

HFC Committee

From: Jo Anne J Winer <mynaboyd@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 2:37 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Testimony for HFC 3 for meeting of June 20, 2019

Healthy Families and Communities Committee written testimony

Date of meeting: June 20, 2019

PERMITTED USE, OVERUSE and MANAGEMENT OF LAHAINA BANYAN COURT PARK, LAHAINA HISTORIC DISTRICT (HFC-3)

Dear Chair Hokama and Committee members -

The topic on your agenda is a very generic topic regarding the use of the Banyan Tree Park area.

Based on my past experience as a Councilmember and Committee Chair for Parks this area has created much community debate.

I had no idea how contentious this had become until I sought to get a permit from Parks on behalf of our West Maui Hospital Foundation and found myself before the Cultural Resources Commission.

The unpleasantness of this experience and the accusations that were leveled by the existing users against those who spoke in support of our application were a shock.

I felt that the existing permit holders exhibited an overwhelming sense of entitlement and were primarily concerned with continuing their exclusive use of the area due to the economic benefits they were receiving.

Following my CRC testimony I was confronted in the hall by permit holders who accused me of being anti-Hawaiian and a traitor. This was offensive and could not be further from the truth.

For this reason I support an evaluation of Banyan Tree Park and what can be done to prevent further difficulties from occurring surrounding the use of the area. Competition for use should be fair, equitable and inclusive.

As an additional comment, I felt that the previous Parks Department's actions to deal directly with the State to bypass the County Council in granting control of the area to the Lahaina Restoration Foundation was not in the best interests of the Community. I sent testimony in opposition to this action to the State based on the lack of community involvement and disregard for Council oversight.

I made past suggestions on this subject which are a part of the Council's records.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Sent from my iPhone