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Lyons Planning and Community Development Commission (PCDC), Lyons Board of Trustees (BOT), Lyons Town Staff, Lyons Mayor John O'Brien
432 5th Ave
PO Box 49
Lyons, CO 80540

Subject: River Bend temporary land use authorization extension

Dear PCDC, BOT, Town Staff, and Mayor O'Brien:

In observation and in participation of the series of communications that have lead up to the permitting process for Riverbend, I do have to say that acoustic venues seem like the logical next test. Not without heroic efforts on behalf of the Riverbend partners and affected neighbors, finding an amplified sound level that accommodates all parties seems less and less likely. Projecting into the future, the pressures of growth and finding new economically viable businesses that address our community's economic and environmental needs, a study on noise seems necessary.

Collaboration between Riverbend, Planet Bluegrass and neighbors adjacent to these venues has been amenable and productive. Efforts with time and financial resources have been put in by all. The constant threads of emails and conversations and on-site visits for the last 6 weeks (plus initial meetings 6 months ago) are an indication of everyone's efforts. Yet, the situation is tenuous. Some frustrations are showing. To find balance with amplified events seems less likely. Having unamplified (acoustic) events seems to be the next logical direct to experiment with.

Not that there is any hostility, but as patience wears thin, there is a chance that the situation could become acrimonious. To preempt this, I believe a plan needs to be written that will give both sides a way to keep communicating toward a resolution. Possibly a neutral 3rd party's intervention is needed (or researched) as a buffer to allow both parties to come to a resolution. Neighbors need to feel they are heard by seeing positive results or by being compensated for their inconveniences. How this is paid for needs to be addressed.

- Neighbors need some assurance that providing constant feedback (maybe perceived as constant complaining) is not ill received and is not meant to be divisive.
- Riverbend needs to understand that continued feedback is hard to sustain without becoming frustrated, impatient, and emotional.
- Neighbors have to accept that we are a capital driven society and betterment of our local community is driven by local investments and local growth.

It is assumed there is a large financial stake on the line here on behalf of the investors. It is understood that the economic interests of our community as a whole is at the center of this interest. Personal financial interests probably also play a role. The goal for a strong local economy is admirable. There seem to be many many dots that have to be connected over a long period of time. Achieving that requires balance with the personal needs of those impacted in the community. A large number of lattes need to be sold to visitors to replace the financial inputs that come from local citizens, volunteering unbelievable hours, pay taxes, spending locally, operating local business, etc.

Planet Bluegrass has installed large sliding doors on all sides of the Wildflower Pavilion in the last year to contain their noise. Their recommended level of 90 or 95dB seems excessive but ongoing work is helping that situation. Also, their limited number of non-festival events is more tolerable. As more venues come to town, a Town administered permitting process with limited numbers may be reasonable.

Respectively,
Steve and Debbie Simms