



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, JUNE 15, 2006 MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING

CALL TO ORDER: Chair John Steelquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. without a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Steelquist, John Bigay (7:14 p.m.), Charles Carole, Gary Fujitani, Philip Hauret, David Heulitt, Richard Kawano, Martin Schiller and Joseph Zuiker (7:13 p.m.).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Hillmann, Susan Lai Young (excused), Norma Koenig, Allan Lee, Chuck Lee, Sam Mitchell, Craig Thistleton and Brian Woo.

GUESTS: Tracy H. Okubo, Department of Human Resources Development (Governor Linda Lingle's representative); Senator Carol Fukunaga; Mary Pat Waterhouse, Director, Budget and Fiscal Services (Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative); Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff); Lt. Owen Harada, Sgt. Clayton Lai and Motor Patrol Officer Ryan Pagan (Honolulu Police Department); Captain Mark Nakagawa (Honolulu Fire Department), Devon Nekoba (Board of Water Supply), John James, Allen Pacquing (Plaza at Punchbowl), Phyllis Britten (TCA), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13), Joy Turbeville, Pitrich Chin, Tony Turbeville, Phil Meyers, Georgianna Lagoria (The Contemporary Museum), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project [HHCTCP]), Peter and Chrystal Ahn, Roland Ejercito, Wellington Wong, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Martin Schiller reported that as of May 31, 2006, there was an ending balance of \$1,002.94 in the Operating budget, -\$503.29 in the Publicity budget and \$4.22 remaining in the Refreshment budget. When a quorum is present, he would recommend transferring \$503.29 from the Operating budget to the Publicity budget.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD)- Officer Ryan Pagan reported the May statistics and highlighted the following:

There were 0 robberies (-3 from last month), 14 burglaries (same as last month), 38 unauthorized entries of motor vehicle (UEMV) (+10 from last month), 11 auto thefts (-3 from last month), 1 aggravated assault (same as last month), 5 simple assaults (same as last month), 102 motor vehicle collisions (MVC) (-8 from last month), 21 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) (+4 from last month), 0 sex assaults (same as last month), 11 family offenses (+7 from last month), 4 drug offenses (+1 from last month), and 4 graffiti (-5 from last month).

Questions, answers and comments followed.

Board member Kawano asked if the number of Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC) has shown a steady increase from two years ago. Officer Pagan replied that it was about the same.

A resident asked about the eight-ton weight limit for vehicles on Tantalus and if she should call 9-1-1. Officer Pagan replied that she could call 9-1-1, but it would be difficult to enforce, since they do not have the scales to weigh the vehicle.

Chair Steelquist thanked Officer Pagan.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)- Captain Mark Nakagawa, Makiki Station, reported the following:

1. There were 4 structure and 1 vehicle fires, 65 medical emergencies, 9 miscellaneous service calls for a total of 79 calls for service. There were no major or unusual incidents.

2. Fire Safety Tip- Brush fire season is here, so remember to maintain a 30-foot wide clearing in between any structure and vegetation. Recent rains may have overgrown vegetation in some breaks.

With Independence Day around the corner, consider leaving fireworks to the professionals and enjoy one of the many fireworks displays around town. If you use fireworks, follow all warnings and instructions. Young children should never be given fireworks. Older children should only use fireworks under the direct supervision of an adult. Have a happy and safe Independence Day celebration!

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Kawano about fireworks permits. Captain Nakagawa replied that they no longer handle the permits. They are available at the satellite City Halls.
2. Board member Kawano asked about the recent University of Hawaii Lab School fire and loss of water pressure. Captain Nakagawa mentioned that when many firetrucks use hydrants from the same feeder line, then the water pressure goes down.

Chair Steelquist thanked Captain Nakagawa.

Board of Water Supply (BWS)- Devon Nekoba left the meeting, but left his report and the *Hawaii Backyard Conservation Handbook*. Chair Steelquist mentioned if extra copies are needed, call the BWS office at 483-8600 ext. 3.

Residents' Concerns-

1. Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 member Karl Rhoads mentioned the removal of a parking spot on Kinau Street. Chair Steelquist would put it under "Traffic and Transit" later on the agenda.
2. Concerning bus stops, Chair Steelquist mentioned that when the Board has a quorum, they will take up these items.

NETWORKING OF NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS:

Makiki Stream- No report.

Sidewalk improvements- No report.

Pawaa Park- No report.

Makiki Community Plan- No report.

(7:13 p.m.) Board members Joe Zuiker entered the meeting.

(7:14 p.m.) Board member John Bigay entered the meeting and a quorum of nine was established.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Carol Fukunaga- Senator Fukunaga announced the New Condominium Law Seminar by the Real Estate Commission at the State Capitol from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. There are important differences between Chapter 514A and Chapter 514B, Hawaii Revised Statutes. There are incentives to encourage property owners to convert from condos to "fee simple." Board member Schiller asked what some of the "carrots" were. Senator Fukunaga answered that one incentive was an \$800,000 exclusion from income taxation on the capital gains during tax years 2007-2008. Board member Schiller asked if there were any "carrots" for people not affected by capital gains, like non-profits or churches. Senator Fukunaga replied that it was a difficult bill to pass and if things work smoothly, they could extend it to others. This bill was for older Punchbowl residents, who live in the condos.

Board member Kawano asked if the condo boards can choose the new laws. Senator Fukunaga replied that there would be different requirements.

As there were no further questions, Chair Steelquist thanked Senator Fukunaga.

Senator Gordon Trimble- No representative was present.

Representative Sylvia Luke- No representative was present, but her newsletter was distributed.

Representative Brian Schatz- No representative was present.

Governor Linda Lingle's representative- (7:24 p.m.) Tracy Okubo, Department of Human Resources Development, distributed the Governor's Weekly Update and was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

Board member Zuiker and Chair Steelquist asked the Governor's position on the one-half of one percent increase in the General Excise Tax to fund Honolulu's mass transit system. Okubo was not involved in the discussion, but would follow up. Board member Zuiker added what was the cost involved for collecting the additional one-half percent. Chair Steelquist would also ask the Mayor's representative.

Chair Steelquist thanked Okubo.

Councilmember Rod Tam- Shawn Hamamoto distributed Councilmember Tam's newsletter and was available for questions. There were none.

Chair Steelquist thanked Hamamoto.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi- No representative was present.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative- No representative was present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FROM JUNE 2006 TO MAY 2007

Board member Joe Zuiker nominated John Steelquist for Chair. No second is required for nominations. **Board member John Bigay moved and Board member Philip Hauret seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.** John Steelquist was elected Chair by unanimous consent.

Board member Richard Kawano nominated Charles Carole for Vice Chair. No second is required for nominations. **Board member Martin Schiller moved and Board member Hauret seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.** Charles Carole was elected Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

Board member Kawano nominated Allan Lee for Secretary. No second is required for nominations. **Board member Schiller moved and Board member Kawano seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.** Allan Lee was elected Secretary by unanimous consent.

Vice Chair Carole nominated Martin Schiller for Treasurer. No second is required for nominations. **Board member Zuiker moved and Board member Gary Fujitani seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.** Martin Schiller was elected Treasurer by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE MARCH 19, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES- The following amendments were made to the March 19, 2006 regular meeting minutes:

Page 7, it should read, "**Presentation on Medicare Part D-** (8:06 p.m.) Tracy Okubo, 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 Okubo.”

The March 19, 2006 regular meeting minutes were accepted as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE APRIL 20, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES- The following amendments were made to the April 20, 2006 regular meeting minutes:

Page 1, under **GUESTS**, it should read, “Ray Sasaki (MHCA),”

Page 6, under **Contemporary Art Museum Construction-**, it should read, “Ray Sasaki, from the Makiki Heights Community Association asked for a public hearing in the community in the evening, so more residents could attend.”

Page 6, after **Thomas Square Park closing at 10:00 p.m.-**, it should be added, “**Bus Safety-** Board member Kawano had talked with Roger Morton, head of the TheBus, and was concerned about TheBus’ safety record. Chair Steelquist would keep it on the agenda. Board member Bigay mentioned that the new buses might be less safe, as there are two steps to the back door.

The April 20, 2006 regular meeting minutes were accepted as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 4, 2006 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES- There were no amendments. The minutes of the May 4, 2006 Special Board meeting were accepted as circulated.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES- There were no amendments. The minutes of the May 18, 2006 Special Board meeting were accepted as circulated.

TREASURER’S REPORT (continued): Treasurer Schiller moved and Board member Fujitani seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/ Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 transfer \$503.29 from the Operating budget to the Publicity budget. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.

Traffic and Transit

1060 Kinau Street- Karl Rhodes mentioned that there is a private lane on Kinau Street about one-half block from Pensacola Street and they built four new houses in the back. When exiting the lane, drivers cannot see the oncoming traffic. A resident’s wife had an accident. As the landowner of the front property does not want to put up a mirror on his property, it was suggested to remove one parking space to improve the line of sight.

Vice Chair Carole moved and Board member Schiller seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/ Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10, through Chair Steelquist, write a letter to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to work with the landowner to place a mirror at 1060 Kinau Street or remove the parking space and let the Board know the progress. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.

Removal of bus stops- Resident John James has started a petition to strongly oppose the closure of the bus stop in front of the church at the corner of Victoria Street and Beretania Street. He said that there are many elderly people that use that bus stop and it would be a hardship to walk to and from the bus stop at Beretania Street and Ward Avenue in front of the Academy of Arts. The closing of mid-block and “pre-intersection” bus stops on Kapiolani Boulevard, King and Beretania Streets has been on the agenda for a few months now. Before the Board votes on this matter, Board member Zuiker suggested that the Board look at it until next month and ask the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to come to the next meeting and explain why they want to close the bus stop. Board member Zuiker asked Neighborhood Assistant Ho to follow up with John James and Mayor’s representative Mary Pat Waterhouse.

Board member Bigay mentioned the closing of a mid-block bus stop on King Street in front of McKinley High School and at the corner of Victoria Street and Beretania Street.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP)- Pat Lee reported the 22-mile proposed rail system would run from Kapolei to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. By 2030, it is projected that 95 percent of the employment and population growth would be in West Oahu. He announced the three "Community Update" public meetings on Saturday, June 24 at the Kapolei Hale Auditorium from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; on Monday, June 26 at the Honolulu Hale Annex Mission Memorial Auditorium from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and on Wednesday, June 28 at the Aliamanu Middle School Cafeteria on Salt Lake Boulevard from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lee thanked Neighborhood Assistant Ho for distributing his newsletter.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Board member Kawano asked about a mass transit "spur" to Mililani or continued to Hawaii Kai. Lee replied that in Vancouver and San Francisco the rail system was developed in phases. There may be support for mass transit in Mililani, but he does not know about Hawaii Kai.
2. Alternative 2 involves increased bus service.
3. Concerning "managed lanes," they would be on two levels, on the same level as the Airport viaduct.
4. They are following Federal requirements- they have to look at the four alternatives, including the "No Build" alternative. The City Council would select the "locally preferred" alternative in December. It is a Federal "matching funds" process. After Honolulu's second "false start" in 1992, the Federal government passed the "Honolulu Amendment," which requires that local funding be in place before applying for Federal matching funds.
5. Vice Chair Carole, concerning "managed lanes," mentioned the Hawaii Highway Users Alliance public meeting on Tuesday, June 20, State Capitol, Room 329 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Two professors on the panel are from UCLA, one is currently teaching at the University of Hawaii.

Chair Steelquist thanked Lee.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative- (8:00 p.m.) Mary Pat Waterhouse reported the following:

1. Concerning the update on the Makiki District Park and Makiki Library, renovations are taking place in the library, including lighting and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. We are waiting for Federal funds for replacing the carpet and construction of bookshelves.

Vice Chair Carole explained that Board member Norma Koenig's questions came up at a Hui O Makiki Community Association meeting. They wanted a reading library on the ground floor, a computer center on the second floor and a senior community center on the third floor in the Makiki Library building. Mayor's representative Waterhouse would follow up.

2. Concerning Department of Transportation Services (DTS) sending a representative to the April meeting, there are no projects planned for Fiscal Year 2007 for the Makiki area.
3. Concerning the Makiki Heights Drive mudslides and the barriers falling down, the area where the landslide occurred is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. The barricades will be monitored and reset as needed. Chair Steelquist mentioned that he is a member of Senator Fukunaga's Task Force for the Tantalus area, but is concerned about State/City jurisdiction and long range planning in other parts of Makiki. There is a gap in communication from the top (Governor and Mayor) and the bottom (Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] and Department of Transportation Services [DTS]). As the Director of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS), Waterhouse has seen Department of Design and Construction (DDC) paperwork for permits.

4. The Board had requested a "midterm sewage report" and she received information on past sewage spills. She will follow up on the status of the sewers in Makiki.
5. Concerning the "self-help groups" fixing the City's sidewalks, Mayor's representative Waterhouse received an eight-page opinion from the Corporation Counsel stating it was possible if the "self-help groups" would accept the liability. Chair Steelquist thanked her for trying. Vice Chair Carole mentioned a private landowner fixing a sidewalk on Kewalo Street.
6. Concerning replacing the "no parking" sign on the corner of Heulu and Liholiho Streets, it was replaced on June 1.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Concerning the recent controversy between the Governor and the Mayor over the collection of the one-half percent increase in the General Excise Tax (GET), Mayor's representative Waterhouse explained that the State's computers had to be fixed, because only the City & County of Honolulu authorized a increase in the GET (to pay for the mass transit system). Also, the rules have to be changed to accommodate businesses who operate in other counties besides Honolulu. There would be other costs involved, like staffing. They are continuing meeting to resolve the problems.
2. Board member Kawano asked when the two Makiki District Park buildings would be finished with the renovations. Vice Chair Carole mentioned that last month, it was reported that the Makiki Library would be completed by January 2007. He does not know about the "Administration" building.
3. Board member Hauret reported the massive amount of bulky items for pick-up on Davenport Street. He suggested that the Mayor form a Task Force to "rethink" this bulky item pick-up problem.

Chair Steelquist thanked Mayor's representative Waterhouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Zone Change- (8:17 p.m.) Peter and Chrystal Ahn at 1839 Keeaumoku Street asked Roland Ejercito, consultant and engineer, to present their request to change the zoning from Apartment (A-1) to Residential (R-5). The lot is at the corner of Nehoa and Keeaumoku Streets. This presentation is required by the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) and they are requesting "strong support" from the Neighborhood Board. They had applied for a variance since the existing lot and building were not in compliance with the A-1 zoning. The variance was approved by the DPP with the condition that the zoning be changed to R-5. They were required to notify the neighbors in the area, which they did. Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) also required a six-month time limit on the request for the variance or the Ahns would have to tear down the structure and conform to the current zoning. The present structure exceeds the area allowed for A-1 zoning, but would be allowed under R-5.

A neighboring apartment resident Wellington Wong mentioned that if "downzoned" to R-5, then there would be two violations. They over-built the two houses with two front doors to 5,114 square feet instead of 5,000 square feet. The City authorized this and the variance would take care of the second concern. The variance would increase the floor space and increase the setback requirements. Mrs. Ahn explained that the second entrance is for her office. Apartment zoning has more restrictions for parking, height limitations and landscaping.

Vice Chair Charles Carole moved and Board member David Heulitt seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 supports the downzoning from A-1 to R-5. The motion carried unanimously, 9-0-0.

Chair Steelquist mentioned that the Board is aware of the neighbors' concerns, but he does not think that the action taken would "open the flood gates" to approve of violations of the building code. The Neighborhood Board is an advisory body only and would support downzoning to not increase traffic and density in the Makiki area.

Chair Steelquist thanked the Ahns and Ejercito.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Makiki Flood- (8:50 p.m.) Chair Steelquist reported that concerning Round Top Drive, the "ad hoc Tantalus task force" has made an evaluation of the design process and it will take about six months to complete an immediate, temporary fix. The long term repair is a re-routing of the road, costing \$20 million. The residents are concerned about the increased traffic and the deep ruts in the road. Chair Steelquist reported that recently, asphalt had been put down. The flooding was lower down in the Makiki area and no one seems to be complaining. This item will be kept on the agenda.

Makiki Tantalus Recreation Area- No report.

Makiki District Library- Although previously discussed, Vice Chair Carole mentioned that the Makiki Community Association (MCA) and the Friends of the Makiki Community Library want a community and learning center in the Library building. He suggested writing a letter to the Mayor to suggest these uses. Neighborhood Assistant Ho pointed out to Chair Steelquist that the Board had submitted this request to the City in April and they haven't responded yet. Vice Chair Carole requested a copy of that report. Chair Steelquist would keep this on the agenda.

Makiki District Park- No report.

Contemporary Art Museum Renovation- Chair Steelquist reported that they are waiting for a decision on June 27. He thanked Georgianna Lagoria for attending the meeting.

Makiki Heights Care Home- Chair Steelquist mentioned that it was still permitted until the lawsuit is resolved.

1214 Matlock Street- Board member Kawano reported that the area was cleaned up, but to leave it on the agenda.

Bulky Item Pick-up- Chair Steelquist mentioned that the Board is still concerned about this issue. One idea was to pass a law that when a person buys a new refrigerator, the store has to take the old one away, like car batteries. Board member Hauret mentioned forming a task force to study this concern. Vice Chair Carole suggested a letter to the Mayor. Board member Schiller mentioned getting the City to fix the problem. One idea was not to have City bulky item pick-up.

Someone suggested using various State laws and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) law to put pressure on the City to remove the bulky items in a timely manner. Board member Schiller suggested asking the Mayor to send the Director of the City's Environmental Services Department (ENV) to the next Neighborhood Board meeting and get an article in the newspapers. Board member Schiller acknowledged that former Mayor Frank Fasi "got things done."

Board member Zuiker mentioned that the Board offered no solutions and that it was also a money issue for the City Council.

Shawn Hamamoto would take it back to Councilmember Rod Tam. Someone mentioned that this problem was also a concern for Kalihi/Palama and Karl Rhoads also mentioned that it has come before the Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13. Waikiki gets additional pick-ups because of the tourists.

Board member Philip Hauret moved and Vice Chair Carole seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 write a letter to Mayor Mufi Hannemann expressing the Board's dissatisfaction with the current bulky item pick-up system, requesting information on what other cities are doing, and forming a task force to develop a new system. The motion carried unanimous, 9-0-0.

Support for Roosevelt High School- Chair Steelquist mentioned their graduation ceremonies.

Thomas Square closing at 10:00 p.m.- Chair Steelquist mentioned that this issue was brought up in January, but the Board has not heard any strong arguments to close the park, so the Board decided not to vote on the closing issue and will take this item off the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

Candidates Forum- Board member Kawano volunteered to chair this committee. The Makiki Neighborhood Board meeting is scheduled for September 21, only two days before the Primary Election on September 23. Voters could begin voting on absentee ballots, estimated at 40 to 45 percent, by August 14. Board member Kawano needs help on publicity and contacting the candidates. Chair Steelquist mentioned that the filing deadline was July 25. Board member Hauret volunteered to be the moderator, like last time. Board member Kawano asked about the speaking format. Board member Hauret mentioned that each candidate is allowed two minutes, then answers questions. The various offices are City Council, State Representative, State Senator, Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. House and U.S. Senate. Chair Steelquist formed the Candidates Forum committee.

(9:29 p.m.) Board member Schiller left the meeting, so there was no longer a quorum present.

Swimming Pool Hours at Makiki District Park- Chair Steelquist received a request for more swimming pool hours. The City Council needs to give more money for lifeguards. As there was no longer a quorum, Chair Steelquist deferred this item to the next meeting.

Graffiti and Over-grown Weeds in the Makiki Area- Chair Steelquist mentioned that Hui O Makiki is working on this but he would defer this item to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning and Zoning- No report.

Transportation- No report.

Health, Safety, and Wellness- No report.

Newsletter- No report.

Other Committees- Board member Kawano mentioned that the Candidates Forum should consider a larger hall with a sound system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chair Steelquist mentioned that the volume of mail has gone up again. He mentioned that he had issues of *Landscape Hawaii*, *The Living Water*, *Honolulu on the Move*, *Hawaii Backyard Conservation Handbook* and two *Environmental Notices* for interested persons to review.
2. The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2006 at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Submitted by K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant