

Jocelyn Gonzalez-Thies

Mendocino County

From: jasq (null) <jasq@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 4:55 PM
To: pbscommissions
Subject: CASE#: MHRB_2020-0012

JUL 06 2023

Planning & Building Services

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you,
Jean Arnold

5 July 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

While I support the use of tents for annual short-term events like the Mendocino Music Festival, Film Festival, and Flynn Creek Circus, I object to their long-term use (*years*, as opposed to weeks) in the town.

For one thing, the short-term events have minimal water/sewer requirements, and the big tents look festive — then they're gone. More tables means more people using restrooms, either at the restaurant or elsewhere — or public urination, always a happy sight. The tents ramp up local noise levels, and spew pollution in the form of propane exhaust from the portable heaters used nightly and sometimes during the day — and the tents don't leave. Right now, Mendocino is breathing a watery sigh of relief, after years of drought followed by a fairly average (103%) rain year, but from these swings we should learn only that our water supply is completely unpredictable. Most climatologists predict wilder swings in both rainfall and temperatures.

Secondly, the vinyl/plastic tents being used long-term for restaurants and bars are in no way in keeping with the historic nature of the town. The tents are look increasingly derelict, with stains and mildew or mold growing on them. The town doesn't need shrink-wrapping, and it doesn't need decay.

Thirdly, anyone who lives near a restaurant can tell you that rats, ravens and other scavengers are an inevitable accompaniment. Increase the number of patrons and put them outside, and you've just made the establishment more desirable for both.

Fourth, public urination increases with increased alcohol served. Also, parking is being affected for the other businesses — and for people living along Lansing and Calpella.

My understanding is that all the restaurants in town deploying tents are currently in violation of MCCSD requirements. I assume approval of this application will result in more applications from the remaining restaurants. More plastic tents, more utility usage, more outdoor noise, more propane exhaust gasses, more rats, less parking. I understand the tax revenue from these establishments is welcome, but little of that revenue is evident here (look at the roads!). I don't see any benefit to the town and the people who *live* here.

It makes no sense to me that this item is being heard before the MHRB, when the utility questions have not been addressed.

Thank you for your time and your service!

Jean Arnold
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