

The other side of the story...

You Don't Matter, But You Could

There was a time when you had a say in Jackson Hole. Your voice mattered. Local Government was interested in your wants and needs.

Now, not so much. Times have changed; things are different. Here's why.

Our electeds no longer represent you. Now they are salesmen and women pushing a new and improved Jackson Hole. They've got a new religion.

A Bigger and Grander Jackson Hole is their aim. Social-engineering is their tool. The Comp Plan is their 'bible.' Traditional JH values are out.

They've found a way around the citizen led referendums that overturned their mega-growth initiatives. Electeds were humiliated by losses in each of the three special elections. So they did a stealth takeover of local 'policy.' There's no referendum on policy.

Stakeholder groups and consultants have replaced voter surveys. It's how voters have been eliminated from local decision-making.

Our elected officials aren't the first with a stealth agenda. Politicians in Chicago made it famous, but it's surprising how quickly JH fell.

Our electeds don't want your input any more. Town Hall meetings are a thing of the past, and public comment at town and county meetings is discouraged.

You, the residents, were the last hurdle between our small town and the bigger city they envision. And, now you've been eliminated.

Today, scads of lawyers, accountants, real estate agents, architects, engineers, and urban planners attend tedious government meetings.

Public comment, if taken, will require you to sit through hours of presentation until it's your turn. You'll then have three minutes. Hurry, they've already decided and are ready to vote.

It's not that your opinion never matters. If enough people show up and oppose something, politicians suddenly want to listen. They want the appearance of caring. They'll need your vote if they seek reelection.

But there's a plan to neutralize your input. It's the endless studies by high-priced consultants that are bought and paid for with your tax money. The consultants will produce the 'expert' input that overcomes public comment.

*The process is rigged
but there's still hope*

While the process is rigged, we've still got a way to preserve what we love. If we elect the right people there will be change. And, we can keep what's left of a livable Jackson Hole.

The challenge: Find candidates for elected office that will represent you. Talk with your friends and neighbors, your church group and club. If you want a livable Jackson Hole, make it known. If you don't speak up, who will?

More traffic and overcrowding are already in the pipeline. There's the five-lane highway to Hoback with its corresponding buildout, the Hidden Hollow high-density housing in town, and the Center Street project on the square.

We can't stop these. But we can stop the subsidized housing plan that will bring over 7,000 more residents to Jackson. And we can stop the other Big Growth initiatives that developers want to add.

Maybe you're the one that will make a difference. If not you, then who? Be part of a grass roots initiative or kiss JH goodbye.