

BF Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:58 AM
To: BF Committee
Cc: Danny A. Mateo
Subject: Fw: BF- 129

From: Erik <erik@extendedhorizons.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:17 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: BF- 129

Dear Council members

My name is Erik Stein. I am a CORA permit holder and spoke yesterday at the budget meeting against park concessions.

I do understand that Parks needs funding and having a revenue stream from a concession could be a source of that. However when I heard Parks speak about existing food trucks operating in Parks space already, I was surprised. I have never seen a food truck inside any County Parks on the west side.

Council spoke about Launiopoko park as a place where a concession on the west side might work.

Both you and I remember that this park was barely utilized in the 80's and early 90's and is now overcrowded everyday. There is a new defacto commercial space across the street from the park where we now have farmers market and other little things. That commercial enterprise is not in the park but is certainly a pop up business. I had to assume they had some kind of permit. Perhaps I am wrong. But there is no space in the park itself for a shop or place of business. If the County of Maui is allowing businesses on their park perimeter that have no actual permanent permitted structures. (like Launipoko) then I suggest that you look at the cost of those permits.

I just want to be sure that there is no confusion as to what CORA operators do with their permits (which have gone from \$50 a year for all parks to \$1000 a year per park since CORA was instituted). CORA operators do not do business in the park. The permit allows us to ingress and egress the water ONLY. We park, walk to the water and go diving. Then we walk out and go back to our place of business where all transactions take place. We use the park for recreation, just like the greater community does. It just happens that recreation is our business. We do not, advertise, solicit, or sell anything in the park space. That is the difference between a CORA user and a concession.

As the cost of Permits has increased 2000% the number of permits has dropped from over 400 to less than 125. Parks has refused to issue any

new permits. If they issued new permits that would be a source of revenue. CORA operators have very low impact on the park area beyond taking a couple of parking spaces during their time at the park. And CORA operators are good stewards of the park and ocean. By my calculation if those permits were reissued than there would be an additional 300K for parks. However the reason they were dropped in the first place is the cost to hold those permits was too high. In this respect Parks miscalculated what these small businesses could bear and created a bar so high that many quit or went underground.

There are no beach parks in West Maui that would benefit the community by having a concession in them. Wahikuli, Launiopoko, Ukemehame, Honokaowai, Fleming, - none of them.

As a commercial user of the park myself I want to underline that CORA and RFP concessions are very different animals. We do not want to turn our recreational beach park spaces into areas that are commercial.

Thank you
Erik Stein

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