



HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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DRAFT – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013 HAHAIONE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Greg Knudsen called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with a **quorum of 12 members present**. Note: This 15-member board requires eight votes to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Robert Clark (departed 7:40 p.m.), René Garvin, Marian Grey, Natalie Iwasa, Greg Knudsen, Carl Makino, Roberta Mayor, Amy Monk, Elizabeth Reilly, Maxine Rutkowski, Herb Schreiner, David Tanabe (arrived 7:08 p.m.) and Gene Tierney.

Members Absent: Judith Nii (excused) and Paige Altonn (excused).

Introduction of Board Members: The Board members introduced themselves at this time.

Guests: Senator Sam Slom; Representative Gene Ward and Jame Schaedel (Representative Ward's Office staff); Patricia McManaman (Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative); Michael Leong (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office staff); Lorna Heller, Ernie Lau, Ellen Kitamura and Henderson Nuuhiwa (Board of Water Supply); Lieutenant Allan Nagata, Sergeant Susan Medeiros and Officer Celine Aiu (Honolulu Police Department); Captain Craig Roberts and Firefighter Chris Shim (Honolulu Fire Department); Richard Hawkins; Jenilea Heath; Terri Peck; Steve Geimer; Glenn Uyeshiro; Judith Cucco; Judy Jakobovits; Dan Clement; Stephanie Nagai; Jenna Lee; David Jones (Videographer); and Adam LeFebvre (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

STATUS REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter Chris Shim reported the following:

- **Statistics for April 2013** – There were 3 structure, 1 wildland and 1 rubbish fires, 83 medical emergencies, 8 search/rescues, and 26 miscellaneous calls. There were no major or unusual incidents to report.
- **Fire Safety Tip** – Compact Fluorescent (CFL) bulbs use less electricity than standard light bulbs, but contain small traces of mercury and can pose a hazard when they break. In such an event, residents were advised to open a window and leave the room for a short while. Visit www.earth911.org for proper disposal information.

Tanabe arrived at 7:08 p.m.; **13 members present**.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: **Search and Rescues** – The majority of responses are for swimmers at the “China Walls” area. HFD will respond to all calls, even if it proves to be a false alarm.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Sergeant Susan Medeiros provided the following report:

- **April 2013 Statistics** – There were 7 burglaries, 11 thefts, 8 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV).
- **Stop Criminals from Acquiring your Money (SCAM)** – Residents were advised not to allow uninvited guests into their homes, even if they appear to be on official business. When in doubt, call 911.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. **Scams** – Scams have been reported island-wide. The elderly are more likely targets and victims. Residents were advised to be wary of people representing utilities, and were invited to call HPD when in doubt.
2. **Officer Celine Aiu** – Officer Aiu was thanked for her help in resolving an issue involving a barking dog in Hahaione Valley.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Lorna Heller provided the following report:



1. BWS Staff – Chief Engineer Ernest Lau, Deputy Manager Ellen Kitamura and Henderson Kuuhiwa were in attendance to discuss items later on the agenda.
2. Main Break Report – There were no main breaks in the area in April 2013.
3. Online Billing – Starting April 24, 2013, customers will have the option to pay their combined sewer and water bills online. BWS accepts Mastercard and Visa, and does not currently accept debit or American Express. Payments must be made in full, and customers were advised not to use “BWS ePay” if they are delinquent or are in danger of having their water disconnected. For more information, call 748-5000.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Credit Card Fee – There is no additional fee for customers who pay their bills online using a credit card. The online billing system is still being perfected, and should be fully featured by Fiscal Year 2014.
2. Water Usage – Residents who own homes that are not using water are still charged the billing fee, though residents have the option of shutting off water service to their home. It was noted to be a difficult process.
3. Water System Improvements – Construction will begin soon on 5,000 feet of water main in Hahaione Valley. Construction is estimated to last 420 days.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Neighborhood Board Elections – The election period began April 26, 2013, and will be open through May 17, 2013. All residents in Hawaii Kai should have received a voting packet due to the contested “At Large” race. Each packet has a unique pass-code, which can be used to vote online or over the phone.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Uncontested Races – Uncontested races will not appear on the ballot, but voters may vote for four of the five “At Large” candidates and any applicable contested race in their subdistrict.

Maunalua Communities Foundation – The 2013 Independence Day at Maunalua Bay Festival will not feature fireworks as there was insufficient sponsor funding. The festival will have other events, including top-name entertainment, hula dancing, a *keiki* bike parade, and a watermelon eating contest. All residents were invited to attend. Volunteers were invited to visit www.idmbf.org.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Cost of Fireworks – The 20 minute firework display was estimated to cost \$50,000.
2. Donations – The fireworks were the major selling point for donations, and now that fireworks are not a part of the event, it will be harder to solicit sponsorships. It was noted that a number of local businesses benefit from the event, and may contribute in 2014 to attract more customers.

PUBLIC GENERATED ISSUES:

University of Hawaii Feral Cat Research – UH students Stephanie Nagai and Jenna Lee are conducting a survey of Hawaii Kai residents’ opinions regarding the feral cats at the Hawaii Kai Park and Ride. 40% of the 101 people who were surveyed preferred that the cats are trapped, neutered, and released.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Research – The students are working on finalizing their research. Residents with questions were invited to email snagai@hawaii.edu. Nagai will send the results to Chair Knudsen when complete. The research is not an action plan, merely informational. The survey was conducted with a random sampling of residents from the Park and Ride, the dog park, City Mill, and Costco.
2. Steve Geimer – Nagai was familiar with Geimer’s work as the caretaker of the cats at the Park and Ride. He has captured and neutered 115 stray cats, the majority of whom were abandoned pet cats, not feral. A fundraiser will be held on May 14, 2013, at Bubbies Ice Cream to raise funds to build a self-sustaining cat garden where the cats can be relocated. In the process, Geimer is putting sod on a nearby hillside at the Park and Ride to prevent runoff in an effort to be a good neighbor.

“Forrest Peck” Skate Park – Hawaii Kai resident Terry Peck requested that the Kamiloiki Skate Park be renamed in honor of her son, Forrest Peck, who was instrumental in the construction of the park. He and his brother Shawn spent two years collecting 2,000 signatures to convince Mayor Jeremy Harris to dedicate \$500,000 to the construction of the park. Forrest Peck was killed in a car accident on February 4, 2013. It was requested that this item be placed on a future agenda.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Future Action – Parks Chair Herb Schreiner will work with Peck on obtaining more information and adding this item to a future agenda. Peck will send Chair Knudsen more information.

PRESENTATIONS:

Makapu'u Lighthouse Road Renovation – The lighthouse road was constructed in 1909, and has slowly deteriorated over the last century. In the 1930s, engineers stabilized the crumbling parts of the road with concrete, rock and mortar. Some parts of the road continue to collapse, necessitating more thorough repairs. The planned comprehensive repairs will make efforts to retain the original style and preserve the natural features of the road while making it significantly safer for pedestrians and Coast Guard personnel who maintain the lighthouse. Four new lookouts and rest stops will be added along the way. Pictures were displayed of the crumbling road and artist renderings of the proposed new rest stops and renovations to the lookouts. Efforts will be taken to limit park closures, and construction is estimated to take 20 to 25 weekdays. Full closure of the roadway is needed. Interested residents were invited to take a tour of the roadway and discuss the project.

Robert Clark departed at 7:40 p.m.; **12 members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Cost of the Project – A similar project had been proposed previously, and was estimated to cost \$4 million. This project is estimated to cost \$3.2 million. 86% of the project budget is dedicated to roadway repairs and improvement. There are no plans to institute a parking fee or entry fee.
2. Priority Project – The Coast Guard regularly utilizes the roadway, which has recently been transferred to state ownership. The cost of the project will be less expensive than having the Coast Guard make regular helicopter runs to the site.
3. "Rest Areas" – There will be no restrooms installed at the site. The rest areas may include a bench at a viewing area to provide residents a break when ascending the hill.
4. Informational Signs – It was suggested adding informational signs to provide historical or cultural background at rest stops along the roadway.
5. Kaiwi – There is some debate on the proper spelling of the coastline, and though it is often spelled with two words in literature and other State documents, the organization decided to combine the words to Kaiwi, since the Molokai-Oahu channel is most often spelled as one word.
6. Removal of Waste – There are plans to remove some of the remnants of the UH Solar Observatory and other miscellaneous waste along the roadway.
7. Open Drains – The drains in the parking area have been covered.
8. Pets – On-leash pets will continue to be allowed.
9. Construction – Engineers will perform a full reconstruction of the old roadway to ensure proper safety, using Phase 4 and asphalt. Roads paved in this method last an estimated 20 to 30 years, though this roadway will only experience foot traffic, resulting in less impact on the road.

Lunalilo Home Road Tree Beautification Project – Natalie Iwasa reported that 60 Poinciana trees have been removed, and it was asked if the areas will be replaced with grass. Mayor Kirk Caldwell's representative will follow up. It was suggested adding this item to a future agenda.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative – Minnie Ko from the Office of Economic Development reported the following:

- Hawaii Kai "Great Lawn" – The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) could not support a zone change application as it would be inconsistent with the existing East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan. However, the City Council, not the Mayor, has the responsibility for accepting zone change applications.
- Road Repairs – There are a number of road rehabilitation and resurfacing projects already out for bid in the Hawaii Kai area, including Lunalilo Home Road, Mariner's Cove, and Hawaii Kai Drive.
- Bus Service Restoration – The funds to restore bus service is coming from the Oahu Transit Services (OTS) cost savings in Fiscal Year 2013.
- Lunalilo Home Road Street Lighting Project – The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) consulted with the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to determine which existing signs could be relocated to the newly installed street light poles to have their sign posts removed.
- Lunalilo Home Road Tree Beautification Project – There are 10 more trees that need to be removed, and the locations where trees have been removed will be replanted with grass.

- Upcoming Town Hall Meetings – Mayor Caldwell will be participating in a town hall meeting on May 6, 2013, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Kaimuki High School addressing his five priorities: bus service restoration, sewer infrastructure, road rehabilitation, building rail better, and City parks, as well as addressing homelessness.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Road Repaving – Hawaii roads need to be repaved with more frequency than mainland roads, though mainland roads undergo more variety of climate changes. It was asked if the City could look into the composition of Hawaii road material to maximize its lifespan.
2. Lunalilo Home Road Signage – The lighting project increased the number of light poles three-fold, and then Mayor Hannemann agreed in 2009 to consolidate the signs as much as possible to limit the signage on the road. Mayor Caldwell was the managing director at the time, and should be familiar with the project. It was asked that the administration be aware of the underground wiring on the street during any potential construction or tree replacement.
3. Hawaii Kai Great Lawn – If Kamehameha Schools were to request a zoning change on the Hawaii Kai Great lawn, it was asked if Mayor Caldwell would testify against it. It was noted that the addition of a shopping center would require additional traffic management measures in the area.
4. Lunalilo Home Road Speed Limit Sign – The first speed limit sign from the intersection of Hawaii Kai Drive has been removed, and it was asked that the sign be replaced.

Councilmember Stanley Chang (Council District 4): Michael Leong provided the following report:

- Kealahou Street Speeding Issues – The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) will replaced the vandalized sign, and HPD will conduct speed patrols, and may relocate the speed trailer.
- Missing Portlock Street Sign – The sign was replaced in April 2013.
- Kalama Valley Potholes – The issue was assigned to DFM.
- Speed Limit Sign near Kamiloiki Park – The issue was assigned to DFM.
- Maunanani Street Sidewalk Planting Area – The issue of the overgrown shrubs has been assigned to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP).
- Bulky Item Pickup – DPP will investigate the violations at Niumau Place.
- Mariner's Ridge Hiking Trail – Kamehameha Schools has been alerted that the chain and signage has been ineffective. Councilmember Chang's staff has met with area neighbors to discuss other possible solutions.
- Lunalilo Home Road Potholes – This issue was assigned to DFM.
- Lunalilo Home Road Electric Wires – Wires suspended near the intersection of Lunalilo Home Road and Makaweli Street will be replaced with underground utilities by the Hawaiian Electric Company. The City is likely to approve permitting for the project shortly, and Leong will forward correspondence to Chair Knudsen.
- Micro Tunneling for a Sewer Tie-in – The inquiry has been assigned to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of Environmental Services (ENV).
- Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (LHKH) – City Council awarded the organization an honor certificate and extended congratulations to the members.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Request for Investigation and Service Report – RISRs are typically responded to within a week of submittal.
2. Earth Day Cleanup – Councilmember Chang was thanked for his participation in the cleanup.
3. Congressional Campaign – Councilmember Chang recently announced that he would be running for U.S. Congress. Leong assured the Board that his campaign would not interfere with his councilmember duties.
4. Hawaii Kai Great Lawn – If Kamehameha Schools were to request a zoning change on the Hawaii Kai Great lawn, it was asked if Councilmember Chang would testify against it. Leong will follow up.
5. Blighted Properties Bill – City Council Bill 3 will allow for bigger fines for repeat violators. It was asked why the bill is limited to properties with excessive weeds and trash. Leong will follow up.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative – Patricia McManaman reported the following:

- Legislature – The legislative session will end on Thursday, May 2, 2013. McManaman noted that Hawaii Kai residents are lucky to have the "gang of four" senators and representatives working together on their behalf.
- Early Education - \$6 million will be devoted to support early education initiatives, and both houses passed the proposal for a constitutional amendment that would permit public funds to go to private institutions for early education. The measure was noted to be especially good for low-income residents.

Senator Sam Slom (Senate District 8): Senator Slom reported the following:

- Legislative Session – 180 bills were passed in the Senate, only two were defeated, and one was recommitted. Senator Slom noted that there are still two days in the session, and there may be a “final day surprise.”
- Budget – The State budget was passed in the Senate and the House. Senator Slom voted for the budget with reservations, noting that he remembers when the budget was \$4 billion, and now it is \$24 billion. The economy is supported almost entirely by the visitor industry. \$4.9 million has been set aside for a new football field at Kaiser High School, which has not been replaced since the school opened.
- Salary Increases – There have been a number of bills to provide salary increases to state workers, which will result in more expenditures and debt.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Budget – General bonds are used to fund Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs), and are not used for State operating expenses.

Senator Laura Thielen – Senator Thielen was unable to stay for the meeting, but distributed her written legislative report, which reported that the Governor has signed House Bill 1133 repealing the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC), and HB 17 relating to requiring residents to remove vegetation encroaching on public beaches. The Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board had taken positions of support on the content of both bills.

Representative Gene Ward – Representative Ward reported the following:

- Kaiser High School – The House approved the \$4.9 million for Kaiser High School football field repairs. Principal John Sosa won the “Principal of the Year” award for the State of Hawaii.
- Ka Iwi Cleanup – Representative Ward participated in the sixth annual cleanup with Eagle Scout Kendrick Chang and his Boy Scout Troop.
- Maunaloa Bay Beach Park – The comfort station at the park has been closed for over three years, and Representative Ward sent a letter to Mayor Kirk Caldwell citing a “bottleneck” in the City government, which Mayor Caldwell did not address.
- Road Repaving – The list of roads on the list to be repaved is now available online, and there is a comprehensive plan for road repairs to be complete by 2014. Representative Ward compared the state of roads in Hawaii to a third-world country.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Kaiser High School – A student from Kaiser High is among the only students to ever achieve a perfect score on the SAT college admissions test and has been accepted to Harvard University. Over 100 geographic exceptions were issued in 2013 to families that don’t live in Hawaii Kai that chose to send their students there. Representative Ward hopes that the legislature will approve \$17 million for a performing arts center at the school. The Board extended congratulations to Principal John Sosa, noting that Chair Greg Knudsen and Roberta Mayor had worked with him at the State Department of Education (DOE).

Representative Mark Hashem – Representative Hashem provided the following report:

- Kaiser High School – There is consideration to use the football field as a National Football League (NFL) practice field. A number of schools use the field. The performing arts center may be more difficult to secure.
- Early Childhood Education – The House passed the proposed State Constitutional Amendment pertaining to Early Childhood Education with a two-thirds “super-majority.” The item will be on the ballot in 2014. It will allow for public-private partnerships and will set curriculum and performance guidelines. The measure, if approved, is expected to be implemented in 2015.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Hawaii Kai Great Lawn – Representative Hashem noted that he would prefer to retain the area as open space, and open it to the public as a park. He did not sign the letter of support for maintaining the current zoning as he feels the letter is ineffective, and he would prefer to talk to people in person. It was asked that Representative Hashem share the Hawaii Kai community’s opposition to development on the Great Lawn.
2. Early Childhood Education – The House needs to engage in further debate regarding religious institutions, as the State cannot give money or discriminate for religious reasons.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kaluanui Trail – There has been no enforcement of the “no trespassing” sign on the trail. No action was recommended or taken on this item.

Oahu General Plan – Concern was raised at the joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning and Environmental Committees over the term “Urban Fringe,” noting that it has negative connotations. It was recommended changing the term to “Suburban” in the plan.

Reilly moved and Iwasa seconded to send a letter requesting that the term “Urban Fringe” is changed to “Suburban.”

Discussion followed: Urban Fringe – It was noted that all uses of “Urban Fringe” should be changed to “Suburban,” as “Urban Fringe” gives the impression of it eventually becoming more urban.

The motion WAS ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT 12-0-0 (AYE: Garvin, Grey, Iwasa, Knudsen, Makino, Mayor, Monk, Reilly, Rutkowski, Schreiner, Tanabe, and Tierney.)

City Council Resolution 13-62, Relating to the BWS Billing Program – The purpose of the resolution is “urging the Board of Water Supply to implement a billing system that does not increase the costs to rate-payers.” Councilmember Ikaika Anderson drafted the resolution. It was heard at the Council Budget Committee, where it was deferred.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Billing Charge – The changes in the billing system were implemented in October 2011, which projected the revenue requirements from 2012-2016. The budget was drafted with the understanding that the billing charge would be collected 12 times per year, as opposed to six. The system was intended to be implemented in January 2012, but was delayed until January 2013, resulting in half the expected revenue for BWS. The billing fee is currently \$7.02, but will eventually climb to \$9.15 per month by July 2015.
2. Transparency – Ernie Lau noted that BWS could have done a better job informing the public of the increase in billing costs. Greater transparency in the BWS was requested. It was directly asked if the costs would increase with the new billing system, but the increase was never mentioned.
3. Water Usage – Homes that do not use any water are still assessed the billing fee, effectively doubling the water bill annually. For some residents, the billing fee is the majority of the cost of water service.
4. Utility Costs – The billing fee on all the other counties in Hawaii is higher than Honolulu. HECO charges \$9 per month. It was noted that water in Hawaii is less expensive than in other States.
5. BWS Expenses – The water meter battery replacement project is underway, resulting in increased expenses for the BWS. In general, the BWS infrastructure is aging and needs to be replaced.
6. Accountability – The increase in the fee has raised question as to whether the BWS is being run effectively. It was suggested posting a detailed account of the justification for the fee increase on the BWS website. BWS is attempting to increase communication with residents and councilmembers. Residents were encouraged to attend the monthly BWS public meetings.
7. Joint Billing – 86% of customers have joint sewer and water bills provided through BWS. The Department of Environmental Services (ENV) needs to help with the cost of billing and meter reading, billing processing, and staff to collect unpaid bills. Hawaii Kai residents pay the increased fee for water services alone, as they do not receive joint billing.

Reilly departed at 9:38 p.m.; **11 members present.**

8. Audit – An independent financial audit is conducted annually by a recognized firm, and the report is posted online. A City auditor will investigate periodically. BWS float bonds are rated AA+, and they need to ensure that not only are the costs covered, but that there is some revenue.
9. Sewer Rates – Honolulu sewer rates are determined by City Council, but Hawaii Kai sewer rates are determined by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).
10. Board Action – As BWS does not answer to the PUC, any board motion would need to be sent to the BWS. It was suggested that any Board motion have the purpose of increasing transparency and accountability at BWS to understand if the fee increase is justified. It was suggested re-addressing the motion passed in the March 2013 meeting to the BWS instead of the PUC.
11. Billing Fee Justification – The billing fee pays for meter reading and maintenance staff, and has increased because the BWS chose to read the meters twice as often. There has been a 4% increase in labor cost, which is a significant component in meter reading.

Since City Council Resolution 13-62 had been deferred, and significant questions remained relating to the water billing fee, the Board took no additional action at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Meeting of the Planning & Zoning and Environmental Committees – More information was provided on the Kamilo Nui stockpiling issue, more discussion was had on development at the Hawaii Kai “Great Lawn,” and concern was expressed regarding potential rezoning or development of an 11-acre parcel in Kalama Valley.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The approval of the March 26, 2013 regular meeting minutes.

Discussion followed: Marian Grey suggested revising the section under Senator Sam Slom's report, "O'Reilly Factor Appearance" to make it more objective. It was noted that the section is an accurate reflection of what was said at the March meeting, and that the minutes for this April meeting would reflect Grey's objection.

The minutes were APPROVED as corrected. Corrections include: Page 3, under Degrading Neighborhood, change "... to investigate ..." to "... to follow up ..."

TREASURER'S REPORT: This item was deferred to next regular Board meeting.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Maunaloa-Makapu'u Hawaii Scenic Byway – The nomination application has been submitted, but can still be revised. Chair Knudsen dedicated many hours drafting the 35-page application, complete with 50 photos and a video of the route posted to YouTube. The application will be reviewed within 60 days and, if accepted, will proceed to Stage 2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Cablecast – Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 regular meetings are cablecast on the 2nd Monday of the following month at 9:00 p.m. on Olelo Ch. 49 (digital only), and repeat on that month's 3rd Friday and the next month's 1st Friday at 9:00 a.m. on Olelo Channel 54. Meeting videos can also be seen online at <http://www.olelo.org> under "What's On?: OleloNet" (search "Hawaii Kai Board").
- Next Regular Meeting – The next regular meeting of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board No. 1 will be Tuesday May 28, 2013, 7:00 p.m., at Hahaione Elementary School Cafeteria.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Submitted By: Adam LeFebvre, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed By: K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant,
Greg Knudsen, Chair