

August 3, 2020

To: Vail Town Council, Kevin Foley, Town Manager

Public Comment : April 4th Evening Meeting

Ladies & Gentlemen:

I see from the 50+ written comments submitted last week, that of those not commenting on CGL, I am not too original in my thinking. The overwhelming majority urge you to de-couple the VLHA/AHSI (housing plan) from the Booth Heights/ Bighorn proposals, and all want assurance this will be designated open space up front. Most also think as it stands, it is unnecessarily complicated, and many agree the financial timing for such long-term commitments is foolhardy.

However, as a dedicated "Housing Nut" in the 90's w/ Vail Tomorrow, I can answer former Mayor Ford on why the plan was ignored by the community which had repeatedly endorsed affordable housing for the workforce so whole-heartily. I suspect Kevin Foley can also. The reason is over-reaching and is instructive in the present situation. A hard-working committee of advocates had approved in concept one plan, the final plan with input from VLHA was turned into a much more ambitious plan by a bright young Housing Director before being released to the community. It also called over much protest for the full development of the Lower & Middle Benches of Donovan Park, (the Third Rail of Vail politics). The plan was DOA on arrival, though many of us advocates did not initially realize that, and our gifted young Housing Director was soon relieved of his position. As Mayor Ford said the plan has "gathered dust" these 20 years.

I continue to believe this agreement, however ingenious or diabolical as it may be regarded, is WAY too complicated and the timing HORRID. De-coupling the housing plan from the land swap that is called for is the appropriate solution.

Meanwhile BEWARE of over-reaching by ambitious Housing Directors, however bright they may be.

Your old friend,

Anne Esson

## Tammy Nagel

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**From:** Tom Vucich <vucicht@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Council Dist List  
**Cc:** Scott Robson  
**Subject:** BH Alternative Site Initiative

Dear Council-

After the council meeting on July 21st and related public comment on the draft MOU for Booth Heights it is clear that the majority (90+%) of the respondents are firm in their desire to see important changes to that document.

I understand Scott Robson will update you (and the public) tonight on "deal points" that VR may have sought in further negotiations since the 7/21/20 council meeting. My feelings are that any of those points are unrelated to the primary issues that the public comments reflected on 7/21.

The inclusion of "milestones" for deed-restricted housing numbers, the completion of the wildfire fuels mitigation/wildlife habitat effort, and what happens to the BH parcel when the town does take title, appear to actually be negotiating points within the Town of Vail itself--i.e. the housing department, other town staff, VLHA (and perhaps some council members?). If VR/TD are attempting to include those points as part of the deal they shouldn't, and I would see no reasonable explanation why they would.

My hope is that those issues can be eliminated from the draft MOU in a revised version soon--especially considering the timeline for this initiative originally laid out in June of this year.

**Can/will any of you speak to this issue tonight after Scott Robson's update? I think the public needs to hear your thoughts/positions on what the public has commented on thus far.**

Thank you.  
Tom Vucich  
Vail

## Tammy Nagel

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**From:** Blondie Vucich <runblondie49@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:54 AM  
**To:** Council Dist List  
**Subject:** Public comment

Dear Town Council,

I ask you to carefully consider 3 elements that reflect the desires of your constituents.

### #1 Public Input

Vail residents have spoken loudly and clearly over the past few years. They want the Booth Heights parcel preserved and the Bighorn sheep protected. And now the draft MOU has come under public scrutiny. Over 90% of the 49 public comment submissions thus far clearly indicate residents want a clean swap. They do not want the Booth Heights parcel being held hostage by a vigorous, complex housing initiative. The overwhelming majority want to unbundle these housing goals and milestones from the MOU.

### #2 Town of Vail Survey

Vail residents have indicated their #1 priority is environment and wildlife. Housing is definitely an important priority but it fell far short of being #1.

### #3 The 2019 Town Council election

The results were clearly a referendum on the environment and wildlife with Booth Heights at the center. Citizens voted to tip the balance of the Council in a more environmentally sustainable direction.

So, there you have it. Vail residents are showing up and speaking out and hope you are listening. They are using their pens, their voices and their votes in order to be heard. Even during this pandemic when you are spared from a room full of familiar faces, they are not giving up. This thinly veiled attempt to glean even more housing under the guise of saving Booth Heights is not getting past the citizens without serious push back.

I urge you to amend the MOU so it will clearly reflect the original intent which was to gain title to Booth Heights, preserve it as open space and protect the sheep and to provide a parcel of equal or greater value to Triumph Development and Vail Resorts for the development of 144 housing units.

Sincerely,  
Blondie Vucich

Sent from my iPad