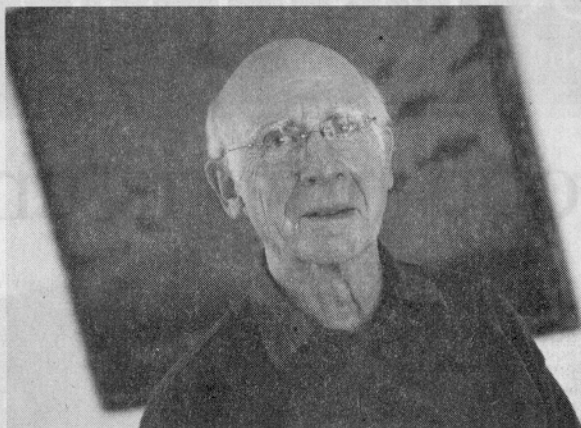


Citizen: don't back down

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GRAYSON WEST/PARK RECORD

Snyderville Basin resident Chris Hague, an attorney, says he is concerned that Summit County officials are going to settle out of court with a Basin landowner.

Citizens in Summit County don't want their elected officials to bow to a Snyderville Basin landowner who wants to build a large subdivision on the West Side.

The state Supreme Court recently issued an opinion in a dispute involving Summit County and South Summit resident Nadine Gillmor who owns hundreds of acres of land in the Basin

Because of illegal zoning ordinances enacted on the West Side of Summit County in the late 1990s, Nadine Gillmor claimed she was unable to sell her property to real estate investors. She sued Summit County about five years ago challenging the Snyderville Basin General Plan and Development Code that were enacted in the late 1990s.

Gillmor filed the lawsuit after county officials denied her application to construct a subdivision in Silver Summit that would have contained several hundred homes. But 3rd District Court Judge Bruce Lubeck ruled against Gillmor in 2007.

Gillmor appealed to the Utah Supreme Court. The state Supreme Court issued an opinion in the case last December, ruling 5-0 that Lubeck erred and remanding the lawsuit back to 3rd District Court.

But Snyderville Basin resident Chris Hague, an attorney, said county officials should not back down from

the courtroom fight.

"I'm greatly concerned," Hague said.

He recently told members of the County Council that a settlement with Gillmor could be disastrous for the community.

"We want to have Nadine Gillmor go through the Planning Commission process," Hague said. "We think we have a right to have the process go forward."

Development should not be allowed for Gillmor until the public is allowed to comment about her plans, Hague said.

"Do not allow an out-of-court settlement that would give Nadine Gillmor development rights that she would probably no be able to get from the process," Hague said. "We're relying on [the County Council] as our elected officials to protect us from these behind-closed-doors deals."

County Manager Bob Jasper has the authority to

settle lawsuits on behalf of the government.

"I would work closely with the County Council in getting their input," Jasper said. "I think part of my job is to look at options and explore opportunities for settlement."

Jasper said he has had discussions with those on all sides of the dispute including people who opposed Gillmor's proposals in the past.

He said he has asked Gillmor to submit a plan for her property.

"I have agreed to look at what they may come up with," Jasper said. "They came in and they said, 'Is there any possibility at all of settling this case?'"

Meanwhile, county officials will not bow if Gillmor makes demands, Councilwoman Sally Elliott said.

"This is not a roll over and die bunch of people that you're talking to," Elliott told Hague.