*A MESSAGE FROM MITCH – 9/14/20*

*WELCOME****ELDORADO HEIGHTS****PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT Mitch King.*

Homeowners,

As you may recall from our June Members Meeting, we discussed the need to rebuild the entrance to Huotari Lane.  I wanted to give you an update on what is happening and ask for feedback.

As background, the entrance was destroyed by a large hay truck and the person responsible (Chip Sisco) agreed to fix the entrance.  The previous Board worked up several options for the members to consider.  At the member meeting (June 6) the motion was made and passed to put the entrance back the way it was (an archway design with single side posts and a top post).  The new Board was charged with working with Mr. Sisco on the replacement.

If you have been to the boat dock, or if you live on Huotari Lane you have noticed that this task has not been completed.  This lack of progress is all on me.  Mr. Sisco was prepared to put up the entryway in late July.  I asked him to hold off because there are a number of issues that the Board is working on that are all related to the design of the entryway.   Here are a few more details:

First, as you may know, Huotari Lane is a road that is on property owned by the Association - or at least it is supposed to be - and ends at the boat dock.  It also provides access for five Association member homesites.  It is the interpretation of the Board that Huotari Lane is a private road and does not provide access to any public lands, nor does it provide access to any property that is not part of the Association.  The ultimate goal of the Board is to "close" Huotari Lane to non-Association member traffic.

To this end, the Board is working with the two federal land management agencies (Bureau of Land Management & Forest Service) with neighboring property to ensure that they do not have an access claim to Huotari Lane.  To date, those discussions support the Association's position that Huotari Lane is a private road and not an access road to federal lands.

Our next step will be to communicate with Lewis and Clark County to confirm that they are not considering Huotari Lane as a "county road."  We have some documentation supporting this position, but we will be working to get further confirmation.

The Board has also had discussions with the manager of the property below Huotari Lane (Scott) addressing the current trespass where the hay trucks and the mining trucks and equipment are using Huotari Lane without authorization.  We are working on a reasonable solution that might involve the Association providing an exclusive use (for mining and hay operations) that would include support for the upkeep of Huotari Lane.  The "archway" design of the entrance to Huotari Lane would preclude this solution, without including a "drive around" bypassing the entryway.  The inclusion of a drive around would make any future closure of Huotari Lane more difficult.

So, because of all of these complications, I asked Mr. Sisco to hold off until I had the opportunity to interact with the Association members.  Over the past several weeks, I have had conversations with those members who use Huotari Lane for their access.  They are supportive of deviating from the motion passed at the June meeting.

The Board is proposing that we ask Mr. Sisco to replace the Huotari Lane entryway with a design that has three posts (of varying heights) on each side.  This will allow vehicles of any height to pass (precluding a drive around).  It will also provide us with a sufficient foundation for a "gate" structure - as well as area for signage.

Because this is a deviation from a motion made and passed by the members, the Board wanted to let you know of this proposed change and seek your input.  If we do not hear any significant objection over the next week, we will work with Mr. Sisco to construct this new entryway.

Thanks and as always, feel free to reach out to me on this or any other issue you may want to discuss.

Mitch

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Mitch King, President

Eldorado Heights Homeowners Association

5405 Favorite Gulch Rd

Helena, MT  59602

303.585.0377

[info@edh-hoa.com](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/14NIFgvcb/c?w=WFgVuN3jCKLu1b9rQqprFq99QlxIENAluP-kPIYamYo.eyJ1IjoibWFpbHRvOmluZm9AZWRoLWhvYS5jb20iLCJyIjoiZDgzNGRkYjctZTFlOS00Zjk1LTk4ZDctZmUzZTUyOWNhNTQ3IiwibSI6ImxwIn0)

[info@edh-hoa.com](https://shoutout.wix.com/so/14NIFgvcb/c?w=WFgVuN3jCKLu1b9rQqprFq99QlxIENAluP-kPIYamYo.eyJ1IjoibWFpbHRvOmluZm9AZWRoLWhvYS5jb20iLCJyIjoiZDgzNGRkYjctZTFlOS00Zjk1LTk4ZDctZmUzZTUyOWNhNTQ3IiwibSI6ImxwIn0)

PS - Don't forget about the HOA OPEN BOARD MEETING on SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 9 AM ( all members are welcome) with the HOA PICNIC following at 12 PM.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING our picnic so we can get a reliable count and if you would volunteer to bring a side dish.

PLEASE USE THE THE BUTTON BELOW AS A QUICK AND EASY WAY TO SIGN UP.