

Dear David Shinneman, TOSV Planning Commission liaison,

The letter below is our written response for the TOSV Planning Commissioners packets for Wednesday's June 29th meeting. Please share with all. I would like to join up again by Microsoft Teams and would appreciate receiving the link for my fellow Board Members. The public comment period was so short on the 15th, that I still had a few more issues to raise, so I hope I have the time this week. After reviewing your staff's recommendation to approve the plan, the RFVHC hopes our letter will open the conversation again. Thank you, Karin

June 26, 2022

To the TOSV Planning Commissioners,



TOSV Submitted Design

The Rodeo We Want to Love

The reason for our outreach is because the TOSV Town Park and Entryway Master plan, designed by the POSTR Board, approved by Town Council is currently before you, the Planning Commission for Special Review so TOSV can start moving dirt after the Rodeo season. Aug. 2022

The problem is that the Rodeo Plan is not good in many respects and not what was envisioned or in keeping with portions of the 2018 TOSV Comprehensive Plan. The RFVHC has experience in equestrian venue and layout design to solve the problems.

Photos: Attached is just one rendering of what could provide a nice entrance feel to TOSV. Sketches were submitted in 2021 to TOSV, though they were never discussed in detail with contestants and spectators. The other rendering attached is what is currently planned and was submitted for approval on 6.15.22 by TOSV. This entrance is a parking lot instead of a beautiful entry.

The Snowmass Western Heritage Rodeo Board has tried to work for years towards building a multi-purpose facility, including creating a welcoming Western Heritage entrance for the rodeo arena, with no luck. Town Manager, Clint has directed this process from appointing the POSTR board to design the entrance to TOSV, controlling public input and pushing forward through the public process. In 2021 the Rodeo Board tried to get council and staff to revisit the drawings that the Rodeo Board submitted to no luck. Markey Butler who sits on the Rodeo Board, wants to move forward because “it has been approved” yet it was an approval referred to as a “conditional surrender” due to circumstances paled by the Pandemic.

Now, after the two and a half years of the pandemic, delays and the run-up to the 2022 Rodeo Season, the Town Park Plan has come under well-deserved scrutiny by the Roaring Fork Horse Council Board of Directors bringing to light the weaknesses in design.

The main concern is that the design is not safe for the animals, the contestants and that the condensed circulation of the rodeo will make a less hospitable and more congested venue for Rodeo visitors and for the contestants and their horses that are expected to perform. The current rodeo grounds for the 2022 season is already at capacity, at week one, with no breathing room for the 48th Year of the Snowmass Rodeo, Colorado’s longest running rodeo event.

These similar concerns were voiced at the June 15th Planning Commission meeting which **necessitated a continuance** for further discussion to June 29th. With no Rodeo Board members in attendance at this up-coming Wednesday’s Planning Commission meeting because the rodeo is held this evening, we are sure that Clint will make an effort to get approval of the Special Review so TOSV can proceed with dismantling the arena and the regrading of the area for parking and the rodeo.

The RFVHC has asked the TOSV Planning Commission not to “rubber stamp” the plan without a line-by-line review of the RFVHC Revised Safety Report dated 5.25.22. The TOSV & Connect One’s newly submitted maps with better explanations still do not solve all the problems. There is too little space for contestants and spectators. It is unsafe, unwieldy and does not respect the importance of the event, and especially the beauty & location of the Snowmass Gateway.

Again, what does not feel right is that this design Clint wants to have approved is not in line with the TOSV Comprehensive Plan. To all of us, it does not feel right that TOSV gets stuck with this “paved parking lot” entrance to town. It does not feel right that the Rodeo should accept a substandard venue where horses are at risk with asphalt parking lots and no warm-up area. If we wanted to invite the world-famous Lipizzaner’s to Snowmass for performances – they would not come because of the Rodeo Plan design. Not one permanent bathroom will be built in this million-dollar expansion.

We hope RFVHC will be invited to sit down with the Connect One Group to initiate solving the missing elements that improve equestrian and spectator liability risks, referred to in our 5.25.22 RFVHC Rodeo Safety Document.

So, by reaching out to you– the Planning Department – before Wednesday’s meeting we are asking that the vote for this current Town Park Rodeo Plan be postponed. We hope you will provide us this respite to pull together to make sure the Snowmass Rodeo, now 48 years old is the rodeo that we all love.

Respectfully,

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Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council

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