



**2023 Vail Town Council Election – Give voice to hope rather than ridicule.**

**VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

# ***Letters to Vail***

**October 10, 2022**

**2023 Vail Town Council election – Changing Perspectives.**

Unless there is a major change in VR's attitude, the TOV's persistence at seeking an amicable settlement to preserve the Booth Heights bighorn sheep habitat may have run its course. Although the Town has offered multiple solutions to VR, the company has rejected them all. Given the generous nature of the Town offers, it seems apparent that this is about something more than a good business decision. While VR proports to be interested in providing more employee housing as soon as possible, it walked away from a swap that would have provided the same number of units, at a much more desirable location (the main Vail entrance), and which would have been available next year. And if what VR says about housing were true, it could have built housing on it's Ever Vail property years ago. Instead, VR is forcing the Town to condemn the property. Maybe this isn't a business decision but rather an effort to send a message to the TOV and all other communities where it does business to not get in VR's way on anything.

Now the Town has to commence condemnation proceedings. To finance that lawsuit, the Council has authorized public contributions to augment the previously approved \$12 million budget expenditure. This will not be an easy litigation. VR can be expected to make it as difficult and drawn out as possible.

The process could take years to conclude. Whether the TOV persists is a question of who is elected to the Town Council in next year's election. Three of the current Town Council are term limited. A fourth must stand for re-election. They form the backbone of the condemnation effort.



**Wildlife fencing has begun in West Vail. When completed, it will help prevent animals from being struck along I-70 in Vail.**

It is likely there will be an effort by Vail Resorts to influence the outcome of the election in their own favor. It is critical to have vacant seats filled with likeminded people. The Town Council can decide, at any time, not to pursue the condemnation further.

The outpouring of public participation to protect East Vail's bighorn sheep habitat is a reflection of the community's desire to preserve its local identity. These happenings have importance beyond the observable.

Long standing schisms among some special interests are healing as highly valued community assets and aspirations come under threat. Confidence in collaborative community action is on the rise. These are seismic shifts.

A new generation of leadership is demonstrating independence from those who bully, mislead and stonewall. Citizens are calling for truth and transparency. Compromise and honesty are gaining in prominence.

Recent adjustments in the allocation of community resources have the potential to incentivize qualitative rather than quantitative performance. Transportation and housing tools now exist that could balance occupancy and ownership.

Shortages in workforce housing demonstrate that the ratio of employees per business needs to be increased. Known as the commercial linkage, the ratio establishes the number of employee housing units per business required of new development. Commercial linkage was adopted in 2008 and has proven to be effective but inadequate.

Competitive pressures for government housing subsidies are less likely to favor larger employers, placing greater emphasis upon property owners to provide higher density workforce housing opportunities. Commuting distances between work, housing and services are expanding, spurring improvements in transportation and work-related communication systems.

An expansive reallocation of TOV parking and delivery access passes in the Town center is occurring which, if successful, could incentivize qualitative life-style improvements by reducing congestion through increasing reliance upon reservation-based transportation and electronic commerce opportunities.

The Vail community is known for its activism. The Vail Homeowners Association believes qualified candidates for public office are obligated to make their views known on the important issues that affect the lives of Vail voters and owners. Truthfulness and trust are the currency of effective leadership. Unless people are willing to get out and work to find and get good candidates elected, all that has been accomplished over the past five years could go down to defeat, yielding a less desirable outcome for the community's future.

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VHA provides clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. We intend to promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. If these are issues that concern you, please make your views known to [town officials](#). Public discussion of current issues by concerned citizens creates an environment to further community initiatives. We heartily encourage your input in shaping the road ahead.

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Receive VHA letters and reports as a Paid-Subscriber or Member.

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