

*The other side of the story...*

## Slowly Killing the Old West

A government of, by and for the people does not blindside its citizens. It represents the majority and does the people's bidding.

Far too often our current town and county electeds pursue self-serving agendas that have little backing from their constituents.

When did the public clamor: "We need more snowmobile racing at Snow King?" When did they say, "Summer is slow and boring; give us a rock concert for 20,000 on a quiet field in South Park."

And whose bright idea was it to turn Snow King Ave into downtown Amsterdam? This impractical re-design is an example of change for change's sake. Solutions in search of a problem.

To be clear, no one is suggesting cyclists are less important than motorists, or that safety isn't paramount. But Snow King Ave is a debacle.

Town officials have forgotten Snow King is a road first and a bike path second. It's now an eyesore full of tube-pole barriers. The vehicle lanes look narrower than the bike lanes!

Horse trailers (let's not forget the rodeo grounds are on this street) can no longer safely navigate this avenue. Even two trucks passing each other struggle to get by. Where there was no recorded serious injury to a cyclist, town electeds have now made it a likelihood there will be a fender-bender or worse.

Sure, one street is not the end of the world. But it's an example of government overreach — of local busybody officials acting out. It's as if their biggest issue is protecting rights that are already

protected. Creating special legal protections for those that were never at an elevated risk in our community.

They see progress as sitting for television interviews, bashing the president, or declaring Jackson a sanctuary city. Not long ago politicians represented voters instead of ruling over them.

Political egotism — electeds assuming they 'know' what's important and locals don't — is not representative government.

They've given us a new school, a new fire station, a 5-lane S Hwy 89 and a beefed up sewer line all the way to Hoback. It's all in preparation for the sprawl

they envision from Jackson City to Hoback Junction.

All this after the community voted down the Porter Annexation and rejected dense subdivisions in South Park. Obviously, voters don't want sprawl!

Truth is, our leaders implement their own agenda instead of representing the voters.

For instance, no one asked town council to turn Karns Meadow into Tiananmen Square. Parks and Rec don't need another park in their portfolio; they rate it a low priority. And they're the ones who will have to manage it, scrub the graffiti off the pavilion walls, empty trash cans after big parties, and enforce the rules: stay out of the creek, leash your dog, keep the noise down, etc.

Karns Meadow is the last pristine piece of unspoiled real estate left in town, and it's soon to be sullied.

It's time we returned Jackson Hole to the people of Jackson Hole. We should be able to live in peace in a place we still recognize.

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*The future of  
Jackson is at stake*

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