corporate controlled mountain ski towns. The challenges before us in our mutual relationship with the ski industry goes well beyond the preservation of wildlife and providing workforce housing.

There was a great deal of influence wielded by an army of unsung people and groups who lobbied, emailed, wrote letters, attended every Vail Planning Commission and Council meeting related to

the issue. Key people reached large numbers of people via media. We worked with each other to inform and encourage action on the issue. VHA's role was to ring political alarm bells, keep watch on a smoldering fire and shine a light in the darkness on constructive solutions.

Now that the condemnation decision has been taken by the court, both sides should sit down and decide on a fair price for the property. A mutual settlement will show good faith on everyone's part to have learned from this experience. We have a shared desire to continue onto create even better experiences for each other and our guests.

An assessment committee is to evaluate appraisals ranging from \$5 million to \$22 million. Sources say because of its geography, the Booth Heights, 22.3 acres, has marginal development value. A comparably situated site in Edwards was recently purchased for \$5 million. The Court holds a \$12 million deposit from the TOV until the final purchase price is set.

The case is not yet over. We must be patient. If the parties do not agree on the price to be paid, the Judge makes the final/final decision in September. We should use this interval to seek common ground with the ski company and among each other.

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