

Tammy Nagel

From: Patrick Barrett <patrick@tsgvail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:01 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Cc: Patrick Barrett
Subject: Children's Garden of Learning - CGL for 7/21/20 Town Council Public Comment

Hello Vail Town Council Members –

This email is intended to be part of the PUBLIC COMMENT period of the Vail Town Council session on Tuesday, July 21 2020. These comments are related to Children's Garden of Learning preschool.

I am a parent of 2 children currently attending Children's Garden of Learning pre-school in Vail, and a member of the Board of Directors for CGL. My wife was a teacher at CGL for many years prior to us having children.

The Children's Garden of Learning school is one of the most valuable assets that the Town of Vail has. The natural environment that CGL offers allows the youngest members of our community a place to learn and grow. As a member of the Board of Directors at CGL, I have very much appreciated the efforts put forward by the Town of Vail both in past years supporting CGL, and in our current situation with trying to find a new home for the school.

The need for high-quality early childhood education in our community is great, and I believe will continue to grow as more and more families relocate here on a full-time basis with their children. We want this for our community. We also need employee housing, I know that and the other parents at CGL know that. We are sensitive to the challenges that you are facing with the goal of creating 1,000 new employee housing units over the next several years.

Please do not allow the quest for new housing within the Town of Vail to come at the expense of the local children and families in this community. We must find a new home for CGL before the school is forced to relocate. Any interruption in CGL's ability to operate will create a HUGE problem for many local families, mine included. Pre-schools are full throughout the valley, and there is more and more demand for this valuable service.

I know that CGL will need to relocate. I accept that, and while it makes me and my family very sad to lose such a precious asset in the current CGL site (with the nature trails and amazing outdoor play space that the kids enjoy) I understand the need for housing in our community is real, and we must find a solution. I know you are doing your best.

Please ensure that a new home is identified, planned for, and constructed for CGL before they are forced to relocate in September 2021. Our community CANNOT afford to lose that school and the service it provides to our children and families. The Vail Municipal Building may be a suitable short-term solution, and we appreciate that opportunity.

As I have discussed in person with George Ruther, the Municipal building is also slated for redevelopment, so please understand that CGL knows the Municipal Building will not be its permanent home, and we need to focus on a long-term solution as well.

Thank you,
Patrick Barrett

Tammy Nagel

From: Diane Johnson <dljohnson1915@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:15 PM
To: Council Dist List; PublicInputTownCouncil; George Ruther; Tammy Nagel
Cc: letters@vaildaily.com
Subject: Children's Garden of Learning is prime habitat
Attachments: 200721_CGL location.docx

Please read the attached into the record.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Johnson
993 Lionsridge Loop
Vail, CO 81657

Children's Garden of Learning is prime habitat

July 21, 2020

Dear Vail Town Council,

The Children's Garden of Learning is prime habitat for nurturing children and families. Unfortunately, this habitat is threatened because our longstanding need for workforce housing threatened bighorn sheep habitat in another location. Yet, trophy homes are under construction in that critical bighorn sheep habitat.

CGL's habitat was carefully considered by a previous Vail Town Council. It was not easy. It was emotional. It took time. Workforce housing had to be built. Early childhood education centers had to be displaced. At the end of the day, the Middle Creek housing project was built and CGL was established, formed by combining The Learning Tree and ABC School – two critical community builders that had been operating since 1978. The natural setting, the parking and drop off, the mostly hidden from view location – they were all intentional aspects of creating a great habitat for early childhood development.

Perhaps in the early 2000s, within five years of the "Vail Tomorrow" process where we affirmed our designation as a "resort community" – both equal, neither less important than the other – we were still striving for families to LIVE in Vail. Have we lost how important it is to keep community equal to resort? Families build community.

As we lose the battle to retain families in Vail, the fallback position has been to attract workers to Vail who bring their children with them to our preschools, elementary, and K-12 schools. Diminishing a quality preschool by possibly moving it to a low-quality habitat only further degrades the community half of our resort.

Previous Vail Town Councils have worked through brutal issues on housing and schools. Vail has been a leader. The Vail Commons housing project – brutal! And it included a preschool! Vail led. Middle Creek – pretty brutal. And it replaced two preschools. Vail led. Timber Ridge / Lions Ridge – long and tough. Vail led. Possible closure of Red Sandstone Elementary – no way! The town partnered on building upgrades and structured parking. Vail led.

If you've forgotten what it took to bring Middle Creek and CGL to fruition, review these Vail Daily stories from June 2002: [Affordable rental housing in Vail?](#), August 2002: [An era ends; another begins](#), and March 2003: [Moving out of the way](#)

Our housing needs have always been daunting. Our preschool needs have always been daunting. The existence of our community has slowly degraded the quality of our environment. If the Booth Heights parcel is not suitable for housing due to degrading habitat, yet children and families can be displaced from their habitat – then take the time to relocate and create a high quality habitat for this vital component of the Vail community.

Housing, children, and bighorn sheep are all worthy causes; they each deserve a worthy solution.

Diane Johnson
Vail

Tammy Nagel

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Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Johnson
993 Lionsridge Loop
Vail, CO 81657

Tammy Nagel

From: Karen Berdoulay <kberdoulay01@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 9:22 AM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Letter regarding Alternate Housing Sites - Children's Garden of Learning
Attachments: 2020-7-20 Berdoulay Letter to Vail Town Council.pdf

Good morning,

Please see the attached letter regarding the Alternate Housing sites issue on behalf of Children's Garden of Learning.

Thank you,

Karen Berdoulay

kberdoulay01@gmail.com

Karen and Christopher Berdoulay
PO Box 5461
Vail, CO 81658

July 20, 2020

Vail Town Council
publicinput.vailtowncouncil@vailgov.com

To the members of the Vail Town Council:

I am writing on behalf of Children's Garden of Learning to request that their lease is extended until a permanent alternative space is move in ready. It is critical that there is not a gap in the high quality childcare they provide so that essential workers can continue to perform their work for our community.

My husband and I are long-term locals who both provide essential services for our community: for the Eagle County Paramedic Services and the Colorado Department of Transportation respectively. We counted on Children's Garden of Learning to care for and teach our child for 4 years so that we could go to work. We had comfort in knowing that our child was nurtured to learn through play with a highly educated staff. They inspired curiosity through implementation of the Reggio program and incorporated daily adventures in the outdoors with their access to trails and nature. Our son loved going to school which allowed us to be able to go to work. We could not have done that if our school was shut down for any length of time.

I understand that the Town is trying to strike a balance to meet the needs of the school, community priorities for housing and protection of wildlife. It's my understanding that the school is open to relocating near their current site. Our request is that Children's Garden of Learning's lease is extended until a permanent alternative space is move in ready. Any gap in the service the school provides will affect families like mine that need this critical high quality childcare so that we can continue to provide services in our community.

Sincerely,

Karen and Christopher Berdoulay

Karen and Christopher Berdoulay

Tammy Nagel

From: Morgan Browning <mobrowning@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 10:43 AM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Opposed to terminating the lease of Children's Garden of Learning

Dear Vail Town Council,

I am a father of four (two of which have attended Children's Garden of Learning Preschool), as well as a resident of the Town of Vail. I'm writing on behalf of my family to express our disagreement with terminating the lease of Children's Garden of Learning.

We appreciate the tough decisions that you face and the great desire to alleviate the Vally's housing pressures. Terminating CGL's lease without an adequate relocation strategy, however, seems premature while discounting the pressing needs of the families within this community.

We couldn't be happier with the early education that our children received from the dedicated and nurturing CGL staff. Our kids have greatly benefited from the balanced approach of social, community, and natural learning that CGL employs on a daily basis. Having a school located within the Town (where a class can quickly and easily take a town bus into the many unique educational experiences that our community offers) seems paramount in maintaining that enriching balance. On top of this high quality experience, both my wife and I work within the town, and it is essential for us to have a preschool located within Vail to successfully juggle all of our family's needs. To lose this important institution, or to degrade the overall experience by hastily forcing a move without an adequate, local relocation solution would be a major step backwards for the families of this community.

Quite simply, CGL has enriched our overall family's quality of life, and we urge you to secure CGL's ability to continue its positive mission before any prospective development is undertaken. Please prioritize our community's present needs before addressing any future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Morgan and Annie Browning

Tammy Nagel

From: Eric Pepper <etpepper@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:01 AM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Children's Garden of Learning

Hello

We are writing on behalf of the Children's Garden of Learning in Vail. Our daughter attends CGL and both my wife and I work in Vail. While we absolutely sympathize and agree with the town's need for affordable housing, there is also a desperate need for quality and affordable early childhood care and education in this valley. As a community, we cannot afford to lose such a high-quality option as CGL for even a short time. To terminate CGL's lease before providing a permanent move-in-ready location is unthinkable and short-sighted. We are very disappointed that the Town of Vail is even considering such an option and strongly urge you to find a solution that allows CGL to remain in their current location until a new location is completed and available for students and teachers to move in immediately.

Best,
Eric

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Eric Pepper
303.513.8717
etpepper@gmail.com

Tammy Nagel

From: James Gregg <greggco@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:35 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Memorandum of Understanding

I have owned my home in Vail since 1995. I feel the town has done a good job over the years improving the quality of our lifestyle, maintaining a balanced budget, and setting aside "Open Space" for us and future generations to enjoy in what we thought was perpetuity. It is this town council and all future council's ethical and moral responsibility to uphold and confirm open space zoning now more than ever and not get caught in the justification that it's for 'employee housing'. I am referring to a disturbing report that spoke of developing Donovan Park for employee housing. As a citizen and taxpayer of Vail I am voicing my opposition to that concept. I think it important at this meeting to confirm to the citizens of Vail, by a vote of the council, that Donovan Park will remain open space.

I believe this memorandum of Understanding is unnecessary and can only tie you to a future situation you don't want to be in. Triumph and Vail Resorts realized the risks of development pursuit prior to receiving a new zoning and housing approval for Booth Heights. It is not the Town of Vail's responsibility to reimburse them or give them exclusive rights to future development in the town.

Finally, let's finish what's out there-Timber Ridge. Half of that project has sat idle for a number of years now. Perhaps that's a blessing. I think it would be prudent at this time to take fresh concept to the remaining units. If you increase the stories you could double the number of units without disturbing any neighbors. You allow it for private developers (Solaris, the Lyon) and they are on the mountainside.

Setting a timetable for a number of units by a certain date is aggressive and subject to failure. Start with what's in place, finish it and work toward a future goal that is attainable and sustainable

Thank You
Jim Gregg
1966 West Gore Creek Dr

Tammy Nagel

From: Sarah Hocht! <sarahhocht!@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:32 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: CGL

Hello Town Council,

Thank you for taking public comments. My family and I are very concerned with your approach to ending Children's Garden's lease before a new location is found and ready for kids to go to school. As a born and raised local it saddens me that employee housing for Vail Resorts supersedes taking care of local children. As you know over the years I have supported all of the wilderness and wildlife preservation issues in Vail. I know you are trying to find a way to stop development on the winter range of the Big Horn sheep but we all can slow down and get this right for everyone involved. When you take away preschool and childcare you are taking away your best workers. We live here and want to raise our family's here. We are not the 22 year old worker that may last six months. We are the backbone of the community that are owners of Businesses that provide services and taxable income for the town of Vail. By taking away the lease you are hamstringing 80 families that may not be able to then provide two workers per family to the town of Vail worker pool. The development of the Children's Garden parcel probably makes the most sense but we have had a housing problem in Vail since my Dad moved here in 1965. I think we as a town will be ok if we delay the project until the town can find a suitable site for Children's Garden, the best preschool in Vail.

Thank you,

The Hocht! Family.

Kevin, Sarah, Mattias, and Niko

Tammy Nagel

From: Marianne Kipp <mariannecolahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:57 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Town Council Meeting: CGL & TOV MOU

Attn: Town Council—

My child attends CGL, and my 7-month-old daughter will (hopefully) be able to attend Children's Garden of Learning (CGL) next fall when she is 18 months old. It is a wonderful school, and there is simply no other program in Vail that comes close to matching this early childhood educational program. **In a town with scarce options for childcare, CGL is a vital aspect of this community.**

As a parent and as a person who works within the Town of Vail, it saddens me that the town has 1) prioritized more housing over education/childcare and terminated the building lease, 2) seemingly rescinded its guarantee to have a home for this school by the lease termination.

- What does the town think will happen for this school and the children that go there? [Candidly, we put my daughter on the daycare waitlists when I was 8 weeks pregnant, and she *just* got into daycare in Edwards—a year and two months after we put her on the list. She's still on the Vail waitlist. The local daycares found out I was expecting before we told our families!]
- It's astounding, in a community like Vail and Eagle County, that there are so few places for people to safely send their children. For families with two working parents or a single working parent, the childcare and early childhood opportunities in and around Vail are **already borderline untenable**—
- Is the expectation that we now have to put our children onto the waitlist for the one or two other childcare options in town to prevent an interruption in childcare next fall?
- Are parents expected to take a leave of absence from work or quit their jobs while they wait for another school to be constructed?
- Will the school (with a robust, over 30-year history in Vail) even survive an interruption?
- It is upsetting that the Town of Vail has seemed to cast aside the concerns of this school, the families who attend, and the potential devastating impacts its closure or interruption would have.

Not even getting into the fact that the proposed alternative location is really not great (a rooftop playground in a mountain community with a lot of snow/busy parking lots and less access to the outdoors, etc. etc.), or that demo-ing a beautiful school for a housing development is also really not great, CGL and its families are **only asking for the town to commit to providing a safe relocation by September 2021 or to extend the lease**. We're not even asking for a better, safer school or to save the school. We're just asking the town to give the school a place to go. It's a simple request and shouldn't even need to be asked for—this, frankly, should be a give-in.

Will you please issue a new MOU that is truly that—a memorandum of understanding—that both parties understand? With everything going on in the world, it is deeply unsettling that in a community like Vail, we have to fight for the town to just relocate a school like it promised it would. It's disappointing, and put more simply, sad.

I know that this is a long e-mail—if you're still with me, thank you for reading it. As a community member and parent, I implore you to make this right.

Thank you,

Marianne Kipp

Tammy Nagel

From: Ward McKinley <ward@vailcoproperties.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 12:42 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Childrens Garden of Learning

Good Day,

It is obvious the Children's Garden of Learning can not be kicked out without a new location in place. This is clear to Everyone already.

I advocate strongly for an alternative location for the developer of the EverVail location. This site offers many options for Public/Private partnerships for a new building AND school, etc... and massive economic development. Senator Donavan has voiced support of this project.

I am an X- City Planner from New York City and have been following these deals, sheep, and projects.

Now is the time for EverVail. Let the Children Lead the Way!

(please quote me on this)

-Ward McKinley
West Vail Resident
Childrens Garden of Learning Parent
Former Childrens Garden of Learning Board Member

Tammy Nagel

From: George Ruther
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Council Dist List
Cc: Tammy Nagel; Patty McKenny; Suzanne Silverthorn
Subject: FW: CGL Comments - Memo Update to Council for 2/21/20 Meeting
Attachments: CGL Response to Memo_7.20.20.pdf

Good Afternoon –

I just received the attached letter from the Board of CGL. I am sharing a copy in advance of the Update on CGL Progress tomorrow afternoon. This letter is part of the record on this Town Council meeting agenda item.

Thanks,

From: Larisa Haytmanek <larisahaytmanek@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:41 PM
To: George Ruther <GRuther@vailgov.com>
Cc: Jess Szmyd <jessica.schmierer@gmail.com>; Patrick Barrett <patrick@tsgvail.com>; Patrick Davis <patrickdavis7@gmail.com>; Rebecca McDonnell <rebeccajmcdonnell@gmail.com>; Maren Cerimele <mrscerimele@gmail.com>; Kevin Magner <ktmagner@gmail.com>; Paul G <pgraf321@gmail.com>; Paul Wisor <paul.wisor@gmail.com>; Maggie Swonger <mswonger@childrensgarden-vail.com>; Nicky Teaver <nteaver@childrensgarden-vail.com>
Subject: CGL Comments - Memo Update to Council for 2/21/20 Meeting

George,

On behalf of the CGL Board of Directors, please find attached a letter addressing the memo relating to CGL's relocation update for tomorrow's town council meeting. Thank you for your continued efforts toward our programming relocation.

Sincerely,
CGL Board of Directors



*Fostering socially capable, creative and engaged citizens who love learning.
Experiential Education | Social Learning | Community Engagement | Creative Expression*

Dear George,

This letter is provided in connection with the Vail Town Council Memo Agenda for tomorrow's (7/21/20) council meeting relating to the Item/Topic Children's Garden of Learning (CGL) Update.

We, as the Board, want to once again express our gratitude to the Town for the support they have given to our program over the years. Additionally, we thank you for your continued efforts on the relocation of CGL.

We reviewed the Town Council Agenda Memo Update relating to this topic. We are in full agreement with your assessment that the timeline remains a critical obstacle and want to clarify that there are two paths we are working on in parallel efforts - the long term and short term per our discussions and weekly meetings. We want to make it clear that none of the sites currently being evaluated for a long term relocation line up with the timeline set by the Town. Therefore, we are working in parallel efforts to explore long term and now short term options. The long term sites being studied include:

1. Vail Gymnastics Center.
2. Red Sandstone Park area. Per our last meeting on July 2, 2020, the architects are working on site analysis studies and are awaiting results of that analysis.
3. Donovan Park area/Cascade Tennis Courts - George has meeting on the 21st for discussions surrounding the purchase of this land.

Given the fact that none of these long term options line up with the 9/15/21 timeline, the Town and the Board are exploring a temporary relocation option of the Town of Vail Municipal Building. CGL has expressed an interest in further exploring this site as a temporary placement only, while continued advancement is made toward a long term home, which could be anywhere from 2-5 years out.

CGL has requested a separate MOU from the Town to identify both temporary short term and long term sites, a relocation timeline with no disruption to programming, and a concrete plan to move forward.

Respectfully,
CGL Board of Directors

Children's Garden of Learning is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Providing early childhood education in Vail since 1986.

129 N. Frontage Road, Vail, CO 81657 | (970) 476-1420 | www.childrengarden-vail.com

Tammy Nagel

From: DD Armistead <ddunbar66@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:01 AM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: CHILDREN'S GARDEN LEARNING FACILITY

PRIOR PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE by the Vail Town Council here! It would seem incredulous that TOV would not facilitate finding CGL a new building to utilize as well as implementing a PLAN to assist them in meeting a time frame to relocate into that NEW facility, Even if that requires extending their lease for another year, until 2022, it is a far less "impact" on the Vail community and our current residents than any delay caused in erecting some new "affordable" housing/apts. (which would not be on-line until 2023 anyway) for new residents! As Council members, DO THE RIGHT THING HERE!!! Support CGL in this endeavor and move quickly to nail down a solution that works for the best interests of all parties concerned. I have watched 10 of my grandkids here in the valley go CGL and experience a great environment from a wonderful staff of dedicated personnel. PLEASE SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS AT THIS TIME TO CARRY ON THEIR MISSION.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Armistead
Minturn, Co

Tammy Nagel

From: Jessica Gill <jessicatenny@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 3:08 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: CGL

Our kids need to be a priority in our community. There is no point in adding workforce housing when you would be sending local Vail families out of town for childcare. A healthy community needs to support families, especially children. The children are the future of our community and my husband and I work for the hospital and vail resorts respectively. We live in vail and hope to continue to have child care for our family in the community we live in. It is disappointing that children are not being treated as a priority in our community. Please assure there is a location equal or better than the current CGL before there is more development for employee housing because you are sending valuable employees out of the community without providing for families.

Thank you for your time.

Jessica Gill
Vail resident
Vail employee
Sent from my iPhone

Tammy Nagel

From: Marianne Kipp <mariannecolahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 2:57 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Town Council Meeting: CGL & TOV MOU

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Thank you,

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Tammy Nagel

From: Ward McKinley <ward@vailcoproperties.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 12:42 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Childrens Garden of Learning

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Now is the time for EverVail. Let the Children Lead the Way!

(please quote me on this)

-Ward McKinley
West Vail Resident
Childrens Garden of Learning Parent
Former Childrens Garden of Learning Board Member

Tammy Nagel

From: Christie HochtI <cjbhochtI@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:25 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Children's Garden

Good Afternoon Vail Town Council,

Please consider a one year extension on the lease for Children's Garden so they may relocate without interrupting childcare and preschool.

Childcare and preschool are difficult to find in the valley. You might check but I think we have the same number of preschools as we had years ago and our population has exploded. The need for preschools and daycare is acute! Children are on waiting lists before they are born for a spot. To relocate all of the children currently attending CGL would be an impossible task.

Please help our children by extending the lease at CGL until 9/15 2022.

Thank you,

Christie and Karl HochtI

cjbhochtI@gmail.com

9704761125

9703761893

Grandson Mattias currently attends CGL and his brother would like to join him!

Tammy Nagel

From: Gary Scanlon <gscanlon22@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:46 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Children's Garden of Learning

My grandchildren love the Children's Garden of Learning . As I am sure you are aware, this school provides outstanding education in a wonderful environment. It provides a valuable service to the residents and workers in the Town of Vail. We agree that the sheep are important, but so are the children. Please provide new facilities for the school before you tear it down. The Town has a moral obligation to keep this school open.
Thank you,

Gary Scanlon
gscanlon22@gmail.com
937.673.4751

Tammy Nagel

From: Carly Tanis <carly.tanis@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 3:32 PM
To: PublicInputTownCouncil
Subject: Development of CGL

My name is Carly Tanis. I am a resident of Edwards and a parent to two preschool aged children who attend Children's Garden of Learning.

I am a proponent of change and growth in the community. I understand the value and the great need for affordable housing in our community. I am fully on board with the town's plan with Vail Resorts to construct 1000 new units of employee housing by 2027. I also stand in support of the Vail Gymnastics Center as a new location for CGL and/or another comparable property or location that has yet to be determined.

The issue lies in the timing - our children can't - and I mean really, physically CAN NOT - move into a preschool center that doesn't exist. Therein lies the problem

Please agree to extend the lease on the current CGL facility until a new location is secured, built, licensed, and ready for move-in. There are other locations in town where housing needs can be addressed while the preschool needs are also being met. This is the win-win-win situation that is repeatedly being touted in the local media.