

Concerns of Rachel residents regarding Alienstock 2020

Presented to the Lincoln County Commissioners in the March 2, 2020 meeting
by Rachel resident Joerg Arnu

Commissioners, thank you for your time. I don't particularly enjoy sitting in this chair and taking up your time. But the issue of another Alienstock in Rachel is too important to us to ignore. This is our home, our town and our county. And it is worth fighting for. I speak to you on behalf of a number of Rachel residents who combined own over 30% of the land in Rachel. Our group includes David Day, the son of the founder of Rachel.

Alienstock 2019 cost the county **at least \$250,000** with no significant income in return. **That means every man, woman and child in Lincoln County paid \$50 for the 2019 event.**

The Little A'Le'Inn claims they lost money and they are still involved in law suits stemming from the event. Yet, they want to do another event this year. In fact they are advertising the 2020 event on their web site, on social media and in the media in general. **Without a permit from this commission they promote the event for the weekend of September 10-12.**

According to statements made on record to the commissioners by Ms West they expect an attendance as high as 10,000, **three times more than last year's event.** This has us very concerned.

Last year you permitted an event in Rachel to minimize damage from the irresponsible Facebook post. In good faith you defined a number of requirements under which the Inn was allowed to host the event. **They failed to meet a number of these requirements putting the residents of Rachel, our town and our county in danger.**

- The event permit was for 500 people but the Inn expected up to 30,000; about 3,000 showed up. That is **six times the permitted number.**

- The Inn was supposed to close off roads to the residential part of Rachel. They failed to do so. As a result tourists were racing through the residential part of Rachel all weekend, **damaging roads and endangering residents**

- The Inn was required to hire a private security company with 75 guards on site. They failed to do so. Instead **Ms West's two sons were the only security,** without any proper training. As a result the sheriff's office had to post deputies to regulate traffic in Rachel at the expense of the county.

- The Inn was required to hire a company to handle medical emergencies. They failed to do so. Instead **emergency services had to be handled and paid for by the county.**

- The Inn was required to handle vendor permits and ensure that all vendors had a permit. They failed to do so. As a result many vendors did not have a permit, resulting in **lost revenue for the county**.

- No campfires were allowed at the camp sites or at the event site. Due to the lack of security there were **numerous camp fires and even fireworks**. One vendor even **sold fire wood** to the campers

- The Inn **failed to conduct effective checks for weapons or drugs** at last year's event

- Structures, including two makeshift wooden stages, were built and used for the event without proper building inspection. By the looks they are unsafe and they pose a hazard to event goers and to Rachel residents due to the potential for collapse and flying debris

This year the Inn picks up just where they left off: Ignoring requirements set forth by this commission and **promoting the 2020 event in the media without a permit**.

We do not feel that the Inn is capable of organizing an event of this size without help from the county.

Due to their failing to meet numerous obligations last year we do not trust that they will meet their obligations this year. This will put our town, possibly the entire county, in danger once again.

Last year the reasoning was that people will show up regardless. This year the situation is different. If it is made clear now that the event will not be permitted people will not show up.

Alienstock does not benefit our county or our community. And it never will.

For more information about our concerns please see our web site:
www.NoAlienstock.com

We ask the commissioners to vote on the resolution not to support a 2020 Area 51 event as unanimously agreed upon in the Jan 6 meeting.

We also ask that the Little A'Le'Inn will not be allowed to continue advertising an event that they have no permit for. If they continue to advertise people will show up and the event will become uncontrollable and unpredictable again.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.