

**Moss, Julia**

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**From:** Bob Edgren <agren7@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 22, 2023 10:26 AM  
**To:** Woodmansee, Chloe  
**Cc:** City Council  
**Subject:** for council meeting packet  
**Attachments:** AMY Cheng XXXmy letter version 4 3 copy(1)(1)

Hello Chloe,

I hope it is not too late to submit this letter for the upcoming city council meetimng.

Bob Edgren  
831-402-2111

March 19, 2023

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Members

re: Application for Capitola Tap House

Having been or around Capitola since 1973, I have observed a number of developments and our city evolve through many different phases. Now comes a new popular venue, that being craft beer. I am not sure when or how this popular trend started, but it has exploded nationwide. I remember when wine started appearing in cafes, and tasting rooms emerged, but never as fast as the craft brewing craze. So with this explosion connoisseurs of beer have grown exponentially. For visitors to a pub, they are often treated with five or so small samples. Much like wine tasting. The hundreds of craft brews have made it difficult for marketing and finding loyal customers. The answer has come in a concept called tasting at tap rooms. This is not a place to get inebriated, but a place to taste

the many different brews. This is what Amy Cheng of her Capitola Tap house would like to bring to Capitola. This is not new to Santa Cruz County. There was a very popular Tap House in Santa Cruz with the same concept located downtown called the Flow Taproom. This closed due to COVID issues according to their website.

For those who are not familiar with a Tap room tasting system you are encouraged to visit Amy's Tap room, although now, she only serves 32 flavors of Kambucha, an ancient Asian fermented tea drink. Although she has been completely Licensed by the ABC to serve beer she waits for the nod from the city, Community planning has put a block on her endeavor, most likely because it is such a new concept.

Capitola is a city with a long record of making exceptions, and variances. One stands out in my mind was Pizza My Heart. It took moving a mountain to allow that business to open, to have a partial open front and long hours. Just about everything against the current code at that time. I remember the Britannia Arms, securing part of

the city park for their patio area, another gift from the Capitola God. I recall the small restaurant now Mijos, that had a major battle at a city council meeting over allowing seating, which they finally got again against code. Just recently the city voted to stretch the transient overlay to include another block up Capitola avenue and outside the village. This made dozens of property owners very happy, but reduced long term housing. Inconsistent decisions made by planning can make one dizzy, as rarely are any records kept, and answers are relied on one or two people.

The Capitola Tap House is some 50 feet away from the village zone. If it was located within the zone, approval for the idea and operation, probably would be easily approved. So who are the neighbors? The fire department to the right, the railroad trestle to the left and the museum across the street. Again, this is not a business where customers become inebriated. At the Tap house, drinking would be tightly controlled by purchased cards of two maximum drinks that are inserted in the select brews. Those can be

shut off any time. Of course, food will be served as well. Amy envisions her locale a place where people can come, away from the active Esplanade, sit and enjoy time with friends. Probably a blend of Mr. Toots, Cork and Fork and Trestles. Who wouldn't want more of these type businesses in town?

The other big trend facing Californias cities is the limitation of cars. The bill signed by Newsome AB2097

*New year, new laws... and beginning in 2023, housing developers and business owners in California will no longer be required to include parking spots for residents and patrons if the project is located at least a half-mile from transit.*

This a clear statement, that housing is more important than autos, so the mandate is to allow businesses and housing be built WITHOUT parking spaces required. Who ever thought they would see the day? It will be interesting to see how that plays out, but essentially our parklet program was just that, taking away parking

spaces and adding more seating for dining. Again, this was completely against any pre-existing code.

The Capitola Tap House will be an addition to our city that will be a new much needed concept. Something new, a new experience for locals and visitors. In the process of bending codes, one should ask is the project a plus, or a minus for Capitola. It is difficult to see any negatives in this business concept.

Thank you taking the time to consider my views and opinion, I fully support the Capitola Tap House project.

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