

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 17, 2002

Council Chamber, 8th floor

CONVENE: 1:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Charmaine M. Tavares, Member

STAFF: Gary R. Saldana, Legislative Analyst
David M. Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary
Dana Broncheau, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson

ADMIN.: Sue Kiang, Community Resources Program Coordinator, Department of
Parks and Recreation
Judith M. E. Williams, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Mary Cameron Sanford
Martha Vockrodt-Moran
Barbara Long
Ernest H. Rezens, Vice-Chair, Maui County Arborist Committee
Warren McCord, President, Maui Outdoor Circle
Additional attendees (1)

PRESS: Valorie Monson, *The Maui News*

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Parks and Recreation Committee will come to order. We have Council Members. . .and the Vice-Chair of our Committee, Councilmember Robert Carroll; Councilmember Danny Mateo is also here; Councilmember Michael Molina; Councilmember Charmaine Tavares. We have Sue Kiang from our Community Resources Program. . .Coordinator for Parks and Recreation. . .Kevin Nelson, who's Chair of the Maui County Arborist Committee; Judith Williams. . .and this is probably gonna be our last meeting with you, Judith. . .with, she's with, Deputy Corporation Counsel. And we're sad to see her go.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Camille Sakamoto, who is our Committee Secretary; and Gary Saldana, who is our Legislative Analyst. We also have David Raatz, who is present.

MS. KIANG: . . . Madam Chairman, Kevin Nelson will not be able to join us today, but Ernie Rezens, as Vice-Chair, is here.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Wonderful. Thank you very much for attending, Ernie.

MR. REZENTS, FROM THE AUDIENCE: You're welcome.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Before we begin the meeting, we do have only one item on our agenda today, and that's PR-6, which is a request to add trees to the exceptional trees of Maui County list.

ITEM NO. 6: REQUEST TO ADD TREES TO THE "EXCEPTIONAL TREES OF MAUI COUNTY" LIST (C.C. No. 02-200)

CHAIR JOHNSON: And we have only three people signed up, maybe four now, to testify . . .(laughter). . . But what I'll begin with is the public testimony. And I do give each person up to ten minutes. And if you would just state your name for the record. And . . .if you have any cell phones or pagers or anything of that sort, just turn them off so that they don't interrupt the meeting. And as I call your name, just step forward to the podium. And then if there's any questions. . .we'll also allow the Members to ask you questions. So the first testifier we have is. . .Mary Cameron Sanford.

NOTE: Long pause while Ms. Sanford approached the podium.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. CAMERON SANFORD: . . . I don't have anything really new to say other than what was in the letter. . .which I sent to propose. . .putting the. . .the Baldwin Avenue shower trees on the list of exceptional trees. And. . .I just wanted to reiterate that my grandmother, Ethel Baldwin, planted those trees along with, of course, the help of the people at Maui Agricultural Company, which her husband was the Manager of. And she was always into civic things on the island. . .and wanted to beautify that road which. . .still remains a. . .very. . .satisfying and lovely road to ride down and see the trees, see the view. And. . .it's quite a different. . .environment than the. . .the speed on. . .on the Haleakala Highway. And without the trees. . .it would change a lot. The. . .the idea of having the bike path that took out the trees and, and sort of straighten things out was. . .did not sit well with me aesthetically. And I just hope that these trees are put on the

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exceptional tree list so that. . .at least they'll have a portion of old Maui remain.
Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Are there any questions for the testifier?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much. Thank you, Mary. The next testifier. . .and I apologize if I butcher your name, is Martha Vockrodt-Moran.

NOTE: *Pause while Ms. Vockrodt-Moran approached the podium.*

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . And she'll be followed by Barbara Long.

MS. VOCKRODT-MORAN: . . . Is this a good place for this?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Perfect.

MS. VOCKRODT-MORAN: . . . My name is Martha Vockrodt-Moran. I'm born and raised in Lahaina, Maui. My grandfather is D. T. Fleming, an agricultural missionary well-known on Maui for not only preserving native plants, but also introducing from around the world, plants making Hawaii a better place to live. I have nominated an old kiawe for the Maui County Exceptional Tree list. This tree is located on the Lahaina side of the pali tunnel, on the ocean at the first large turn out and parking area. It is one of the oldest and largest kiawe on the island with a four-foot diameter trunk. It is especially handsome as it arches out over the water. Since my mom's childhood in the early 1900s, this kiawe was well-known as one of Maui's most photographed trees. Now with more kiawe in the area and the highway straightened, cars whiz by faster, hardly noticing it. In Hawaii's past, plants and animals were introduced to help diversity. . .excuse me . . .*(laughter)*. . . was used to help diverse. . .diversify Hawaii's economy. Cattle ranching was among the first industries. Kiawe was introduced to aid the cattle industry as a food supplement. The beans fed cattle protein during the dry summer. In addition, the hardwood supplies fence posts and firewood. The trees thrive in the harshest conditions. Still today, kiawe makes the best fence posts, firewood and barbeque wood, as well as the best most coveted caramel honey. I nominate this kiawe not only for its aesthetic beauty, its history, and importance to the cattle industry and Hawaii's economy, but for giving shade to the once harsh, barren shores of south and west Maui. Before kiawe, no native shade trees grew in these areas. Today, kiawe is the predominate shade tree at the beaches of south and west Maui--enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. By honoring this tree as an exceptional tree, future pruning will be hopefully done with care by an arborist, rather than indiscriminately cut by Highway crew--as you can see evidence of today. Tourists and locals alike will have one more spot to seek out, to stop and enjoy. A thick old barge rope swing still hangs from a limb over the water--a testimony to the joy this tree has brought people in the past. It is a special old tree in a special spot.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Thank you very much. Are there any questions?

. . . Thanks very much for your testimony. I love that tree, too. I go by it every day . . .(laughter). . . Barbara Long, and she'll be followed by our last testifier. . .Ernest Rezens.

MS. LONG: . . . Good afternoon, Chair Johnson and Committee Members. And I wanna thank you for doing this today. This Committee maybe regarded by some as not nearly as important as the Budget Committee or the Land Use Committee, but I think what you're doing here today is something that will have an effect on the quality of life on this island that we all care about, and I thank you very much for that. I'm here to support the nomination of the grove of trees on Baldwin Avenue. . .mostly shower trees, but a few others, as exceptional trees. And I believe this is precedent setting since it's the first time that trees on public property, Maui County property, have been nominated and. . .are being considered for inclusion. The exceptional tree law came down from the State of Hawaii because of the recognition that it's important to safeguard trees because of inappropriate land development and to recognize their importance not only to the people who live here, but to visitors as beautiful scenic things. Um. . .and they're not just environmental assets, they're economic assets. And. . .I'd like to see nominations from the various Council districts for more exceptional trees in your own particular districts. We, we need to recognize our kupuna trees. Um. . .the grove of shower trees includes the ones that Maizie Cameron Sanford has mentioned, that are 70 years old, as well as some younger ones. They were surveyed by Warren McCord, who's. . .an Arborist and the President of Maui Outdoor Circle--who did an awful lot of work, not only with the trees, but with the Department of Public Works to make today possible. And I wish Warren was here today, I'd like to thank him. I wanna thank Mazie [sic], too, for nominating them. And I wanna thank the Department of Public Works for recognizing that we really care about those trees, and for their decision to rethink the Baldwin Avenue bike path and save the trees. Um. . .that makes them exceptional, if nothing else. And I wanna thank the Arborist Committee and its staff, Sue Kiang, for their consideration of not only the Baldwin Avenue trees but. . .the jacaranda tree that you're considering today and the kiawe and all the others. Hopefully they'll be busier in the future with more nominations. So. . .thank you all very much. I hope that you will vote in favor of the resolution today. I hope it will move up to the County Council and that they will be approved forthwith. And. . .look forward to seeing all of you on the first bike ride down the off-road bike trail so we can all admire the shower trees. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Thank you very much, Barbara. Are there any questions of the testifier? Thanks so much, Barbara.

MS. LONG: Thanks.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: And our final testifier is Ernest Rezents.

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. Rezents approached the podium.*

MR. REZENTS: . . . Good afternoon. My name is Ernest Rezents. And I'm an Arborist, and I've been on the Maui County Arborist Committee for maybe 12 years. The whole idea of exceptional trees came into being, as Barbara mentioned, from a State law that mandated that Maui County have exceptional trees and that we protect our exceptional trees. When we developed the Maui County Planting Plan in 1993--I believe, when we published it--we. . .in the back of it have a list of 19 trees only that. . .the County Council declared exceptional. Now we had proposed 40 trees be named exceptional, but only 19 made the cut. And so this go around is the first time we've had private individuals nominate trees. The 19 you see in the document, the Committee. . .nominated and pursued, and they finally got approved to be exceptional trees of Maui County. We. . .need to revisit the others, the 21 other trees, to get some of them back on and into. . .this consideration to extend the list of trees that we have here. The trees that you have nominated to you today are the only one of its kind. Like, we don't have any jacaranda. . .or rainbow shower, or kiawe tree on the present list. And these trees are quite different. Like, the jacaranda is typical of upcountry. In the Five Trees, you know, opens up the gate to upcountry and it's a well-publicized, the Five Trees are very important trees--and the whole grove of jacarandas up there. And the one that is on Peter Baldwin's home there, is truly a very large and beautiful tree that has been well-cared for and not been starved. It's, it's truly a excellent specimen. The rainbow shower trees on Baldwin Avenue, I remember as a kid that they were beautiful and flowering very nicely. And the late Mayor, Hannibal Tavares, had planted more trees there to replace those that had died. And since that time others have died for one reason or the other. And the Outdoor Circle has pledged the replanting--and Warren said a hundred trees, so let's see if he'll come through with a hundred trees--to really restore that Avenue to a place of beauty. The rainbow showers there are typical of upcountry, and that road has been known for its colorful--the pink and white, the yellow. . .flowered shower trees. So that truly is a nice corridor. The kiawe trees, I know, are all over the place. And. . .um. . .Martha did a great job in testifying of why that tree deserves to be declared exceptional. And it was brought into Hawaii for firewood, for the beans. In fact they, I came, I think it came into Hawaii in 1828, around there, and was introduced by a Father. . .a Catholic priest and was first planted at the Fort Street Cathedral in Honolulu. And all of that kiawe in Hawaii came from that one tree. And he brought the seed back from. . .Royal Botanical Gardens in Paris, France. So that long ago. And from that one tree came all the other kiawes that we have here in Hawaii. So I think her testament to the kiawe was very commendable because she did a great job in saying how valuable that tree is to Hawaii. And it does shade the. . .the. . .south and west parts of Maui. Not much will grow there, and this

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thing is. . .just grows very easily. And I know as a kid I enjoyed the shade. And as a youngster, I must say--and that dates me--Akina used to hire kids, maybe 10 years of age or so. And we used to go and pick up the kiawe beans. And mom packed our lunches with us. And maybe the lunch must have cost, I don't know, 25 cents. . .and the beans I harvested one day, I think it was 20 cents. So I'm not sure if I was earning my keep.

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. REZENTS: But I remember we picked it and, 'til very long hours. And late at night they would have a scale, and the bag of kiawe beans would be hanging on to get to weigh it, and you were paid so many cents per pound. And we all were in this Akina cattle truck going down to Kihei, Makena, so forth, to pick these beans. So the kiawe is a fantastic tree. It has its merits. So I wish you'd consider these trees as very positive and worthy of being added to the exceptional tree list that we have in our Maui County Planting Plan. And I thank you very much for this opportunity to speak with you today.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Ernie. Are there any questions of the testifier? Thanks very much. And--

MR. REZENTS: You're welcome.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --I really appreciate you coming. He's a great tree-hugger . . .(laughter). . .

NOTE: Silence.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Before--are there any other people in the audience wishing to testify? Seeing none we'll close public testimony at this time.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: As I said earlier, the one item that we have on our agenda is the PR-6, request to add trees to the Exceptional Trees of the Maui County. . .list. And the Committee is in receipt of correspondence from the Chair of the Maui County Arborist Committee, requesting that certain trees be included on the Exceptional Trees of Maui County list. Pursuant to Section 12.24A.030, Maui County Code, the Arborist Committee shall recommend to the County Council, for its adoption, any addition to the exceptional tree list. The Arborist Committee has recommended that the following trees be designated exceptional: one is the jacaranda, located on Haleakala Ranch; number two, the kiawe located along Honoapiilani Highway near. . .near mile marker 11; number three, the rainbow shower trees along Baldwin Avenue. The Committee is also in receipt of a proposed resolution entitled "ADDITIONS TO THE EXCEPTIONAL TREES OF

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MAUI COUNTY". The purpose of the proposed resolution is to designate certain trees and grove of trees as exceptional, and include these trees on the list entitled "Exceptional Trees of Maui County". And so at this point, I would just like Sue Kiang to give the Committee a brief overview of this matter and where we stand right now. If you would, Sue?

MS. KIANG: I'm happy to say that Maui County government has had a close relationship in support of trees throughout--that there was a tree advisory board in Territorial days. And when we became a County, it became the Arborist Committee. This was reaffirmed in 1990 and 1992 as the . . .different ordinances were revisited. And . . .as Ernie said, that in 1992 was when the Committee put together the original list of trees. Now what constitutes an exceptional tree is either the tree type, the size of the specimen, or the historical value to it. And several of the trees that we're looking at today, many of them meet all three of those criteria. But as Ernie said, the exciting thing about these nominations is it came from the public. And when it comes from the public, it means that there's even that much more aloha felt for the particular trees. To have the landowner, Mr. Peter Baldwin, suggest his jacaranda tree was very nice. The kiawe was a challenge to the Committee--that despite the historical and economic value, there are some that look at kiawe in this day and age as a shrub or scrub tree. But we know that it still serves important purposes in providing the shade along the shoreline where nothing else will grow. And then finally, that stand of rainbow shower trees were very meaningful to a large segment of the community--not only the relatives of Ethel Baldwin and Hannibal Tavares, but other people who live upcountry and see the beauty provided by the rainbow showers. Therefore, the Committee put forth these three nominations with the hope that the Council will be in agreement. It has been reviewed by the Parks Department and is fully supported by our Director, Floyd Miyazono; and the Beautification Section, Francis Miyazono and our County Arborist, David Sakoda. So for these reasons, I am hopeful that you will pass this on for consideration to the Council as a whole. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Sue. Are there any questions of Sue?

. . . Councilmember Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon, Sue. Just a . . .quick question--maybe somewhat trivial, but once these trees are designated, are they given any . . .you know, any special treatment as far as long-term care and . . .anything different from that of what the County does as far as caring for trees on County property?

MS. KIANG: Well, as . . .resources pro, allow, we do . . .offer support--particularly if a tree is . . .serves a public purpose. For instance, the beautiful tree, monkey pod tree across the street in front of the Kahului Union Church, that is one of our

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exceptional trees. And one year. . .one of our certified arborists gave us a good deal and, and we helped prune that tree. Unfortunately, the stipulation of the ordinance itself does not have that either. . .as a mandate for the owner or as a mandate for the County. We do assess them annually or periodically. And if for any reason a tree were to be damaged, then we would ask the owner to take that tree down. The exceptional tree status asks the owner to keep us informed if there is something that, that for some reason they have a need to take it down. Then they're asked to communicate that with the Arborist Committee, as well as if the property is sold, just to keep us informed in that regard. But it is something that provides an additional spotlight to the trees that are on that. And in fact the subcommittee of exceptional trees is looking at a project this year to actually get them labeled so that the public will have a greater awareness. They all are designated in the Maui County Planting Plan, which is a document that we all should be proud it. It was primarily authored by Ernie Rezens and other members of the Committee. And it is looked to as one of the best documents throughout the State. . .used by tree owners. So it gets printed . . .(laughter) . . .

ALL: . . .(laughter) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Well, thank you very much, Sue, for that very in-depth analysis.

MS. KIANG: . . .(laughter) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: I think you more than answered my question.

MS. KIANG: . . .(laughter) . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: She likes trees too, Michael.

ALL: . . .(laughter) . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other questions of Sue?

. . . Oh, one of the things that I did speak about with Sue. . .was in regard to the procedures for designation and nomination of the exceptional trees. So there's one little part in here--which is, I think, 4.103--where the owner signs an acceptance form for exceptional tress. And. . .one of the challenges, I think, that we had spoken about--maybe you could just go into that a little bit, Sue, about how these things are actually formulated, what the procedure is.

MS. KIANG: Again, these have been guidelines that have been formulated over the years. And of course ideally to have that signed statement by the landowner that

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they're in agreement. . .we. . .find that difficult. . .with publicly owned trees. Who is the entity that has that responsibility? Therefore, I, I have to be honest--I don't necessarily have that sign-off on the kiawe tree, but I've forwarded the nomination because a precedent has been set in that we have several exceptional trees that are located on school properties. So that, the State has participated with us in this process.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. And, and one of the. . .the suggestions, I think, that I had made might be that a letter could be sent out. And I don't know if Corporation Counsel wants to comment on this, but that if a response is not received within a time certain. . .that it is deemed that they're in agreement with the designation for that. I have no idea whether or not that would work, but if we sent a certified letter, made some attempt--if it's an agency, if it is an individual owner that we've made an attempt. But I think that because there is no money . . .(laughter). . .really behind this, it's kind of hard to say, you know, what our responsibility is and what it isn't. But. . .do you have any comments on that particular aspect?

MS. WILLIAMS: No, I'm. . .I'm sorry, I . . .(inaudible due to interruption)--

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay, no, that's, well, it, it is a thought. So if you, as Committee Members, have any suggestions or members of the Arborist. . .Committee do have any recommendations, I would really appreciate that--as to how we can, you know, maybe firm that up or make suggestions as to how we might accomplish that. I see Warren McCord in the. . .audience. If, if there--I know I closed public testimony, but if there's no objection, I would like Warren, and then, Ernie, if you have something also to say, would you like to come forward and offer testimony, Warren? Thank you.

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. McCord approached the podium.*

MR. McCORD: . . . My name is Warren McCord, I'm the President of the Maui Outdoor Circle. I got stuck in the mud in Kula.

ALL: . . .(laughter). . .

MR. McCORD: So, I apologize for being late. It's still raining up there.

. . . One of the reasons a lot of people live on Maui is the beauty of Maui. And certainly exceptional trees are part of that beauty. And. . .I know that everyone else in the audience has probably said exactly the same thing, but exceptional trees are part of our heritage here on Maui. And so I really do hope that not only this subcommittee, but that the Council will consider carefully this. . .resolution and make these, give these trees that extra protection. . .that we can afford them. Could I answer any questions at all?

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any questions of Warren?

. . . Seeing none, thank you very much, Warren. And I know that we will be working with you on maybe getting some more nominations as well.

MR. McCORD: We have several in the works.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Great. Thank you very much. And now, Ernest. . .if there's no objections from the Members?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. Rezents reapproached the podium.*

MR. REZENTS: . . . Thank you very much. That's a very good question that you ask--you know, to send the letter and if no response you can assume that to be positive. Because that same idea came in when we did the original list and we only got 19. Some people didn't respond. And Howard Fukushima--who was then Deputy Corp. Counsel--and I talked, and I said, he said if the County Council deemed a tree to be exceptional, they can declare it exceptional whether the person responded or not because this would be for the good of the County. And. . .I was sort of surprised to hear that. But if a tree is deemed good for the County, the Council can declare that as such and declare the tree to be exceptional. But as Sue said, it does put a responsibility on the owner that that owner is not supposed to cut the tree down. And unless the owner clears it with the Arborist Committee and the County--because it'll be declared by the Council to be exceptional, and that's for the good of all the members of Maui County. So it's to be cared for and not abused. And so it has some restrictions, see, but if the County Council declares that it is truly deemed important and exceptional, to go ahead and do so. But that letter idea is an excellent one.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Ernest. I really appreciate the fact that everybody's come today in support of nature, in support of trees. And. . .I think that so many times our beautiful trees are. . .they're landmarks. And I can remember the reaction of the Hawaiian people when the hau tree, which had been recorded way back when in some of the early documents of Hawaiian history, the hau tree was cut down at Olowalu. And there was a great sadness on the part of so many of the people because it was a part of their history. It was a landmark. It was something that the ships navigated by. And when you look at these things in the same way that you look at the kiawe tree, it may not be the most beautiful tree in the world, but it's there. And a lot of times we don't pay enough attention to the beauty that's around us. And even some of the trees that

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might not look that impressive. . . just the fact that they've survived particular conditions or droughts or maybe accidents or . . .

. . . I, I remember there were beautiful elm trees back in Wisconsin, where I used to live. That is something that is really important--there were very few elm trees that survived Dutch elm disease. So when you look at those survival rates of some of these beautiful trees, I know how important it is to me--and I think to all of us--that we honor those. So without. . .going--are there any further details, is there anything else, Sue or Judi, that you have to offer?

. . . Anything that Staff has?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: I have--

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Uh, Charmaine?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: It's interesting that you talk about landmarks and how trees are landmarks. And I think particularly in Hawaii, those kind of landmarks are very important because we don't talk in terms of east and west, north and south. And when we give directions, it's turn by the brown house next to that, the green, big tree. And it's a source of directions for us because we were doing that long before we had posted signs on our roads that said what even the name of the road was, much less having a number assigned to it. So I think for us, especially, these exceptional trees, we should do everything within our power to preserve these. . .because they're part of our, our culture. . .really. I'm another tree hugger, so . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: I know . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: . . . we're preaching to the choir here . . .(laughter). . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: No. I know. And I think so many of us are. Plus, they really keep your air conditioning bill down if you have a lot of them around you . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: That's right.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other comments?

. . . Seeing none, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the proposed resolution, which includes the filing of the communication.

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: So moved.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Second.

CHAIR JOHNSON: It's been moved by Councilmember. . .Vice. . .Vice-Chair Carroll, and it has been seconded by Councilmember Tavares to move forward the resolution on the addition to the exceptional tree of Maui County, these beautiful trees--the jacaranda, the kiawe, and rainbow shower grove. Is there any further discussion on this item?

. . . Councilmember Carroll?

VICE-CHAIR CARROLL: Yes, Chair. No, I would just like to say I'm really happy to see these, these particular trees come before us today. And it's almost sad the reason that we have to do this. Because I know in all the years I've been here--and all of us, we've seen so many truly exceptional trees. . .just be cut down or bulldozed or destroyed for. . .and in many cases, for no real reason. . .just for, because it'll be a little bit easier to do something. And it. . .it was always really sad and. . .that's why we're here today and that's why we have, or we're doing this and having, recognizing these except. . .exceptional trees. And I would hope. . .they said there's more in the works. . .especially with the growth that we have and . . .(sigh). . . the way things are, I hope in the near future to see them back before us again. And I commend all of those that--the members of the public that made the nominations and everyone involved with this for coming forward and. . .being here today with us and giving these recommendations to us.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Councilmember Mateo, did you have anything to offer?

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Madam Chair, thank you. The jacarandas up. . .upcountry has always been magnificent trees. And it served as landmarks for a lot of the local people for, for many, many years. The showers, the shower trees in Paia--as a youngster growing up in Paia in the late '50s. . .this was just an incredible area because the park, Rainbow Park at that time was really well main. . .maintained. And during the late '50s, early '60s, there was a, there was a caretaker called "Johnny _____" who made sure that he decorated the trees during the holidays. And that was, that brings back a lot of memories. And for us to be able to look at these as exceptional is just so deserving.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I really, I really appreciate that. Do you have anything further to offer, Councilmember Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No, Madam Chair, other than the fact that. . .I'm a history lover and trees always seem to play a significant part in, in local history. So. . .they, they seem so real and they are a part of our life. They're. . .they're

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just, just like us, you know? And...needless to say, the latest list...very exceptional...candidates for the exceptional trees here in Maui County, so I'm in total, full support of the motion on the floor, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. And...I, I often think if only trees could talk, they could tell us a lot of history and a lot of things about what they have seen. So with that...if there's no further discussion, I'll call for the question. All those in favor of passing this resolution, please signify by saying "aye".

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Chair votes "aye". And are there any "nays"? Obviously not. Everyone supports this, so the measure passes onto the full Council.

VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Mateo, Molina, Tavares, Vice-Chair Carroll, and Chair Johnson.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending ADOPTION of resolution and FILING of communication.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I'd like to thank all of you for coming today and for supporting the beauty that's so much a part of Maui. And I'd like to...say bon voyage to Judi. We are going to miss you very much. This is your last Parks meeting and I hope that our trees will draw you back to Maui.

... Thank you.

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And thank you all for coming.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: She'll be back...*(laughter)*...

ALL: ...*(laughter)*...

CHAIR JOHNSON: I know. Very prophetic words...*(laughter)*...

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COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much for even this brief period of time that we've worked with you. We've worked with you on other committees and I'm very impressed by, you know, your performance, your integrity, and. . .you know, I just wished that we had a longer time. . .to work--

MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you--

CHAIR JOHNSON: --with you.

MS. WILLIAMS: --that means a great deal to me.

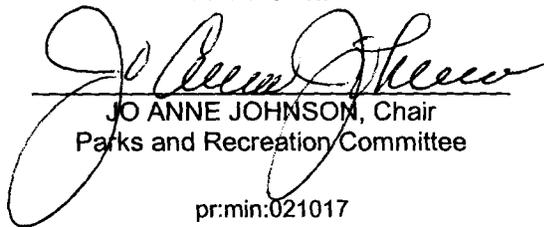
CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. And--

MS. WILLIAMS: It's been a pleasure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --with that. . .this meeting is adjourned . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED:



JO ANNE JOHNSON, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

pr:min:021017

Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto