

Aviation Facilities in Bluff

Letter to the Town – 5/9/2023

I find it interesting that there is so much opposition to tourism in Bluff Utah by many who live here. I wonder what the town council would have voted for or what kind of ordinance would have been hurriedly passed to block Gene and Mary Foushee's vision of constructing the Recapture Court Motel and opening a 4x4 tour business back when they moved here in 1959. They worked tirelessly and had vision of what they could contribute to the town and at the core of their success was attracting tourists to Bluff. Headlines in newspapers read "Discovering the excitement of Geology" and "Recapturing the adventure in Redrock Country" as they invited guests to come visit this place we have all fallen in love with and now call home.

Next to Gene and Mary Foushee, Cindy and Amer Tumeah have likely done more for the town of Bluff since the Ancestral Puebloans and early Mormon Pioneers. The TRT revenue from their businesses have been instrumental in making a municipality possible here in Bluff. I'm not sure if everyone is aware that Property tax in Bluff account for maybe 10-20% of the cost to run our town? The rest depends on healthy businesses which are dependent on tourists.

Furthermore most of us would love to have our children close to us and Amer has found a way to have his son Tarrik come back and help him run his business and contribute to an exciting expansion opportunity. With so much opposition, do you think Tarrik feels welcome? He has overcome many odds in his life to become a pilot. I taught him at San Juan High School, and I would love to see him be able to return to his home and contribute to our economy and be with his father.

We all love Bluff and the wilderness that surrounds us. That is what brought us collectively here. I want Bluff to stay small and quaint for the next 100 years as many of you do, but we have to support and respect each other in meaningful and professional ways and we have to have businesses that are successful. This takes character and recognizing that we may need to make some compromises. I believe aviation tours will help the town of Bluff stay unique and be a positive influence if done appropriately. Gene Foushee thought so as well -- that is why we have an airstrip.

The Foushee's were able to do many great things in Bluff including rebuilding many of the dilapidated historical structures around town but it was because of their business success, vision, and tenacity that any of this was possible. If we can come together on the few business opportunities that exist in Bluff, we can shape them responsibly for a successful future for our town.

Sincerely,
Jared Berrett
Bluff Dwellings Resort
WILD Expeditions