

January 12, 2021

To: Members of the Washington Zoning Commission

Re: Proposed regulation changes regarding temporary events (12.8)

The Washington community cares about the success of non profits in our town. We are proud of our role in supporting many organizations, which include those in the Arts.

The issue that confronts the Zoning Commission is how to balance this support with the privacy and peace that people living in residential zones deserve.

Let's be honest about where some of the opposition to these zoning changes is coming from: from realtors and property owners using support for the Arts as a smokescreen for what is really at stake, their economic self-interest, who feel entitled to use their properties as they choose, without regard to the impact on their neighbors.

Our small town is fortunate to have 17 locations with public spaces available to non profit organizations: 2 public schools, 3 private schools, Town Hall, Town Pavilion, Judy Black Park, Gunn Memorial Library, 6 churches, 2 clubs..... These should be a priority for events, since these locations do not intrude on the quality of life of town residents.

I support the proposed changes to the zoning regulations.

Thank you.

Valerie Friedman

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