



MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING ST., ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813

PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006 MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING

CALL TO ORDER: Chair John Steelquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Steelquist, Charles Carole, Gary Fujitani (elected at this meeting), Philip Hauret, David Heulitt, Richard Kawano, Norma Koenig, Susan Lai Young, Allan Lee, Sam Mitchell, Martin Schiller and Joseph Zuiker.

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Bigay (excused), Chuck Lee, Craig Thistleton and Brian Woo.

GUESTS: Duane Okamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Governor Linda Lingle's representative), Senator Gordon Trimble and Kristi Sue-Ako (Senator Trimble's Office staff); Shirley Batad-Labisores (Representative Sylvia Luke's Office staff), Mary Pat Waterhouse (Director, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative), Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff), Captain Debbie Eleneki (Honolulu Fire Department), Sgt. Brian Taniguchi and Officer Ross Keliikipi (Honolulu Police Department); Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP)), Tracy Miyahira (Department of Human Services), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13), Della Au Belatti, Duk Hee Murabayashi, Myung Hee Paek, Jeff Kang and Fooi-Jang Byun (Christ United Methodist Church); Frances Klema, Eloise Lee, Tracy Okubo, Georgi Lagoria (The Contemporary Museum), Collin Wong, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF THE VACANCY FOR SUBDISTRICT 1 AND THE VACANCY FOR SUBDISTRICT 3- Chair Steelquist asked if there were any volunteers for Subdistrict 3, which is the area bordered by Pensacola Street, Lunalilo Street, Ward Avenue and Prospect Streets. Gary Fujitani volunteered to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 3. No second is required for nominations. Fujitani introduced himself. As a neighbor of Chuck Leland, who resigned from the Board last month, Fujitani was a retired Senior Vice President with First Hawaiian Bank for 35 years. He has watched other Neighborhood Board meetings on Channel 54 O'lelo and would like to participate. Chair Steelquist asked for any other nominations for Subdistrict 3. There were none.

Board member Allan Lee moved and Board member Norma Koenig seconded that the nominations be closed. The vote was unanimous, 11-0-0. Chair Steelquist called a short recess while Neighborhood Assistant Ho administered the Oath of Office for Gary Fujitani.

Chair Steelquist asked if there were any volunteers for Subdistrict 1, which is the Tantalus area. As there were no volunteers to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 1, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Treasurer Martin Schiller reported that as of February 24, 2006, there was an ending balance of \$1180.80 in the Operating budget, \$2894.00 remaining in the Publicity budget (pending the printing of a newsletter) and \$120.00 in the Refreshment budget (pending re-imburement of about \$60.00 for November's refreshments). The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES- The following corrections were made to the February 19, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

Page 1, under **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**, it should read, "**The motion carried, 10-1-2.** Board member Phillip Hauret voted "No." Board member Richard Kawano and Chair Steelquist abstained."

Page 5, last line, it should read, "Board member Craig Thistleton works with a Waikiki agency, which has an outreach program with the homeless, and mentioned that many of the clients he works with have mental health problems and there is no place to move them."

Page 6, first paragraph, it should read, "Board member Craig Thistleton abstained."

The minutes of the February 16, 2006 regular Board meeting were approved as corrected.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD)- Officer Ross Keliikipi handed out the following statistics for February 2006. There were 0 robberies (-7 from last month), 9 burglaries (-9 from last month), 16 unauthorized entries of motor vehicle (JEMV) (-17 from last month), 22 auto thefts (+5 from last month), 1 aggravated assault (same as last month), 7 simple assaults (-1 from last month), 88 motor vehicle collisions (MVC) (-21 from last month), 17 D.U.I. (+7 from last month), 0 sex assaults (same as last month), 6 family offenses (+2 from last month), 2 drug offenses (-4 from last month), and 2 graffiti (same as last month).

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. When Board member Allan Lee asked about how many burglaries/robberies are solved, the response was that Criminal Investigations Divisions (CID) does not release that information.

When Board member Koenig asked if that information could be accessed from the Web, the response was that they get only the stats, but not a lot of extra information. They would have to look up each report number.

Board member Allan Lee's concern was that a new resident might want to know this type of information before moving in a unit. The response was that they might not have the information if it was a secured building or a regular home.

2. Board member Richard Kawano asked a question about the new "crosswalk law". The response was that he has to stop until the pedestrian passes the halfway point. If the case goes to court, it depends on the judge's ruling.

When he asked if there was anything new on the "taser test," done a while ago, the response was that the officers are going through training, but the final decision hasn't come down yet.

Lastly, when he asked about any Internet privacy issues, the response was that HPD has a "white collar crime" unit that usually investigates violations of State laws. There are "freedom of speech" issues.

Chair Steelquist thanked Sgt. Brian Taniguchi and Officer Ross Keliikipi.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)- Captain Debbie Eleneki, Makiki Station, handed out her written report and highlighted the following:

1. In February 2006, there were a total of 91 calls for service: 6 structure and 2 rubbish fires, 72 medical emergencies, 0 search/rescues and 11 miscellaneous service calls. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Be responsible and dispose of all fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Work together with your community to make it safer. Make and maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing the vegetation surrounding all structures. Report and remove hazards. Communicate with each other. Formulate plans for yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in case of emergencies. Now is the time to prepare for the brush fire season. If you are interested in creating a safe space around your home, street, or community, you may contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise at (808) 281-3497 or go to www.firewise.org. She distributed the Firewise brochure.

Captain Eleneki left to answer a fire call.

Chair Steelquist excused and thanked Captain Eleneki.

Board of Water Supply (BWS)- (7:17 p.m.) As there was no representative present, Chair Steelquist read the BWS report:

Although Detect-A-Leak Week was last week, the Board of Water Supply wants to make sure you know how to find hidden water wasters year-round.

Check your house periodically for leaks- This should be integral to your overall maintenance efforts, as it can save you money in the long run by reducing unnecessary water waste in your home. To see if you have a property leak: Make sure you turn off all the devices that use water in your home. Go out to your water meter and check to see if the red arrow or small black triangle on the meter is still moving. If so, you have a leak somewhere on your property. Call a licensed plumber to find the leak and fix it.

Check your toilet- Because the toilet is one of the largest water using fixtures in your house, it can also be one of the largest water WASTERS too. To see if you have a leaky toilet: Remove your toilet tank cover and drop in a blue dye tablet (you can get them from the Board of Water Supply) or a couple of drops of food coloring. Wait 10-15 minutes. If the color appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak. Check your toilet's flapper valve and replace if necessary, or call your plumber.

Comments followed.

Board member Zuiker wanted to commend BWS for responding to his dangerous conditions report of a grating on Kinau Street. He called this morning and they fixed it by this afternoon. He also reported it to Councilmember Rod Tam's office, which may have helped in the quick response.

Residents' Concerns- There were none.

NETWORKING OF NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS:

Makiki Stream- Governor's representative Duane Okamoto wanted to report about two issues from the January Board meeting. The first one was about the Makiki Stream and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the second was about the Department of Transportation (DOT). He presented a map of the Makiki Stream, including the area near the Camelot apartments. They are in charge of the water, but the City is responsible for the bridges and culverts. Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does periodic stream clean ups and if they see blockage, they notify the City. DLNR did a stream clean up on November 17 and 18 and on January 25, 2006. Sometimes residents see bulky items left in advance of the pick-up day and other residents throw the bulky items into the stream. DLNR wants to work with the City to educate the residents about the bulky item pick-up day. With the recent rains and flooding on Kauai, they know that the State should help with clearing the debris in the stream.

Sidewalk improvements- No report.

Pawaa Park- No report.

Makiki Community Plan- No report.

Traffic and Transit- Pat Lee, Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP), distributed a newsletter, which updated the project and listed their website. They should have an "alternate analysis" by the end of summer.

When Board member Zuiker mentioned the "Brazil" model, Lee said they looked at parts of the study, like the elevated lanes and the Waikiki E-bus.

When Vice Chair Carole mentioned that he got from the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) and their Oahu Regional Transportation Plan (ORTP) a \$2.6 billion figure for the rail transit, Lee replied that cost figures should be coming sometime this summer. That number may be based on similar projects on the mainland. Lee would follow up.

Chair Steelquist thanked Lee.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Carol Fukunaga- Senator Fukunaga could not attend the meeting, so Chair Steelquist distributed Senator Fukunaga's newsletter.

Senator Gordon Trimble- (7:27 p.m.) Senator Trimble mentioned several bills- Senate Bill 2385, which pertains to pedestrian safety, would increase the penalties for motorists who violate Hawaii's crosswalk law and would establish the photo red light imaging detector systems program to catch violators trying to "run a red light" and would authorize the counties to administer the program. Senate Bill 2456 pertains to a motor vehicle's reverse warning system and would permit a motor vehicle's backup warning beepers to be disabled between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., if the vehicle's driver is assisted by another person while reversing. This would reduce the noise from vehicles backing up in Waikiki from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Senate Bill 2813, pertaining to the endowment for the Honolulu Symphony, would appropriate matching funds to the State of Hawaii endowment fund. His staff person, Kristi Sue-Ako, distributed his newsletter.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. When Vice Chair Carole asked for clarification of the endowment for the Honolulu Symphony, Senator Trimble mentioned that \$10 million would be matched by the State.
2. When Board member Kawano asked about bills concerning the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), Senator Trimble mentioned that there were many concerns over reviewing the plans, the sale of State lands, open space and the updating of the Civil Defense inundation maps.
3. When Board member Gary Fujitani asked about the "Sunshine" law, Senator Trimble said that he supports any "Sunshine" law legislation. Board member Fujitani added that the Legislature did not favor returning the budget surplus to the taxpayers, as per the State Constitution. Senator Trimble replied that he doesn't think there is a State budget surplus. During lean times, they cut back on budgets; they took out of the Employees Retirement System (ERS) and it is not fully funded; and the standard deduction (personal exemption) on the State taxes has not been increased in fifteen years. If these were funded, there may be little surplus. To return a few "mandated" dollars to the taxpayers might not make as much sense as (if you have a small surplus) to a place it where the State has incurred debt for the past few years.

A Board member mentioned that the Constitutional requirement was after two years of surplus.

4. Vice Chair Carole asked about two more bills, concerning the City's condemnation of private lands, based on the U. S. Supreme Court decision last June. Senator Trimble voted "for" one and "against" the other. He felt that it would be cheaper for the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to buy out the land behind the Victoria-Ward property and move the Queen Street small businesses makai. This is where "eminent domain" could benefit small businesses, not only large companies.
5. When Board member Kawano expressed his concern about Internet privacy, Senator Trimble mentioned that there are several bills concerning "identity theft." One bill would require local companies to keep this information (like the Social Security number) confidential and that if it were compromised, then they would notify the consumers. Board member Kawano mentioned that if there was a website that had this information, they could ask for "protection money" to take it off. Someone mentioned that there is a website that does a search by the Social Security number.

There were no further questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Senator Trimble.

Representative Sylvia Luke- No report.

Representative Brian Schatz- No representative was present.

Governor's Linda Lingle's representative- (7:35 p.m.) Duane Okamoto, Deputy Director of Agriculture continued his report. The Legislature is about halfway through the session. Seven or eight of the Governor's bills are going forward. She visited Kauai to see the situation there (dam break, rain damage and flooding). Next week, the Governor's Cabinet, Deputy Directors and others are participating in a national training program with a "pandemic" drill. From the January meeting, there was a concern about the reversing of the directions of Pensacola and Piikoi Streets. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has jurisdiction only on Lunalilo Street between Piikoi and Pensacola Streets and leading into the Lunalilo Street on-ramp. They have been waiting for the new Director of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to get settled, before they start talking about changing the flow onto the H-1 West. The DOT is in favor of the switch, as it would avoid the back up. There would be a significant cost to the City for changing the signs, as the DOT's cost for changing the signs at the airport was close to \$100,000. Chair Steelquist mentioned that three to five years ago the Department of Transportation (DOT) had other studies concerning the H-1, which included the closing of the Bingham Street off-ramp and the Punahou Street off-ramp widening. Chair Steelquist requested that the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) send a representative to the next Board meeting to update their plans for the Maikiki district.

When Board member Kawano mentioned the recent dam break on Kauai and the Nuuanu Reservoir, Okamoto did not think that there is a dam there. There might be just a depression in the valley.

There were no further questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Governor's representative Okamoto.

Councilmember Rod Tam- (7:43 p.m.) Shawn Hamamoto distributed Councilmember Tam's newsletter and was available for questions.

1. When Vice Chair Carole asked if Mayor Hannemann signed Bill 68, concerning mopeds, Hamamoto would follow up.
2. The homeless lady and her trash bags are gone.

Chair Steelquist thanked Hamamoto.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi- No representative was present.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative- (7:44 p.m.) Chair Steelquist thanked the Mayor's representative and the former Mayor's representative Brian Woo for the City truck and the "paint-out" paint for Hui O Makiki's Makiki Clean Up Day last Saturday. Mary Pat Waterhouse, Director, Budget and Fiscal Services Department, asked if they picked up a lot of stuff. Chair Steelquist replied that they had more bulky items than volunteers, but they had some college students to help. She distributed the Mayor's newsletter and highlighted the following:

1. Concerning last month's request of changing the bulky item pick-up day, Waterhouse mentioned that she had talked with the Director of the Environmental Services and may be able to change Makiki to the first week of the month. Chair Steelquist mentioned that Makiki, Downtown and Salt Lake are three high-density apartment areas.
2. The homeless lady, trespassing on Beretania Street, is gone.
3. Concerning Thomas Square park closing at 10:00 p.m., at this time, no signs are posted. Park closure signs have been requested and will be installed once they are fabricated. When Board member Schiller asked if this was an effort to make the homeless leave, Waterhouse replied that she wasn't here last

time, when the discussion was raised. Chair Steelquist mentioned that he received a phone call to place this on the agenda. When he did, no one came to talk about it. The Board wanted more information before they took a vote. Waterhouse mentioned that although she doesn't work in the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), she wouldn't be surprised if there were complaints filed. Chair Steelquist requested the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 would like to vote on the park closure and the hours before the signs are posted.

4. Waterhouse distributed the "green waste" and other recycling handouts.
5. She mentioned the Mayor's Task Force on Drug Use, which has grants for anti-drug programs.
6. The Family Festival to celebrate the Honolulu Centennial is scheduled for March 30 to April 2 at Magic Island, like many years ago. Free admission.

Questions and answers followed.

1. Board member Zuiker asked if there were any way the City would provide "self-help" groups the materials to put in sidewalks. Waterhouse was concerned about liability, but would follow up.
2. When Board member Kawano asked about the various recycling programs, Waterhouse mentioned that removing "green waste" (that is full of moisture) makes the H-Power plant more efficient. There are no plans to add a third boiler.

There were no further questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Waterhouse.

(7:54 p.m.) Chair Steelquist asked if there were any objections to changing the order of the agenda and moving to the presentation by the Christ United Methodist Church. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation by the Christ United Methodist Church, proposing an After School Care Program- Duk Hee Murabayashi apologized for the "miscommunication" for the January meeting and introduced herself. She gave some Church background and presented the after school care program. It is bilingual and the children learn Bible chapters. She handed out a "fact sheet," which had the program objectives, specific goals, church facilities, transportation, tuition (no government subsidy), proposed schedule, special program features and Church history.

Questions and answers followed.

When Board member Koenig asked about the training of Roosevelt High School students and if the tuberculosis (TB) test was required, Murabayashi replied that three or four Roosevelt High School students would be asked to volunteer for "community service" and that the TB test was not required for the volunteers. The teachers are CPR-trained and they do a criminal background check. The children play for fifteen minutes outside under supervision, but with no fence. The program takes students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 (K-8). There are no traffic problems. They have 30 students and the license would be for a maximum of 50 students. Board member Zuiker mentioned that he lived across the street and has only good things to say about the Church, especially the music.

Board member Joe Zuiker moved and Vice Chair Carole seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 supports the licensing of the United Methodist Church after-school program. The motion carried, unanimously, 12-0-0.

The delegation from the Church thanked the Board.

Chair Steelquist thanked the delegation.

Presentation on Medicare Part B- (8:06 p.m.) Tracy Miyahira, Department of Human Services, apologized for not being able to attend the last Board meeting as she was hosting a group from the mainland about this program. She distributed background information and an article from the *Honolulu Advertiser* thanking the State Department of Human Services for preparing for the implementation of this program. Hawaii had the smoothest transition of all of the states. This program is for those people, who are below the \$1100/month Federal poverty level and 65 years old. They want to enroll more people. Call 586-7299 or 1 (888) 875-9229. A helpful hint-press "0" three times to get a "live" person. There were several questions for clarification. They are saving \$2.1 million a year.

Chair Steelquist thanked Miyahira.

The order of the agenda was restored.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Makiki Tantalus Recreation Area- No report.

Makiki District Library- (8:20 p.m.) Board member Koenig mentioned that there was no news. Vice Chair Carole mentioned that there was a Senate Resolution and House Concurrent Resolution requesting that the Governor release the \$4.5 million appropriated last year.

Vice Chair Carole moved and Board member Norma Koenig seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 supports the resolution requesting that Governor Lingle release the \$4.6 million appropriated last year for the renovation of the Makiki Library. The motion carried, unanimously, 12-0-0.

Makiki District Park- No report.

Contemporary Art Museum Construction- Georgi Lagoria mentioned that they re-submitted the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the Land Use Commission (LUC) has ten days to accept or reject it.

Makiki Heights Care Home- No report.

1214 Matlock Street- Board member Kawano reported that there was a dumpster and some clearing of the debris from the fire-damaged house. The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) is still fining the owners daily.

Bulky Item Pick-up- Concerning bulky items, Chair Steelquist mentioned that Makiki would still appreciate a second monthly pick up. Mayor's representative Waterhouse had left the meeting earlier.

Support for Roosevelt High School- Chair Steelquist reported that last night, the Roosevelt High School principal and teachers had briefed the Stevenson Middle School parents on what to expect when they got to RHS. There was some dissention. RHS wanted more homogeneous classes and that they would be doing away with the traditional tracking. Some parents felt that their children would be hurt rather than helped. After the Neighborhood Board presentation in January, they presented it to the parents. Chair Steelquist again asked for a volunteer alternate to attend the meetings.

Thomas Square Park closing at 10:00 p.m.- Chair Steelquist mentioned that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 boundaries go to the corner of King Street and Ward Avenue. There were concerns about safety, drugs and crime. Chair Steelquist had asked Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to report next time. Board member Schiller mentioned drug problems in the restrooms. The Board did not want to kick out the homeless people there, as they have nowhere else to go. This would be deferred to the next meeting.

Karl Rhoads, from Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13, mentioned that most parks are closed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (8:31 p.m.)

Planning and Zoning- No report.

Transportation- No report.

Health, Safety, and Wellness- Board member Kawano mentioned the homeless issue is a big problem that needs to be addressed. Chair Steelquist thanked him and Board member Susan Lai Young for the Medicare presentation.

Newsletter- Committee Chair Zuiker distributed a draft of the newsletter. He wanted to thank Newsletter Committee members and wanted Board members to proofread this draft. A front-page article mentioned that Chair Steelquist has served 20 years on the Board. Chair Steelquist mentioned that last year the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 received an award for existing 25 years. If any Board member wanted his or her phone number listed, call Zuiker directly. The Board acknowledged the work on the draft newsletter with applause. Chair Steelquist suggested putting in information about volunteering to serve on the Board. He also suggested that Zuiker consider what is on the back of the Community Suggestion Box form. If residents mailed in the form, then they would not have the "Helpful Hints from your Neighborhood Board."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chair Steelquist announced that the volume of newsletters and printed materials received has rebounded to the previous level- *Hawaii Landscape*, *Hawaii Front Management*, two issues of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) newspaper and *Environmental Notices*. These and other materials were made available for review by interested persons.
2. The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2006 at the Makiki District Park, Art and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT- Hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Chair John Steelquist and Board Secretary Allan Lee