

*The other side of the story...*

# 2017 SHJH Activity Report

Voters have repeatedly said they want a livable Jackson Hole. And in 2017 Save Historic Jackson Hole once again stood with them.

First, we can report that our weekly “Other Side of the Story” articles continue to receive positive feedback. Originally we planned to run for just 6 weeks, highlighting news and opinion that is under-reported by local media.

That was back in April, and we’re still at it, informing the valley on important matters and drilling down deeper to tell the “untold story.” We ask the hard questions.

What are the consequences of building another 2,800 subsidized housing units? Are the valley’s traffic problems solvable? If we value wildlife so much, why don’t we act like it?

In May, voters were asked to approve nearly \$70-million in new taxes, half of it for housing and the bus, key elements of the local Big-Growth agenda. We stood with the voters, highlighting what was really going on. Voters wisely delivered a NO on housing and the bus.

Voters had already said no to the idea the previous November. And they saw through the May SPET election, bravely voting down a four-part \$34-million handout to a failed bus system and a dysfunctional housing department.

Spring also saw the defeat of two massively dense housing developments. Steelhead Partners bid to cram 206 homes into South Park was derailed when the community, including SHJH, demanded the developer provide the Environmental Assessment they tried to avoid.

On Teton Village Road, the Alliance of Route

390 citizens group did a heroic job in defeating a plan to turn the Bar J Chuckwagon into a dense 69-home subdivision. The “Other Side” supported their efforts. The developers eventually gave up.

Summer had SHJH weighing in on a myriad of important matters including opposition to a river park that wanted to add a fake-wave to the Wild and Scenic Snake River. We also kept a close eye on Snow King’s master plan, serving owners notice they needed to be transparent with the public, and reminding town and forest officials that the historic Town Hill is cherished by many in the community.

We supported homeowners on zoning issues that threatened to destroy neighborhood character. And we exposed the wasteful spending on outside consultants that are often employed to defy the will of the voters.

We pushed for developers to do more to house ‘all’ the employees generated by their massive hotels and questioned the need for paid parking downtown.

And through it all, SHJH never forgot wildlife and habitat. Our natural resources are what draws people here and they are irreplaceable. Why is it conservation and wildlife protections are rarely considered when developments like the 98-room hotel on Center St., the 90-unit apartment building on Broadway, and the 168-home Hidden Hollow subdivision are approved?

We stood by the voters and had some successes in 2017. There is more work to do and we’ll do it, because we know we are not alone in insisting on a livable Jackson Hole.

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*Save Historic JH: We  
ask the hard questions*

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