

From: Anne Esson <alesson055@gmail.com>

Date: January 1, 2017 at 4:50:48 PM MST

To: <openlandsupdate@vailgov.com>, <towncouncil@vailgov.com>

Cc: Editor Ed Stoner <letters@vaildaily.com>

Subject: Open House Response

Ladies, gentlemen of the Study Committee & Town Council:

Because I was assisting Dr. Steinberg at the 1st Open House, I had little time to speak with others or personally use the comment forms. My sincere thanks to all for giving the community these opportunities to participate in the planning process at this starting point of deliberations & decision-making. I am especially grateful to Gregg Barrie for walking me through the East Vail area where some of the proposed trails are located, and then Dec. 28th for sitting with Dr. Steinberg to discuss the parcels and their possible uses, who understandably cares very deeply about the possible uses.

My own comments at present are as follows.

1. Build workforce housing wherever it is economically and environmentally possible. These spots are few enough but could offer some relief to a major problem.
2. Do not waste time & money on purchase of parcels that do not fit these criteria, unless it would protect our threatened watershed.
3. Under no circumstances develop trails in "open lands" that currently insure healthy wildlife, or are home to our highly specialized native species, including our fragile plants, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals. I am aghast that the conceptual mountain bike trail on the north side of the Booth Creek area is proposed to encroach on the shelf used by Bighorns & even Mountain Goats as a nursery and respite area in snow months. I am also upset that the south valley trail would run above the Memorial Park just below the historical & current Peregrine nest site (which I monitor annually). This would highly likely drive the birds away. It seems also insensitive to encourage aggressive bike use so near the Memorial Park.
4. Do engage professionals to produce a Biodiversity Study of these areas, as Pitkin County has done, before any decisions on development.
Vail's goal of a Sustainable Community demands this. Our tourism culture based demands it.
5. Since living in California in the 80's and hiking frequently in Marin County, I have followed efforts to make trails compatible to both mountain bikers & hikers. They are still a source of conflict despite best efforts. In Tucson this last winter I again witnessed open hostility between morning walkers & bikers on popular trails. During my own hikes in West Vail, especially if I venture onto the North Trail during summer & fall months, and even occasionally on the Buffehr Trail extension used by so many walkers, I am forced to jump into bushes or cling to crumbling hillsides. No biker has ever yielded to me on a trail, though surprise & speed has sometimes led to falls by both of us. I do not believe these two user groups can ever be truly compatible. On the other hand, East Vail's asphalt trails are a huge success, wide enough for rules of the road to prevail, as well as mutual respect by almost all users. Soft trails are a different matter. Please don't kid yourselves.

In appreciation for all your effort,

Anne Esson

KPETER B AND LUCY F DUNNING

1461 Greenhill Court
Vail, Colorado 81657

January 4, 2017

Council Members,

Being in California for much of the winter, I am unable to attend the public meetings to discuss Open Space and Donovan Park. Therefore I will make my opinions directly available to you.

Open Space has always been important to the Town of Vail and its people. The 1980 Real Estate Transfer Tax was passed to acquire and maintain land for open space, parks and recreation. Donovan Park was the first acquisition later that year. Since then, twice previous councils have seriously discussed transferring some of that land from open space to property to be developed into high density housing. Twice neighbors have signified their displeasure by taking legal steps against the Town. Twice the Town has backed down, acknowledging the original intent of the tax. What has changed in 2017? The intent was fortified by the Comprehensive Open Lands Plan in 1995. If this very clear intent is to be changed, let it be by the voice of the people who live in the Town of Vail.

Many property buyers have asked the Town about nearby open space and been assured that open space could not be changed. That assurance contributed to the decision to become property owners. Open Space continues to be very important for the citizens and property owners of Vail. The Town of Vail has been remarkably successful in the past few decades. Let's remember what has made this happen and not allow the Town of Vail to be converted into the City of Vail.

Pete Dunning

Andrew and Becky Morley
1458 Greenhill Court
Vail, Colorado 81657
(303) 440-3456
andrew@montiscapital.com

January 6, 2017

Dear Vail Town Council Members,

I am writing to provide my input to the discussions you are holding regarding the open space and Donovan Park.

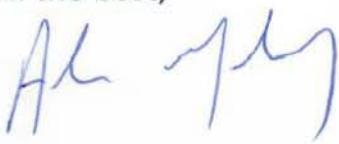
Open space has always been important to the Town of Vail and its residents. The 1980 Real Estate Transfer Tax was passed to acquire and maintain land for open space, parks and recreation. Donovan Park was the first acquisition later that year under this tax provision.

The Town of Vail has previously discussed transferring some open space land so that it could be developed into high density housing. Each time, the neighborhood residents have indicated their disagreement with these proposals by taking legal steps against the Town, and in each instance, the Town of Vail has acknowledged the original intent of the tax and dropped the discussions. The intent to maintain the open space land was further reinforced by the Comprehensive Open Lands Plan in 1995. If this very clear intent to maintain the designation of the open space is to be changed, it should be done only with the consent and support of the residents of Vail.

We and many other property buyers purchased property only after receiving the assurance from the Town of Vail that the open space designation of nearby property could not be changed. That assurance contributed to the decision of many Vail residents to purchase properties. Open Space continues to be very important for the citizens and property owners of Vail.

The Town of Vail has been remarkably successful in the past few decades, working with its residents and other organizations. Please keep in mind what has facilitated this success and do not allow the Town of Vail to be converted into the City of Vail.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AL' followed by a stylized flourish.

Andrew Morley

Matt Panfil

From: Suzanne Silverthorn
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Matt Panfil; Kristen Bertuglia; George Ruther
Subject: Fwd: Open Lands Update for Jan 16

Fyi

Suzanne Silverthorn, APR
Director of Communications
Town of Vail
970-479-2115
970-471-1361 (cell)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Louthan <bob.louthan@comcast.net>
Date: January 16, 2017 at 4:52:49 PM MST
To: Suzanne Silverthorn <ssilverthorn@vailgov.com>
Subject: Re: Open Lands Update for Jan 16

Suzanne,
Glad to help!

I sure hope the Town doesn't use Open Space tax money for housing.

I'm acutely aware of the need for affordable housing for persons working in Vail (we searched extensively for housing for our Grandson who is a rookie this year on the Vail Ski Patrol),, but I think using ANY tax money to subsidize expensive houses like Chamonix should be a NO NO. A Vail Daily article said to qualify for a Chamonix townhome, a purchasers' income needed to be "the area's median and up to 160% of the median" in order to qualify to buy houses costing \$400K to \$700K.. Googling "Eagle County Median Income" gets Median income = \$86,000.00. 160% (\$86K) = about \$140,000.00. That demographic DOESN'T deserve a subsidy! How about the hourly workers in Vail? And others making less than \$86,000?! They are the people we'd like to have live in Vail and they deserve a subsidy. What demographic was the Council thinking when they built subsidized houses costing a subsidized price of \$400K - \$700K??!! Terrible decision, and blatant use of tax-payer's money.

Anyway, thanks for letting me vent my steam....
Bob

On Jan 16, 2017, at 4:35 PM, Suzanne Silverthorn <ssilverthorn@vailgov.com> wrote:

Thanks for being my eyes and ears on those links!

VAIL OPEN LANDS PLAN

The Town of Vail hosted in December and January public information sessions displaying various aspects of what we call Open Lands. The sessions made available for review the 1994, 31 page, Comprehensive Open Lands Plan. The intent is to review this plan for possible major updates in the spring. Having attended the sessions and studied the plan document, I have the following comments.

[] The three sessions were well organized, staffed and attended. Further, it appeared many/most folks provided handwritten feedback to specific questions in three areas before they left. I did note the 1994 plan was prepared after hosting four sessions, running from summer into winter times--picking up our many one season residents.

[] The plan document introduced the notion of "a SYSTEM of open space uses." This conjures up the concepts of missing links affecting the whole system and synergism. Hence, a system view should help guard against making decisions for a single issue "in a vacuum."

[] The comprehensive plan document had only one reference to wildlife...."Gore Creek is an important wildlife corridor." It seems there is a need to highlight wildlife in general--while identifying additional wildlife corridors and characterizing the

types of wildlife we see in our community. In my own neighborhood, near Donovan Park Middle and Upper benches, my wife Nancy (the dawn dog walker) and I see, on both benches and the vacant land leading to Gore Creek, many wildlife varieties. Over periods of time, we have seen many bird varieties (both feeding & nesting), foxes, deer, elk, moose, bobcats, bear and yes once a mountain lion.

These comments are meant to perhaps trigger thoughts from folks who did not attend one of the three sessions--hopefully to share them with the town. Simply contact Community Relations or Community Development at 479-2100 to channel your ideas so they will be heard. Its all part of getting input to the process of reviewing the Comprehensive Open Lands Plan and its eventual effect on maintaining the beauty and enjoyment of life in Vail and surrounding areas.

Paul Rondeau

INPUT TO OPEN LANDS PUBLIC SESSIONS

Please input the following thoughts, that are de-personalized comments from a letter published in the Daily on 1/27/17 and sent to the Council on 1/21/17.

[] The three sessions were well organized, staffed and attended. I did note the 1994 plan was prepared after hosting four sessions, running from summer into winter times--picking up our many one season residents.

[] The plan document introduced the notion of "a SYSTEM of open space uses." This conjures up the concepts of missing links affecting the whole system and synergism. Hence, a system view should help guard against making decisions for a single issue "in a vacuum."

[] The comprehensive plan document had only one reference to wildlife...."Gore Creek is an important wildlife corridor." It seems there is a need to highlight wildlife in general--while identifying additional wildlife corridors and characterizing the types of wildlife we see in our community. Over a period of time, the following wildlife has been observed in the corridor running from Donovan Park's upper and middle benches, to the vacant lot below the middle bench to Gore Creek:..... many bird varieties (both feeding & nesting), foxes, deer,

elk, moose, bobcats, bears and mountain lions.

To: Vail Community Development
Subject: Public Input to Open Lands Review
Process

Highlighting two use aspects of Donovan Park
Upper and Middle benches, as a reason for
consideration to upgrade the Middle bench to
Designated Open Space:

[] Recreation Use: In the winter, on a daily basis, typically from January through March there will be dozens of skiers and boarders who come down from the top of the mountain, through the trees in the Upper Bench, crossing Matterhorn Circle and continuing down through the Middle Bench and vacant lot to Matterhorn Circle along the river. (photo attached of the "skied-out" upper bench slope)

[] Vail Fire Department Training: Probably about every three weeks on an annual basis, our fire department sets up training on upper Matterhorn Circle at the hydrant on the upper bench. They typically set up a road block of upper Matterhorn Circle extending from the eastern to the western end of the middle bench.

Matt Panfil

From: Paul Rondeau <nanpaul@vail.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:34 AM
To: George Ruther
Cc: Suzanne Silverthorn
Subject: Fwd: Public input to Open Lands process Part 2 of 2

Opps forgot the title of the photo "Skied-out slope on Donovan Park Upper Bench", noting at least half are snowboarders!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Rondeau <nanpaul@vail.net>
Subject: Public input to Open Lands process Part 2 of 2
Date: January 31, 2017 9:28:20 AM MST
To: Ruther George <gruther@vailgov.com>
Cc: Suzanne Silverthorn <ssilverthorn@vailgov.com>

