

July 12, 2019

Skykomish Mayor and City Council,

Regarding the subject of short term rentals, I really like the Park City ordinance supplied by Gene. With a few refinements, I think the town could come up with rules that fit the town's needs.

It does address off street parking, but I feel it is important to require off street parking for 2 cars/unit as well as parking for the main residence, year round.

It might also be a good idea to contract with a local towing company for car towing for violators, especially in winter months.

I feel the number of short term rentals (STR) need to be limited in the residential areas, perhaps 1 per block. There was discussion about letting people have a STR for 3 years and letting other people rotate in. If someone specifically invests in a place as a rental, spends the money to meet the city's requirements, they should be able to keep their license as long as they meet all the requirements. Secondly, should they decide to sell the house, they should have the ability to transfer the STR to the new owner (assuming they get the license and continue meeting the requirements).

As already stated by many people, we need to maintain a sense of community. Between the weekenders and STR, there are major portions of town that have no one living there most of the time. This weakens our community, and as Todd said, this leads to a loss of community involvement, and a loss of economic development. Long term rentals are hard to come by, and we lack housing for the already small workforce we have.

In the Park City ordinance, I really like the "Summer yard maintenance, including landscaping, weed control, and irrigation to a level that is consistent with the level of landscaping and maintenance on adjoining and nearby properties," and "Routine upkeep, including painting and repair to a level that is consistent with the level of landscaping and maintenance on adjoining and nearby properties." That should be a town requirement, not just for STR. I don't know if the town has the ability to require that, but that would be nice.

Finally, I feel that the business of STR needs to pay a transient occupancy tax to the city (10-13%).

Sincerely,

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