

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

KIKI TIDWELL

Commissioners Should Operate Under Their Own Laws

Dear Editor,

I have had affordable housing, Agave Place, in my backyard since 2005 and haven't had any issue with it. The Valley Club provided these 12 units of Agave Place as part of developing its PUD [Planned Unit Development] plat of The Valley Club West Nine subdivision in that year.

I have long wanted to provide play equipment on the PUD's Parcel C, "The County Recreation Parcel," for the children living at Agave Place and for kids riding to it on the bike path. It was supposed to be developed in coordination with the [Blaine County] Rec District. It is a stream-front parcel that could provide the public with picnic tables and a rest stop from a bike ride, or destination waterfront recreational fishing spot for people with mobility issues.

I and my neighbors have previously offered Blaine County Housing Authority [BCHA] and ARCH [Community Housing Trust] many tens of thousands of dollars in charitable contributions to fence Parcel C off from illegal truck parking and commercial operations that were causing a fire hazard, and to rectify the failure of ARCH's Parcel B installation to meet the design criteria publicly agreed to (matching Agave Place). The public no longer has use of Public Use Parcel B as there has been a house moved to it, it has been sold off to private individuals, and it is fenced off.

I did have an issue with Blaine County in February 2018 issuing a building permit on this PUD's Parcel C Open Space Recreational Use park, without following their own county laws to work with the developers to replat the piece legally. This is like someone getting an apartment building permit on county-owned Rotarun grounds without any public process or notice. It is dangerous to a democracy to have government officials believe that one can act above the law; the U.S.A. is based on equal laws for everyone and 'no special above-the-law deals to cronies.' This building permit for a duplex on the substandard-sized .67-acre Parcel C lot was issued to a private, nongovernmental entity, ARCH, which didn't have an active lease on the property at the time.

I believed that the county issuance of a building permit was not legal and so instituted an action with the county in 2018 to contest it. ARCH and BCHA requested to be allowed into the case. The county has been pursuing expensive litigation in several instances in the county where I believe it could reach a mediated solution with homeowners; Flying Heart, Lees Gulch, and potentially now Greenhorn Gulch. Unfortunately now in our case, we are going to trial.

I am not against affordable housing; I had lived quite peacefully with a well-designed project in my neighborhood now for 15 years. I also submitted my résumé to the Blaine County Commissioners to serve as a volunteer on the Blaine County Housing Authority, but the commissioners refused me even an interview for the position, although the board position was open. I have offered to become a Yes-In-My-Backyard-charitable-donation-level member of ARCH, but ARCH has refused me membership. ARCH does not hold publicly open meetings and can keep a closed membership.

I have been hopeful that the County Commissioners would recognize that they need to operate under their own laws. They still can.

Sincerely,
Kiki Tidwell
Blaine County resident

ADVERTORIALS

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

NOELLE LAFLEUR

Local Teens Make Positive Impact

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

The Advocates enseña a personas de todas las edades cómo construir y mantener relaciones saludables y positivas con sus compañeros y socios. Sabiendo que la educación es una forma segura de lograr un cambio, The Advocates comenzaron los pasantes de Every Teen Counts (ETC). Los pasantes de ETCs aprenden herramientas para prevenir el abuso en las relaciones de los jóvenes, como promover relaciones saludables, y enseñan a los jóvenes de todo el valle.

Una de las actividades más importantes en las que enseñamos es la Actividad de Componentes Saludables. Aquí, mostramos los 11 componentes más importantes de una relación: seguridad, honestidad, confianza, igualdad, equidad, comunicación, individualidad, respeto, apoyo, espacio mutuo y aceptación.

Esta actividad me ayudó a darme cuenta de que comprender y crear relaciones saludables entre adolescentes es algo que me apasiona. Esta simple actividad ayuda a los estudiantes a considerar lo que quieren en una relación y también los hace pensar en lo que hace falta en sus relaciones.

Es fácil para los adolescentes detectar una relación poco saludable, pero es mas difícil para ellos comprender cómo es una relación saludable.

Estoy orgulloso de ser una ETC. Me apasiona transmitir el valioso mensaje de The Advocates de construir y mantener relaciones saludables y positivas con sus compañeros y socios a otros en nuestra comunidad. Unanse a nosotros a nuestro evento "Rompiendo el Molde" el Sábado 29 de Febrero de 4-6 en el Limelight Hotel. El evento promueve la individualidad y rompe los estereotipos.

OUR VOICE COUNTS

The Advocates teaches people of all ages how to build and maintain healthy, positive relationships with peers and partners. Knowing that education is a sure way to bring about change, The Advocates started the Every Teen Counts (ETC) internship program. ETC interns learn tools to prevent teen dating violence, to promote healthy relationships, and teach youth all across the Valley.

One of the most important activities we teach is the Healthy Components Activity where we put up the 11 most important components of a



The 2015 Every Teen has a Choice (ETC) awareness campaign. The 2019-2020 ETCs (from top left): Joseph Melgar, Diana Muñoz, Marcella Fisher, Ethan Hunt, Noelle LaFleur, Anabelle Rust, Jenny Jordan; from bottom left: Priscilla Meza, Amy Aranda, Maya Lizano, Diego Rosales.

healthy relationship. These include: safety, honesty, trust, equality, fairness, communication, individuality, respect, support, mutual space, and acceptance. This activity helped me realize that understanding and creating healthy teen relationships is something that I am passionate about. This simple activity helps students consider what they want in a relationship and also makes them think about what is missing in their relationships.

It is really easy for teens to spot an unhealthy relationship, but it is much harder for them to understand and articulate what a healthy relationship looks like. My mission as an ETC is to teach people how to spot healthy relationships, understand boundaries, and learn more about the people around you.

I am proud to be an ETC. I am passionate about bringing The Advocates' valuable message of building and maintaining healthy, positive relationships with peers and partners to others in our community. Please join us and attend our event, "Breaking the Mold," on Saturday, Feb. 29 from 4-6 p.m. at the Limelight Hotel in Ketchum. The event promotes individuality and breaking stereotypes.

PROJECTOOLSUCCESS

COFFEE CHATS WITH KIKI

KIKI TIDWELL

\$1 Billion Slated For Clean Energy Projects – Maybe Ours!

These past couple of weeks I have had the opportunity to be on the Stanford University campus for several different reasons; threads from one of these events are interesting for our isolated Wood River Valley.

The Stanford Graduate School of Business held its 2020 Climate, Business, and Innovation Summit, with top-level speakers sharing their thoughts on the business opportunities in climate change, as well as the risks for businesses that ignore it. (One audience member I met is raising a hedge fund just to short stocks of those companies that don't realize their exposure.)

If one of the top business schools in the country is hosting a climate and innovation summit, two things in the conversation have changed. First, extremely talented people who have the pick of where they want to work are deciding to work at companies that are making things better for the planet, not worse. And, secondly, there is real money to be made here, solving those problems.

One of the speakers was Scott Jacobs, co-founder of Generate, a leading sustainable infrastructure platform delivering affordable, reliable resource solutions to companies, communities, and cities. His résumé exemplifies the top level of talent being attracted to this field; among other achievements, Scott received his MBA with high distinction from Harvard Business School, where he was named a George F. Baker Scholar, and his B.A. cum laude from Dartmouth College. Prior to Generate, in 2007, Scott joined McKinsey & Company to co-found its global CleanTech practice, advising companies, institutional investors, NGOs and governments around the world on the economic imperatives of resource productivity and climate solutions. Prior to that, Scott spent over a decade in technology and venture capital, helping start grow a number of companies.

I was connected to him in 2014 when he and co-founder Jigar Shah started their first capital raise at Generate. They saw then the \$100 billion opportunity in new ener-



gy asset finance but realized that these long-term assets needed to be matched with long-term capital. Their investors are pension funds and family offices who share their perspective of investing for generations. Dang, I should have invested in their first raise of 2014 because, fast-forward to today, Generate just recently raised \$1 billion after deploying \$1 billion of sustainable infrastructure in its first five years.

As we know, investing in renewable energy is working out well financially for investors or Generate wouldn't have been able to raise this large amount of additional capital.

Where this gets interesting, especially for Hailey, Ketchum, Bellevue, and Blaine County, is that someone like Generate could build and operate renewable energy projects for us, paid only out of a cut of the energy cost savings and no or minimal upfront costs to us for a project. We could get that 1-megawatt solar farm at Poverty Flats on county-owned land and save energy costs for the county. Hailey could get solar on its buildings and parking lots and have carbon-free energy for all of its holiday lighting and city operations. Our Mountain Rides buses can go electric and charge their batteries at a solar farm and spew no pollution into the lungs of our children and grandchildren. Bellevue can have less expensive power for its residents by using community solar.

Scott was gracious enough to sit down with me after his talk and go through a map of our Valley. I showed

him where our substations are, where solar farms could be sited mid-Valley (Ohio Gulch and the base of River Run), where a microgrid should be installed (hospital and Ketchum wastewater plant), and where all of our electrical substations are (none of which currently have a backup generator), all constrained by 12.5-MW distribution line circuits. He went through my estimates of costs and enlightened me on their and others' model of building solar farms as basically free to us. Conceptually, we can provide backup batteries at our substations and build solar farms for the same \$65 million, which is on the table for a buried transmission line between Hailey and Elkhorn (and which doesn't help us if the power doesn't get to Hailey).

It is an opportune time here in 2020, with the costs of renewable energy and batteries having dropped so incredibly much, the right long-term investors at the table eager to invest and finance these projects, and companies like Generate ready to help our community transition to clean energy sources that provide us true resiliency.



**Blaine County
Commissioner Candidate**
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