

AAC Minutes  
3/27/2024  
Place Pueo Conference room and via zoom  
25 aupuni stre Ste 2601 Hilo HI 96720

Call to Order at 11:13 AM

Mark Odell  
Leonard Bisel  
Jill Wagner via zoom  
Bobby Command  
Jean Campbell  
Alexey Katko (County Staff)  
Gordon Heit (DLNR)

**Public Testimony:** None

**Gordon Heit:** requesting that banyan trees/grove along banyan drive to hold off on the nomination for a more research to be done. Precise location and whos jurisdiction they fall under.

**MO:** what does banyan drive development do?

**BC:** authority to make planning decisions regarding redevelopment of the drive, float bonds.

**JC:** they have very bro

**GH:** there is new management at the Naniloa so we need to talk to them

**BC:** one idea is to build a convention center. Asked **GH** about a breifing about the leases on banyan drive.

**GH:** Naniloa & Hilo Hawaiian are there for 40+ years. Apartment building ther another 12 years on lease. One hotel being demolished with no future plans. Old country clu hotel a new lease being worked out. Old restaurant is private property. Eveyrthing is on hold until development guys work out things with Public Works.

**LB:** yeah its importaint to recognize its both the trunk as well as the cannopy that is being managed. So when pruning you must understand all te parrties that are involved when taking care of it.

**GH:** Yeah, so exeptionalizing 49 trees would make a lot of challenges, so we should first clarify everything before doing that.

**BC:** In best case senario you will be dealing with multiple groups of people at a time per tree.

**LB:** banyond drive redevelopment agency reiterated this will be a challenge.

**BC:** What is the next best step?

**JC:** we will have to wait until they schedule the next meeting which they are waiting for this legislatin period to first end as they are awaiting a few new laws potentialy.

**LB:** I think they just want to be part of the discussion on what we decide to do next.

**BC:** who is our contact?

**JC:** McCully or myself.

### **Approval of the minutes**

**LB:** Correction to say I never heard of them being formally on the list. Unless the Outdoor Scircle can prove with paperwork, the banyon drive trees will have to be re-exceptionalized. Motioned to approve minutes, Mark seconds the motion, all approved

### **Old Business**

**MO:** HI County arborist position.

**LB:** Spoke with a colleague, she's head of dept of forestry on Oahu. She's willing to help write up job description for arborist as they have over 20. She asked if we know our tree inventory. (Audio became inaudible for a portion of the video)

- **LB:** Arborist Position: to move forward is it necessary for the job description to be finalized, or can the county look at funding already?
- **BC:** the mayor would like to be able to understand what this person would be responsible for before signing off on anything.
- **MO:** should we take a look at what the other two counties are doing? The arborist will be sent to the consulting academy and you get a certification.
- **LB:** we have to make sure the county arborist has this certification.
- **BC:** Is there an ideal job description from the other counties?
- **MO:** this will be more like a growing position where things will be added on.

**BC:** do we have any medians on this island?

**LB:** only one I'm aware of in Hilo is down on Kapiolani St. We generally do not have them in the median.

**MO:** Any announcements?

**LB:** Dept. Of Urban forestry has 50-60+ arborists on staff. And it was formed finally three years ago.

**JC:** list of exceptional trees is in your handout. Last time something was added was in 2007

**BC:** lets talk about what we went out to look at, add it to our next agenda. To see what's there and what is not there.

**LB:** One time this committee was charged to make signs, we held a design competition with Keiki, a design was selected and presented to County Council, it was adopted, and we have that graphic.

**AK:** no announcements, can we set a date for next meeting.

### **Our next meeting will be:**

Mar 24 11am -1pm for next meeting

**Mark Odell:** lets make a motion to adjourn. Leonard motioned and Bobby seconded. Meeting adjourned.