



# *Letters to Vail*

## **VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION VHA - Purpose and Accomplishments February 1, 2024**

Robust expansion of commercial activity in the 1980s created public safety hazards from ever increasing truck deliveries in the Town centers. Approaches to reduce hazards and improve the efficiency of deliveries were sought. One of the proposed solutions was to relocate deliveries onto streets, open spaces and parking lots in adjacent residential neighborhoods.

This prospect motivated a coalition of residential owners and condominium associations to form the Vail Homeowners Association (VHA). Its purpose was, and is, to identify and advocate for constructive solutions compatible with the interests of residents, businesses and guests. VHA holds the view that ‘good governance’ avoids the granting of special privileges by adhering to requirements that all property owners receive equal treatment in the same or similar circumstances.

Early on, VHA initiated negotiations with the Town of Vail (TOV) and Vail Resorts (VR) over common concerns about keeping pace with evolving consumer demands and expectations for a vibrant world-class recreational experience and quality bed base. These discussions stimulated multilevel planning initiatives, leading to the investment of millions of dollars in upgrading deficient services and facilities known as the Vail Renaissance projects.

Resort community planning involves identifying means and methods to sequence commercial and residential development while balancing tourism demands with available labor resources, services and environmental constraints. To accomplish complex projects requires mediating conflicting opinions about what is best for both the community's commercial and residential interests. To that end, [VHA publishes occasionally controversial reports and Letters to Vail](#), building public awareness for its initiatives.

-VHA participated in shaping master plans for Vail Village, Lionshead, West Vail and community parks. Those plans opened the way for redevelopment, allowing for the expansion of tourism and workforce housing in concert with support services and environmental preservation initiatives.

-As a result, well planned redevelopment of hotels and retail businesses occurred in Vail Village and Lionshead, reducing the negative effects in adjacent residential neighborhoods. Included in VHA's efforts were actions to protect Gore Creek waterways and reduce the negative effects from I-70.

-As the community progressed, VHA built public support for projects that ultimately removed delivery trucks from public streets by requiring delivery terminals in redevelopment projects.

-VHA helped gain support for mass transit and developments that remove eyesores by encouraging parking in enclosed structures and routing traffic away from residential areas.

-The Association perseveres in keeping public and private open space lands from being encroached upon for incompatible uses such as surface parking lots and unintended development.

-VHA continues to support measures to restore the impaired Gore Creek fishery, protect wildlife habitat and landscape consistent with the founders intent to build the Vail community in harmony with nature, to prevent the appearance of urban sprawl, and to create fire breaks to suppress the spread of wildfire.

The success of these efforts with VHA's support is dependent upon coordination of public and private development investment. Aggressive investment in commercial development has brought us to the culminating stage of providing appropriate housing for the community's workforce and is proceeding with the support of VHA.

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VHA serves the Vail community with information having a perspective not readily found elsewhere. Our publications and activities are funded by membership dues and contributions from paid-subscribers and readers. By joining with VHA, as a member, paid-subscriber or reader, you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues.

VHA strives to provide clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town.

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