

Letters to Vail

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

TOV/DRB Equal Treatment Controversy Village Row & Townhouses

December 27, 2021

There is currently the perception among aggrieved parties of injustice involving the Town of Vail (TOV), its Design Review Board (DRB), Community Development Department (CDD) staff and owners within the Vail Village Town House zone district (VVT) that contains the Vail Row and Townhouses. The controversy involves equal treatment principles related to master planning, zoning and design review and an alleged attempt to avoid compliance with regulatory procedures in the Town Code.

Currently, presentations by the public before the Design Review Board are limited to three-minutes, as are those imposed on public presentations before the Town of Vail Town Council and the Planning Commission. The 3-minute limit denies the public a right to present timely all-inclusive verbal argument. Justice is never served when the public is denied equal treatment and rights to speak and the authorities allow applicants unlimited opportunities to jawbone and dominate the proceedings.

Arising from the Vail Row and Town Houses, this dispute involves an applicant making representations alleged to be misleading, neither true nor factual. If ignored, the false representations could damage the integrity of the Town of Vail governance of master planning, zoning and design review mandates. At the next DRB hearing, which could occur as soon as January 5, 2022, aggrieved parties to this discussion may challenge validity of the proceedings.

The 3-minute rule should be suspended to allow non-repetitive, unrestrained, timely testimony from the public which expresses and accurately reflects both public and property owner concerns. The existing limit makes it impossible to present a factual refutation of these alleged falsehoods. Reviewing parties and authorities should be given ample time to give studied consideration and respond to the issue at hand and maintain integrity in our process.

This is a new format for VHA reports to members. More letters will follow. They will be shorter, easier to read and digest and, generally, address single subjects. VHA hopes these letters will promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. Public discussion of current issues by concerned citizens creates an environment to further our community initiatives. We heartily encourage your input and, from time to time, will publish commentary from community members. It is time we talk to each other about the next steps along our road ahead.

We hope you will follow or participate in this ongoing VHA discussion. You are welcome to join-in as a paid-subscriber or member. Contact: vailhomeownersassoc@gmail.com

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