January 12, 2018

To: Mayor Hart, Ivins City Council members Densley, McDonald, Mehr, Johnson, and Elliott
From: Patty Dupre and Mike Scott

Re: January 18, 2018 City Council meeting discussing concerning helicopter landings in Ivins

I have heard that as recently as last week a City official indicated that most of the email comments included with our Position Paper dated November 17, 2017 were uneducated, or misinformed, or something to that effect.

I agree. Many comments show confusion over how the planning, zoning, and land use process works in the City. I have found the same confusion at almost every Planning Commission public hearing over the years. This shows there is a great opportunity, even a need, for the City to get more active in helping our citizens better understand the planning process. The better educated we all are about this, the better our City will be for it. The City can do this by talking more about the process at Planning Commission meetings, City Council meetings, neighborhood meetings, or special meetings designed to provide more guidance on the planning process.

However, the citizen comments were not uneducated or misinformed about the most important thing: Our residents vision of what Ivins means to them, why they live here, what they value, and what they want to preserve and protect. Their comments speak to all the reasons why Ivins is a unique and wonderful community and clearly echo the vision in the City's General Plan. That's the opposite of uneducated or misinformed.

Similarly, a City official last week appeared to express support for Sentierre's plan to land helicopters, indicating that Sentierre was promoting this service to some very important people from out-of-state. But wait. Aren't the residents of Ivins the most important people for the City to pay attention to?

Including a second packet of citizen comments we will deliver on Tuesday, 548 people so far have expressed their objection to helicopter landings in Ivins. Most of them are Ivins residents from all over the city. Some of the comments show they may not understand the planning process. But it is equally clear that others, including Sentierre, don't understand our zoning codes because helicopter landings are not permitted in Ivins. Technically, that means not even helicopter landings for public emergencies, which is not right.

So, let's end all this confusion. Now is an opportunity for the City Council to do two things:

1. Implement a plan to provide better information to residents about the planning process.
2. Create an ordinance that clearly prohibits helicopter landings anywhere in the City, but clearly permits landings for public emergency such as law enforcement, fire, flood, and search and rescue.

Even if the City has not received any formal or legal notice from any applicant for a helicopter landing area, or even if the City receives notice that Sentierre abandoned plans for helicopter landings, now is the time to act. Our November Position Paper outlined eight reasons why it is important to act now. It has been a few months, so we would appreciate if you review the Position Paper once again.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Patty Dupre and Mike Scott