

May 29th, 2024

Regarding Riverbend PUD change application.

Dear PCDC, Town Staff:

My family and I have been neighbors living across from Riverbend for the past 20 years. Half of that time it was a residentially zoned neighborhood that was a quiet and peaceful community of people living in mobile homes. The sandstone cliffs surrounding the Riverbend property are a striking backdrop that are an iconic part of Lyons natural beauty as well as being a wildlife habitat for golden eagles making their nests on the stone walls. These same coved in cliffs are also a natural amphitheater that amplifies sound to the many surrounding homes. When Riverbend became a wedding venue after the flood destroyed the homes there, the amplified outdoor music made life at our home intolerable when they had events there. This was during the temporary zoning before an agreement was made to have no amplified music at Riverbend. At that time, even with our windows and doors closed, we could hear the pulsing bass from DJ music booming through our home. I remember the song "Uptown Funk" was a popular one that season that we heard reverberating off the cliffs countless nights! The sound blaring from Riverbend coupled with weddings happening simultaneously at Planet Bluegrass made a cacophony of sound that was frenetic to say the least. When Riverbend was zoned as an unamplified venue, a sense of normalcy had gratefully been restored to our home. Occasionally you can hear the acoustic plunking notes of an upright bass swimming through the air but that is a welcome sound knowing many local bands and musicians are being hired, supporting our community. I implore you to keep the zoning as it is in regards to amplification at Riverbend. When working with Mike Whipp and Betsy Burton, previous owners of Riverbend, in 2016 to come up with a solution regarding the sound issues, I remember them saying "Above all we want to be good neighbors." And they were for the past 8 years. I don't believe this zoning request is personally targeted to cause those of us living near Riverbend harm, but I can think of little else more personal than where we call home. Please honor the sanctity of our homes so that they can continue to be a place of refuge and respite in a community that is like none other. A community I am proud to call my home.

Thank you
Shannon Johnson
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