



## MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING ST., ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING OCTOBER 19, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER-** Chair John Steelquist called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Bigay (excused), Gary Fujitani, David Heulitt, Chuck Lee and Craig Thistleton.

**VACANCIES:** One (Subdistrict 2). It was filled at this meeting.

**GUESTS:** Duane Okamoto (Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Governor Linda Lingle's representative); Senator Gordon Trimble, Chris Lee (Representative Sylvia Luke's Office manager), Michael Pili Pang (Mayor's Office, Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative); Captain Mark Nakagawa (Honolulu Fire Department), Officer Henry Roberts (Honolulu Police Department), Marian Yasuda and P.J. Salmmon (H.U.R.T.); Sonia Trimble, Cappy Sheeley, Tracy H. Okubo, Lenora Springer, Kaipo Meinecke, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff)

**FILLING OF VACANCY FOR SUBDISTRICT 2 -** (Makai of Wilder Avenue, to Punahou Street to King Street to Ward Avenue) Chair Steelquist asked if there were any volunteers to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 2. Eloise Lee, wife of Board Secretary Allan Lee, volunteered. **Mitchell nominated Eloise Lee.** No second is required for nominations. **As there were no other nominations or objections, Eloise was elected to the Board by unanimous vote, 9-0-0.** Neighborhood Assistant Ho administered the oath-of-office to Eloise Lee.

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-** The following corrections were made to the September 21, 2006 minutes:

Page 1, under **MEMBERS ABSENT**, it should read, "Martin Schiller (excused)...."

Page 5, under **Governor Linda Lingle's representative**, it should read, "Tracy H. Okubo, from the State Department of Human Services, distributed the Governor's Weekly Update and was available for questions."

Kawano commended Bryan Mick, Neighborhood Commission Office staff, on the extremely detailed minutes.

The September 21, 2006 minutes were accepted as corrected.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Treasurer Schiller reported that for September the Operating Account started at \$1,520.00 for FY 2007. The previous balance was \$1,407.03 and with \$36.99 expended for printing and mailout of the agenda and minutes, the balance was \$1,370.04. The Publicity Account started at \$2,894 for FY 2007 and \$644.00 was added in September to allow for either videotaping of ten meetings or printing a four-page newsletter. The balance is \$3,538.00. The Refreshment Account remained at \$120.00. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD) -** Officer Henry Roberts distributed the September statistics and was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Schiller mentioned the traffic problem at Piikoi Street and Lunalilo Street, where motorists trying to make a left turn to get on the H-1 freeway on-ramp, block the intersection for Lunalilo Street cross-traffic. Officer Roberts replied that HPD has given out tickets at that location, but it further disrupts the flow of traffic to pull the vehicle over to the side. Schiller suggested using cameras. That part of Lunalilo Street may be under State Department of Transportation jurisdiction.
2. Mitchell mentioned that Beat 161 had six Unauthorized Entry into a Motor Vehicle (UEMV)s. This beat includes the Nature Center. (There were people in the audience to comment about this.)
3. Regarding the recent earthquake off of the island of Hawaii and the blackout on Oahu, Kawano expressed his concerns about communications, lack of food and water and traffic problems. Officer Roberts responded that most police officers were called in for traffic management, but there was no increase in calls or crime. When Police Chief Boisse Correa came in, he has worked on "homeland defense" with the State and Oahu Civil Defense.

Chair Steelquist thanked Officer Roberts.

**Honolulu Fire Department-** Captain Mark Nakagawa highlighted the following:

1. There were 9 structure fires and 4 rubbish fires for a total of 13 fires. There were 82 medical emergencies and 16 miscellaneous emergencies for a total of 98 emergencies. There were a total of 111 calls for service.
2. Fire Safety Tip- When selecting Halloween costumes, ensure that they are flame-resistant, made of lightweight fabric, brightly colored and clearly visible to motorists. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape. Keep the length of the costume short to prevent tripping. A natural mask of cosmetics is better than a mask that may restrict breathing or obscure vision. Children should carry flashlights to light their way.
3. The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) would like to remind the community that the HFD provides assistance to the Honolulu Emergency Services Department (HESD) by responding cooperatively when the need for emergency care arises. Due to the HFD's 42 fire stations and the HESD's ambulance units, we are able to respond expeditiously in a very short time to provide quality patient care and protect the citizens of the City & County of Honolulu.

Question, answers and comments followed.

Kawano asked about the earthquake and blackout damage. Captain Nakagawa responded that lots of fire companies helped out the Makiki Fire Station, as many people were stuck in elevators. Many high-rise buildings do not have back-up generators.

A resident mentioned that there were less calls for service due the "dead end" on Tantalus. Everyone thanked Honolulu's "first responders."

Chair Steelquist thanked Captain Nakagawa.

**Board of Water Supply-** No representative was present.

### **Residents' Concerns**

Marian Yasuda, of the Hawaii Ultra Runners, reported that her group parks at the Nature Center parking lot and their vehicles have been broken in to many times. She offered some alternatives, like parking in Manoa, paying a parking attendant, having vendors at the parking lot or installing cameras. She was open to new ideas. Mitchell suggested filing reports with the HPD and distributing flyers in the area. Kawano suggested a volunteer system. A resident mentioned that the Pali lookout vendors had to deal with vandalism and graffiti to the trucks. Chair Steelquist offered to put it on next month's agenda.

### **NETWORKING OF NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS**

**Makiki Stream-** No report.

**Sidewalk improvements-** No report.

**Pawaa Park-** No report.

**Makiki Community Plan-** No report.

**Traffic and Transit-** Pat Lee, Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project, sent an e-mail to Chair Steelquist, which read, "Unfortunately I will not be able to attend your neighborhood board meeting this week due to a conflict in my schedule. However, as far as a report for the board, I'd like to provide the following. Briefly: 1) We continue to do our analysis of alternatives and are on track to complete the report on time to be presented to the Council by November 1 as scheduled. 2) We have more public informational briefings scheduled, on the windward side in Kaneohe on October 24 at Heeia Elementary School and in Waianae on October 30 at Nanaikapono Elementary. Both meetings are at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 3) We have been advised that the City Council will also begin public meetings on the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) following our submittal of the Alternative Analysis (AA) report to them, so it will be a busy winter for us."

Vice Chair Carole mentioned that there will be a Transit Task Force meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at Honolulu Hale Council committee meeting room 205.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Senator Carol Fukunaga-** No representative present.

**Senator Gordon Trimble-** (7:39 p.m.) Senator Trimble distributed his newsletter and highlighted the following:

The General Election will be on November 7, not, as mentioned in the Honolulu Advertiser, November 4. There will be five State Constitutional amendments and twelve City Charter questions on the ballots. There will be absentee ballot voting at Honolulu Hale soon. He would suggest a "No" vote on the first three Constitutional amendments, concerning the Governor's appointments to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents, salary commission, and retirement age for judges. He feels the number one issue for his constituents is noise. Call his office at 586-7100.

Comments followed.

1. Schiller felt that mandating that judges retire at age 70 was "age discrimination."
2. Mitchell was concerned about "beepers" on reversing vehicles. Senator Trimble would introduce a "new" bill next session. He was more concerned about sirens, beepers, mufflers on mopeds, roosters and dogs barking.

**Representative Sylvia Luke-** Chris Lee distributed Representative Luke's newsletter, which contained emergency information from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and was available to answer any questions. Chair Steelquist asked what Representative Luke's position on State Constitutional Amendment concerning the elimination of the mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges. Lee was not sure of her position, but he could find out. He mentioned that Representative Luke was also concerned about the earthquake and noise.

Chair Steelquist thanked Lee.

**Representative Brian Schatz-** No representative present.

**Governor Linda Lingle's representative-** (7:55 p.m.) Duane Okamoto distributed the Governor's Weekly Update and highlighted the following:

1. His phone number is 733-4300 or 733-4306 or the State's website is at [www.hawaii.gov](http://www.hawaii.gov). To file a claim for damages suffered from the earthquake, call the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) hotline at 643-DLNR (3567).

2. The Attorney General settled with the R.J. Reynolds Company. They will no longer promote fruit/candy flavored cigarettes, which targets children, in Hawaii.

Comments followed.

1. Schiller and Mitchell requested more government information to be made public on City and State information numbers.
2. Kawano asked how to make Hawaiian Electric Co. (HECO) speed up re-booting the system after the earthquake. There was an article in the newspaper which mentioned that it would cost \$3,000 per person.

Chair Steelquist thanked Okamoto.

**Councilmember Rod Tam-** No representative was present; his newsletter was available for review. Zuiker commended Councilmember Tam's office for their quick responses the two times he called.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi-** No representative was present.

**Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative-** Michael Pili Pang distributed the Mayor's newsletter and reported the following:

1. The potholes on Kewalo and Heulu Streets were filled on September 27. The supervisor confirms that potholes were filled and checked on October 11.
2. The "new" buses will not be repainted to match the "old" ones.
3. Bids are being solicited for the removal of shelters at deactivated bus stops and installation at other bus stops. Shelters should be removed early 2007.
4. The bus stop on Beretania Street at Ward Avenue serves as a transfer stop to the bus stop located on Ward Avenue at Beretania Street makai-bound. Since the two stops were closely spaced the Victoria Street bus stop was discontinued.
5. Large boulders have come down Makiki Stream and damaged some concrete. The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) responded, "Please provide a location." The location was between Punahou Street and the Jack-in-the-Box on King Street.
6. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) response to the request regarding semi-permanent signs placed at deactivated bus stops was that the suggestion would be forwarded to the bus management contractor, Oahu Transit Services, Inc. We will remind them to periodically check the signage at the discontinued bus stops.
7. Resident Sheeley had asked if the road currently closed on Tantalus could be permanently closed or have a gate put in. Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Transportation Services (DTS) are still looking into the matter and will provide a response at an upcoming meeting.
8. Board member Bigay asked if board members could be appointed at-large during the terms with subdistricts only used in the biennial election. (Currently, there are no at-large slots exist on the Makiki Board) The Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) replied, "No. Please refer to Revised Neighborhood Plan, Article 4, page 5, regarding Initiation and Formation of Neighborhoods. Section I-4.2 says that a "petition shall contain the proposed number of board members, proposed subdistrict areas of the neighborhood defined on a map, and including the geographical definition, and any plans for representation from subdistrict areas of the neighborhood." If the petition for the Makiki Neighborhood Board does not allow for at-large representation, then the petition must first be amended by board petition to the Commission followed by a public hearing per Section 1-4.5."

Question, answers and comments followed.

1. Pang would follow up on Schiller's inquiry regarding the mirror on Kinau Street.
2. Pang would follow up on the Board member's request for the completion date of the work on Round Top. The Makiki Clean Up was set for Saturday, October 21.
3. Pang would follow up on Hillmann's inquiry about the "not in service" buses, traveling with no paying customers.
4. A resident was concerned about the funding for the enforcement for the "animal nuisance" laws. He has been getting the "run around" from the HPD and the Humane Society. Chair Steelquist offered to put it on the agenda next time.
5. Vehicle break-ins at the Nature Center were mentioned again.
6. The heavy growth of grass on Tantalus is cut by the City for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Chair Steelquist thanked Mayor's representative Pang.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Makiki Tantalus Recreation Area-** No report.

**Makiki District Library-** Koenig mentioned that the window openings are at the bottom and sealed at the top, but the bookshelves would block the windows at the bottom. Also, at the entrance, there is no reception area and no ventilation.

**Makiki District Park-** No report.

**Contemporary Art Museum-** No report.

**Makiki Heights Care Home-** No report.

**1214 Matlock Street-** No report.

**Bulky Item Pick-up-** No report.

**Roosevelt High School-** Chair Steelquist reported that the annual community briefing on academics and finance will be on October 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt High School Library. They are also asking for input on how the morning and evening traffic affects the community.

**Road on Round Top-** Resident Sheeley apologized for getting emotional last month. Because of the "dead-end," he now sleeps through the night, since there is less noise. He feels that it is also safer now. He asked when the road would be open again. Someone mentioned that there is a new video game with Round Top Drive and Tantalus Drive on it. Since this item was on the agenda, the Board could pass a resolution supporting the permanent "dead ending" of the road. Discussion followed. Board members felt this was a "non-issue" as it was a public road, not a private road. Kawano would oppose a resolution. Zuiker mentioned installing speed bumps, calling the police and not permitting limousines. Someone mentioned making this a "historic" road and calling the police on speeders.

**A motion to table this resolution was moved and seconded. The motion carried unanimously, 12-0-0.**

### **NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS**

**City Auditor's audit of the Neighborhood Board system-** (8:35 p.m.) Les Tanaka, City Auditor, gave some background information. Four years ago a City Charter amendment created the City Auditor position and he was appointed in 2003. He reports to the City Council and has a staff of six auditors and one office manager. He mentioned many findings, like the disjointed nature of the Neighborhood Boards, the Neighborhood Commission and the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) staff, different interpretations of the "Sunshine Law," no Revised

Neighborhood Plan and lack of management. He offered several recommendations, like City-wide "Sunshine Law" training and the separation of the Neighborhood Commission Office from the Managing Director's Office. He has sent the audit to the NCO. If there are questions, call him at 692-5134. Chair Steelquist would put it on the agenda next month.

Chair Steelquist thanked City Auditor Tanaka.

**Wild chickens along Aliamanu Place-** The resident, who talked about this earlier, had left the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning and Zoning-** No report.

**Transportation-** No report.

**Health, Safety, and Wellness-** Committee Chair Kawano had no report, but resident Tracy Okubo, State Department of Human Services, reported that after the earthquake, State officials checked the H-3 freeway for damage and every department met to assess damages and file a report for next time. The public can also file a claims for electronic repairs; due to the power outage and "power surge" when the power returned. She mentioned that KITV-4 had an educational campaign to prevent such electrical damages.

**Newsletter-** Committee Chair Zuiker was soliciting articles for a January newsletter.

**Other Committees-** No report.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

1. The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2006 at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.
2. The Board usually takes a December recess.
3. Transportation will be a big issue in November and December.
4. Hui O Makiki will be meeting November 18 at 9:00 a.m. They will be meeting with people working against graffiti from Waikele. They could put a sign on the fence at the Makiki District Park and pass out flyers to churches.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted by Neighborhood Assistant K. Russell Ho

Reviewed by Chair John Steelquist and Board Secretary Allan Lee.