

Villa Monterey comes out stronger

KATHY FELD
COMMENTARY

Our goal: Save our community — not only homes on Chaparral, but our entire surrounding community that was destined to be overrun and dissected piece by piece through development. We came together with a positive, pro-active attitude to bring our issue in front of the City Council and present it with the respect they deserve as the people's representative. The council responded. We are grateful for the ability to be recognized and heard on the facts. Our goal was achieved.

The story here, which many in the media and individuals have missed, is that the democratic process works, even for neighborhoods. In February a Town Hall report once again placed our community in the cross hairs. It was time to act before we disappeared as a community.

We organized. It wasn't hard. We knew what we had and didn't want

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to lose it. Doing nothing wasn't an option. We had a lot of things going for us. We loved our quiet, historic neighborhood, we take good care of our homes, and yes, we are the highest-voting area in Scottsdale and proud of it!

We focused on our goal. We forged partnerships with La Villita, Casita del Fuente, Chaparral Condos, individuals and small businesses in our community.

We petitioned. Our 1,320 signatures made a statement wanting change.

We did our homework. We studied the general plan, voted in by citizens to serve its citizens. We showed up at meetings — lots of meetings. We researched our issue and the issues for the city at large.

We came up with ideas and wanted to be part of the solution. We held a posted, public meeting April 25 for citizen input, knowing that e-mails,

letters, petitions, phone calls, and public comment were also available from citizens to the council — opportunities available to everyone. We watched as the system began to respond.

A detailed transportation report was generated at the request of the council. So \$1.1 million was not wasted, but the HDR study is enhanced through this report. A clearer direction has been set based on our general plan values and HDR is responding — exactly what a paid consultant should do when asked by a client.

Watching other recent issues debated in the council, we respect each council member for the amount of work, time, and study of the facts, both pro and con.

We respect them for casting their vote with a personal conviction based on facts, as they see them, for all involved. The City Council did just that regarding Chaparral. They voted on the facts 6-1 to save Chaparral.

Villa Monterey is a better community having gone through this experience in civics. We will stay united as

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a pro-active community and remain involved with city issues.

There's only one lesson in civility: Acting with honor, respect, and facts speak volumes. Likewise, not having those qualities equally speaks volumes. We have been called silly, selfish, insulting, underhanded, self-serving, NIMBYs, peasants, little children, intimidating, browbeating, insignificant, and demeaning, simply because we followed through with our civic right to protect our community.

Oddly enough, these words only served to strengthen us. We thank those few vocal individuals for helping us to achieve our goal.

Kathy Feld is spokeswoman for Villa Monterey

HOAs 1-9.