

7/8/2019

Short Term Rental comments;

Points that I have not heard addressed or that need further review are;

1. Economic benefits – These affect local jobs and revenues to businesses and individuals.
  - a. Cleaning services which are provided locally to local residents.
  - b. Local plowing services
  - c. Utility charges (we have a separate meter and garbage charge)
  - d. Services – deli, gas station, Whistling Post and Cascadia Inn. Most of our tenants use these services while visiting the area.
  - e. In addition, being retired (with fixed income) helps us with our finances. This allows us to spend more at the same facilities plus make donations for special events. Next time you see us at one of the above it is the additional income which supports the funds being returned to the community keeping jobs locally and taxes being paid. This includes the school district, fire district, PTSO, Skykomish Historical Society Chamber of Commerce and more.
  - f.
2. Renters – We qualify each renter prior to confirming reservations. Those who have complaints we do not rent to. This brings up the point of who is responsible for any complaints?
  - a. Parking – We have two slots dedicated for our rental. Depending on the amount of guests this may be based on each location. In the case of snow plowing this should be addressed as “not on street” for locations where potential problems can exist.
  - b. Noise – The town already has a noise ordinance which should be a rule.
  - c. Garbage – With our recent problem with bears I’ve had one complaint suggesting that bear proof containers needs to be provided. Too many animals and too much garbage in streets are the consequence and should be the owner’s responsibility.
3. Complaints – So far, I have not received any documentation showing when and what the problem(s) are. I suggest that any complaints be documented via the Town Hall with specific dates, times and type(s) of problems. My feeling is there are a few home owners and not the total that are at fault. By identifying culprits at fault and the types of problems these should be addressed directly to the home owners first. I have heard of two locations but has anyone contacted the home owners? This should be addressed with facts.
4. Town Comp. Plan. – Directly states in the economic development section (background section) that promoting the Town of Skykomish as a tourist destination. This requires local housing and frankly there are not enough hotels to provide the required housing. Either the town needs to confirm this or remove this as a town goal.

Due to the size of our rental we do now have families who would send kids to schools so the issue of housing for families would not apply to us. However, those who do provide housing have made a

decision based on their personal economics on whether to rent full time or not. I can say that we have had both long term and short-term renters and have had less problems with short term renters.

The issue with local housing is based on economics. If it was profitable to expand or build new hotels then someone would. In fact it isn't, which is why we only have one operating hotel in town.

Secondly, the same applies to investing in properties. Without an economic benefit the owners would not invest in properties. This also applies to any business. Short term rentals do provide an economic benefit to the community. This can be increased with local business licenses, B&O taxes and possibly a lodging tax (up to 1.0 percent (CF APR-24).

Best regards,

Shelly and Larry Johnson

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