



rant-ette

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Is Carolyn Sackariason trying to get a higher-paying job with a developer? Her coverage of the Wienerstube approval process has always contained a description of the project in glowing terms, and her opening sentence in today's Aspen Times could have the sub-head-line "poor developers mistreated once again."

I was at a realtor luncheon today in Meadowood (not the City's problem - but it used to be a nice, quiet, family neighborhood, a little fancier than the Cemetery Lane area, but with bigger lots and more foliage) at a \$8,775,000 house with tons of wasted space and *both* a media room and a family room. At my table, two Snowmass realtors were tsk-tsking about the Wienerstube denial. This is a knee-jerk reaction by two guys who would never get a listing of this sort under any circumstances, but see the denial as a possible restraint on their ability to make money. For the same reason, they see no downside to all the development out at Snowmass, where they live as well as work - even though they will never get a piece of the action, except possibly re-sales. One of them made some remark about "following the Code and still getting denied", so I pointed out that the Code dimensions are "maximum allowable" - not necessarily granted as a matter of right. They both found this most amusing, as what developer would not plan for the maximum allowable, plus some extra footage that can be "sacrificed" while sobbing (sort of like The Walrus and The Carpenter).

The moral of this story is: maybe it's time to let more people (regular citizens and developers) know that "maximum allowable" is not an automatic entitlement.

A reasonably reliable source said that Steve Marcus wanted to get denied so that he could take this to court and get the entire Aspen Land Use Code overturned. This seems highly unlikely, as Garfield & Hecht would not undertake such a course of action "pro bono" - even if they were the ones to benefit ultimately; their modus operandi is to use other people's money - and Marcus and Provine are not about to shell out the kind of money needed for this type of action. Moreover, G & H like to pretend that they are concerned with the good opinion of the community, unlike Marcus and Provine who seem to relish their slimeball reputations.

A different source said that John Provine (who seems to keep a relatively low profile) tried to intimidate several Chateau Aspen owners and prevent them from coming to the meeting - I don't know whether any showed up - and that Provine or another of the partners did the same with Charles Cunniffe, whose office is across the street, next door to Carol Ann's old office (aka Jasmine's old office). Yikes.

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