

Who and where is Vail's Rural Voice?

Recent history of our community shows that many things have happened while not being incorporated. Many wonderful residents have come together to move numerous issues forward. Here is a short (incomplete summary) of accomplishments:

Colossal Cave (1879)

Vail Established 1880

Southern Pacific Railroad (1880)

Many cattle ranching families

Vail School District (1903)

Old Vail Post Office (1908)

Vail Post Office (mid 1970)

St Rita in the Desert (1927)

Paved roads; Old Spanish Trail from Freeman Rd., Camino Loma Alta, Garigans Gulch, Rex Molly, Mary Ann Cleveland.

Rincon Valley Fire District (founded 1985)

Vail Feed Store and Arena (closed) - Held equestrian events every weekend.

Vail Depot Thrift Store

Mountain View Animal Clinic

Rancho Del Lago (2005)

Colossal Cave Rd business

Strip Mall (2006)

Walgreens

ReSources Vail Food Bank (2016)

Mercado Del Lago (2019) - Safeway Shopping Center/Chase Bank

Trail Boss Outfitters

Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce (2019)

My neighbors and myself question how our rural residents will benefit from incorporation. Where and what was the input from the people who have lived in this area long before the densely populated subdivisions came into being?

According to the Incorporate Vail Arizona/LoveVail (IVA) president, in his submission in the August Vail Voice, "for those of us who deeply love Vail and our rich history, we won't give up. Vail is our home and we will fight to protect it. Join

us in the battle! Join the movement. This is Vail's moment in time!" Really? So those of us against incorporation who have lived here more than 20 years we don't deeply love Vail? Do you mean to say that the developers and densely populated subdivisions should dictate to the rural community what is best for us?

My experience is that the IVA board has not made an effort to connect with most people in the rural community. I read a freedom of information act document that was a press release dated September 6, 2022. It mentioned several neighborhoods that were to be invited to meetings. My neighborhood was not on the list.

I was also told by an IVA board member that dates and times of meetings were sent by mail. My neighbors and myself did not receive notification by mail. How do they know our needs and concerns? Our neighborhood is remarkably different than a subdivision type of neighborhood. Our houses are septic, we have wells (private and shared) plus our dirt road is not a county-maintained road. How do they know what our needs are since they did not include us in their meetings?

IVA has expressed concern about managing our water. They have even listed a number of wells in one of their Vail Voice articles. My well was on IVA's list. Recently, I saw an IVA Facebook post of a park with a large lake. Is this how they plan to manage the water from mine and my neighbor's wells?

I was also told by the same IVA board member that our neighborhood was not allowed to opt-out because we had no legal representation like an HOA. The names, addresses, phone numbers and signatures of myself and approximately 150 of my neighbors are not valid because we are not a legal entity. Is that state, local or county law???? No, it is not! Why were we treated differently?

The volume of paperwork I submitted twice (because they did not acknowledge that they received the first set of documents) did not count as consent and trust by my neighbors for me to be their representative to IVA? They did not even have the decency to acknowledge that they received our request. The rural neighborhood I live in made a decision and our request was shown no respect.

This divide and conquer approach that IVA is employing is tearing our community apart. A perfect example of this is the fact that no petition signature gatherers for

IVA ventured into our neighborhood. Their lack of engagement with our rural neighborhood shows that they don't care for us. If they don't care for us, why are they including us in their incorporation endeavors? For many residents incorporation is a threat and a challenge to our way of life.

The president of IVA, sat at our dining room table after IVAs rejection of our community. He looked into our eyes as he gave excuse after excuse in an attempt to sway our opinion. These excuses quickly became mistruths the next night at the regular Southeast Regional Council meeting where he presented that it was solely IVA's call to ignore the rural community. This is the same lack of respect we have been shown all along. Further, he promised that if incorporation was successful, that he would help our neighborhood de-annex. Is this even possible and even so, why include us in the first place?

Love Vail, Preserve Vail, Vote No!