

Name: Robin Knox

Agenda Item: E. Other Committee Business

Date Received: 9/15/23, e-mail correspondence with We Are South Maui

>>> "Robin S. Knox" 9/15/2023 8:47 AM >>>

Aloha

Can you please return to broadcasting the meetings live, and allowing virtual testimony? Many of us are older and going out in the evening is a huge challenge. Also without the live broadcast, a person has to attend every meeting in person to know what is going on and be responsive. Posting a recording a week later when there are weekly meetings is not adequate. Additionally, the Kihei Community Center acoustics are atrocious. My self and several friends can not hear what is being said when we do attend in person.

I feel the Planning Department has failed to make these meetings accessible in a way that allows community participation. Changing meeting places, no remote testimony, no timely broadcast all discourages or inhibit public participation. I and other members of the public who are very akamai and active in our civil engagement have found participation in this planning effort almost impossible. This is a COMMUNITY plan, and it should be telling to you that at many of the meetings there are more developers who are not members of the South Maui Community than there are members of the public.

Robin Knox
Kihei resident

>>> wearesouthmaui 9/15/2023 11:00 AM >>>

Aloha Robin,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns. we will address them to the best of our ability.

The We Are South Maui team tries our best to keep meetings as consistent as possible by having them on the same days and at the same time. Unfortunately, because we use public venues that book on a first come, first served basis, even booking weeks or months in advance does not guarantee availability. As Malcolm Center is the only venue with a wired Ethernet connection necessary for a live stream setup, we reserved it whenever possible. Malcolm Center was not available on September 13 or 20. We have Malcolm Center booked for the remaining CPAC meetings after September 20.

However, due to recent staffing shortages at AKAKU, we cannot provide live streaming for future meetings. Prior to the August 30 CPAC meeting, AKAKU lost its only two employees with the knowledge and skill to offer the live streaming services we had been utilizing for our meetings. For the August 30 and September 6 meetings, Planning staff tried to find workarounds with AKAKU's limited capabilities to maintain a quality hybrid meeting and encountered significant issues with audio and video. This made it extremely difficult for participants on BlueJeans to see and hear what was happening at the meetings, which impacted testimony. Additionally, at the September 6 meeting we ran into connection issues at Malcolm Center, which led to everyone on BlueJeans being booted off the meeting repeatedly. Staff at Malcolm Center and monitoring BlueJeans spent the meeting trying to troubleshoot these issues, which created a significant disruption.

Despite the We Are South Maui team's and AKAKU's best efforts, the unfortunate reality is that we no longer have the capacity nor the capability to provide live streaming services for the South Maui Community Plan Update, and for that, we sincerely apologize. We recognize and understand your and the South Maui community's frustrations throughout this challenging process, and ask that you have patience for our staff as we continue to try and find ways to manage what we can with the limited resources we have available.

We hope to have the video of Wednesday's meeting online within the next day or two. As noted above, AKAKU is very short-staffed and working as quickly as possible to get the meeting video edited and uploaded.

We hope you stay engaged and submit either written testimony to wearesouthmaui@mauicounty.gov, or testify in person at the meetings.

Mahalo again for reaching out,



Maui County Planning Department
Long Range Division