



MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/ TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009 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 of **10 members present**. Note - This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish a quorum and to take official Board action.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Bigay, Charles Carole, Diane Chong, Phil Hauret, Richard Kawano, Allan Lee, Chris Lee, Eloise Lee, Sam Mitchell, Mike Sarrazin, Martin Schiller, Alika Smith, John Steelquist and Susan Lai Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Cannarella.

VACANCIES: One in Subdistrict 1 (Tantalus, Mott-Smith, Heulu) and one in Subdistrict 2 (Kinau, Lower Makiki, Kewalo), due to insufficient number of candidates in the Neighborhood Board elections.

GUESTS: Duane Okamoto (Governor Linda Lingle's Representative, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Deputy Director), Curt Cottrell (State Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Parks Division), Senator Carol Fukunaga, Representative Della Belatti and Kerianne Pascua (Representative Della Belatti's Office); Representative Karl Rhoads, Mike Oshiro (City Department of Transportation Services), Sgt. John Aguo and Ofc. Matthew Kurihara (Honolulu Police Department); Acting Capt. Shannon Parker (Honolulu Fire Department); Tracey Teanio, Giacomina M. Fumai, Barbara Wolz, Karrie Snyder, Angelyn Davis, Richard Cassidy, Jonathon Young, Yun Yi, Diane Kodis, Kimberly Chai, David Landry, 'Aina Kamauoha and Phillip "Rocky" Rockwell (Makiki Dog Park); William Char, Gerry Jobes, Ray Mitrulevich, Edmund Wong, Alister Cowley, Tracy Ryan, Jacqueline Scudder, Ryoko Uchiyama, Fran Klema, Trina Orimoto (The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery), Eric Leong, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office).

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) - Acting Capt. Shannon Parker reported: 1) July 2009 Statistics - 15 fire-related calls; 82 medical emergencies and 10 miscellaneous calls for service, which include hazardous conditions, stalled elevators, water evacuations, assist patients and good intentions. 2) Fire Safety Tip: The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) investigates reports of smoke to determine if a fire exists. While some fires are allowed or authorized under county and state regulations, most are unauthorized. When the HFD encounters an unauthorized fire, the Fire Captain will request that the fire be extinguished or have the fire crew extinguish it. If the fire is allowed, the Captain must determine if the fire is safe, properly contained, and not a nuisance to others. Examples of unauthorized fires: A) Bonfires on public beaches. B) Burning of household refuse. C) Burning of yard waste. Examples of fires that are allowed when conducted safely and contained properly include: A) Cooking fires, including barbeques, grills, or imu. B) Bathing fires. Safe and proper conditions for cooking or bathing fires are as follows: A) In a safe location away from combustible materials, such as a structure or vegetation which could cause the fire to spread. B) Under safe conditions. Strong winds or dry weather conditions are unsuitable and could cause the fire to spread. C) With proper protection. A garden hose or fire extinguisher should be available for use at outdoor fires. D) Under proper supervision. A responsible person who knows how to control the fire should be present until the fire is extinguished. Even an authorized fire can become a nuisance, if the smoke inconveniences others. One may be asked to move or extinguish the fire if complaints are received by the fire department. If one is making an imu, plan ahead and talk to the neighbors, so they know what to expect. Call the HFD's Fire Communication Center at 523-4411 at least 10 minutes, but not more than 20 minutes, prior to igniting the imu.

Comments followed: A resident asked about barbeque fires at Cartwright Field. Acting Capt. Parker will follow up.

Chris Lee and Bigay entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.; **12 members present**.



Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Ofc. Matthew Kurihara reported: 1) July 2009 Statistics - 8 assaults, 21 burglaries (+11), 1 drug offense, 7 DUI (driving under the influence) (+3), 4 family offenses (-4), 4 graffiti (+4), 93 motor vehicle collisions (-7), 15 motor vehicle thefts, 18 property damages (+6), 5 robberies (+4), 21 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle) (-20), and 183 miscellaneous calls for service (-116).

Comments followed: 1) At Piikoi and Lunalilo Streets, drivers are constantly blocking the intersection. HPD was requested to issue citations. HPD responded that they are aware of the situation and that officers may have higher priority duties. 2) Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks in residential areas and must yield to pedestrians, but bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks in business districts. 3) Call HPD for barbeques in the parks and HPD will determine any violations. 4) At Thurston and Wilder Avenues, the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) installed a new stop sign, but took away a few parking spaces. Board member was referred to DTS.

Kawano entered the meeting at 7:06 p.m.; **13 members present.**

Board of Water Supply (BWS) - No representative or report present.

As there were no objections, Chair Steelquist moved the "City officials" down on the agenda to "State Elected officials."

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Residents Concerns

1) Susan Young reported on five concerns of a resident of Prospect Street: A) Corner of Emerson Street and Spencer Street, mauka and Ewa-side corner - There is a hollowed tile wall that is deteriorating and is falling over to the public sidewalk. Concern is if someone walks along the sidewalk and this wall, or parts of this wall crumbles out into the public sidewalk and street and a pedestrian gets hurt. Who is responsible to fix this wall? The City or the homeowner? B) 711 Prospect Street - Because we live in the Punchbowl Special District, what is necessary for the new owners to do in order to tear the house down and possibly build a high-rise? Concern has to do with inhibiting view for those living behind this possible high-rise (mauka of Prospect). C) 702 Prospect Street - At the end of July 2009, Federal agents and Sheriff and FBI agents raided this house. What happened? Should the nearby neighbors be concerned as to who is living in that house and what danger they may bring to the neighborhood? D) Iolani/Alapai area where partial sidewalk crumbled (over the Easter Seals site). Is there anything being done to fix and beautify the main street on a permanent basis? Concern is that there may be further deterioration to the sidewalk, and therefore, create less walking space for pedestrians. E) Area fronting 925 Prospect Street - There are shower trees on the public sidewalk that overhang and cover the Right Turn Only sign that stands right before the corner (makai/Ewa-side of the street). 1. Whose responsibility is it to trim the trees, periodically, so that the sign is in complete public view? 2. Can a private citizen trim the trees? 3. If there is debris caused by the trimming of the trees by a private citizen, is it his responsibility to clean up the debris? Concern here is that when this "private citizen" cleaned up the debris, apparently, he used a blower that then blew all the remnants of the shower trees to all the neighboring properties.

2) There was concern about the 7-11 building next to Schumann Carriage.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 16, 2009 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: **The minutes of the July 16, 2009 regular meeting were APPROVED as circulated by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 13-0-0 (AYE:** Bigay, Carole, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist and Young).

BOARD BUSINESS:

Dog Park at Makiki District Park - About 15 residents attended the meeting for this agenda item. Many have walked their dogs on a leash in the Makiki District. Phillip "Rocky" Rockwell is the spokesman for a group that is trying to set up a non-profit organization to raise funds and to work with the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to create a Dog Park at Makiki District Park. They want to find out more information about forming a partnership with the City & County of Honolulu. There were concerns about the City's liability and hearing from people against the idea or with an opposing view. Other parks are open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Chong entered the meeting at 7:39 p.m.; **14 members present.**

Mitchell moved, and Carole seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 supports the concept of a dog park at the Makiki District Park or other appropriate area. The motion was ADOPTED, 13-0-1 (AYE: Bigay, Carole, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist and Young; ABSTAIN: Chong).

Mitchell moved, and C. Lee seconded that "until then, animals on a leash are allowed at the Makiki District Park. Discussion followed. The Board has no authority to change Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) rules. E. Lee moved to postpone the motion to the next meeting. The Board POSTPONED the motion to the next meeting BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 14-0-0 (AYE: Bigay, Carole, Chong, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist and Young).

Anti-Human Trafficking Resolution in Support of the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery's (P.A.S.S.) Proposed Legislation for 2010 - Trina Orimoto and three other representatives of P.A.S.S. explained the background of their proposed legislation for 2010. They were against forced servitude and wanted to help runaways. Tracy Ryan opposed the bill and offered a counter resolution. She does not favor legislation, and advocates instead addressing these tough social issues, while decriminalizing some of the problems. There was disagreement on whether "pimps" were violent and whether "johns" should be arrested. Others pointed out that the bill is too broad and it needs more focus. P.A.S.S. asserted that Federal and local law enforcement needs this law, which exists in similar form in 38 of 50 states. Hawai'i is one of 12 states with no law. Also, there may be fewer prostitutes in Waikiki due to the ease of Internet access to prostitution and the fact that Chinatown is the "training ground" for Waikiki.

Carole moved, and Schiller seconded to postpone the P.A.S.S. resolution to the next meeting. As the Legislature does not start until January 2010, the Board POSTPONED the resolution to the next meeting, 14-0-0 (AYE: Bigay, Carole, Chong, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist and Young).

Chair Steelquist will keep this item on the agenda.

City's Plan to Install Parking Meters Along Young Street, S. King Street and Ward Avenue - Mike Oshiro explained the proposal to install 20 parking meters on Young Street (Victoria Street to Pensacola Street), 25 parking meters on Ward Avenue (between King Street and Kapiolani Boulevard) and 35 parking meters on S. King Street, for a total of 80 meters. The rate would be 75¢/hour from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday, with Sunday free. During peak hours, there would be tow away zones.

Comments followed: 1) People work on Saturdays, so they must feed the meter. DTS has the meters already from the Kaimuki parking lot. It would cost \$150 to put in each post. There would be a 20% decrease in number of parking spaces.

Mitchell moved, and Hauret seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 ACCEPTS the proposal to put in parking meters in the District, on Young Street, Ward Avenue and S. King Street, 11-3-0 (AYE - Bigay, Chong, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Sarrazin, Schiller, Steelquist and Young; NO - Carole, C. Lee and Smith).

2) Kawano requested more parking spaces right before the Thurston Avenue/Wilder Avenue stop sign. Oshiro will look at it. 3) At the Wilder Avenue/Pensacola Street intersection, there are two left-turn lanes. Drivers are "drifting" from second lane into the right lane.

Community Concerns

A resident mentioned more bicycle lanes on Ward Avenue and more public input on traffic solutions.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Recreational Renaissance - Curt Cottrell explained that during the last Legislative Session, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), with its five divisions working together, went to the Legislature to support a bill to issue \$200 million in bonds for capital Improvements for a "Recreational Renaissance." The bill was not passed. Now, "Plan B" would use a special Land Division fund and

charge visitors for parking at State Parks - \$5.00 per vehicle and \$3.00 at the Nu'uuanu Pali. As for tour buses with "local" children, there is a new parking technology, where the drivers swipe a card from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. It cost \$900,000.00 for maintenance. The DLNR is now under-staffed and does not have enough people to outreach to big donors. By next year, they will have permitting online. Chair Steelquist will keep this item on the agenda.

Noise in Makiki (early morning trash pick-up/mopeds) - This item will be kept on the agenda.

Kapiolani Medical Center Expansion - No report.

The Contemporary Museum Restrictions - No report.

Tree Removal on Tantalus - No contract has been issued.

Report on Annual Makiki Newsletter Responses - Chair Steelquist reported that he received 89 responses and received 8 to 10 more today. In the past, Board members divided up the concerns and tried to contact the residents. Chair Steelquist invited Board members to see the actual concerns and index.

REPORTS:

Chair's Report - No report.

Treasurer's Report - Martin Schiller reported that the previous balance was \$5,178.00; \$42.59 was expended for the printing and mailing of the agenda and minutes, leaving a balance of \$5,135.41. The Treasurer's report was filed. Schiller noted that there is \$120.00 in Refreshments budget and proposed the purchasing of cookies, spending up to \$60.00, for next month's meeting. A Board member suggested visiting the Makiki Farmer's Market from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to purchase "healthy" snacks. Another Board member thought that the food items were too expensive.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Carol Fukunaga reported: 1) The State Elections Office proposed closure of selected voting precincts and moving them to other locations. She welcomed feedback. A Board member was also a Precinct Officer and wanted the extra precinct. 2) She also worked on preventing the proposed Post Office closures in the Makiki and McCully districts.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria - Newsletter was available.

Representative Della Belatti reported: 1) She was working with residents on the Makiki Dog Park, the evening Farmers Market and the Rediscover Makiki, which had about 3,000 to 4,000 people per night. Senator Fukunaga and Representative Rhoads worked on the event, too. 3) She has been following the State/unions negotiations and is thinking about possible legislation for the 2010 Legislature. She asked for public input. 3) Representative Belatti wants to host a budgeting/economy forum in November 2009.

Comments followed: Rediscover Makiki had more people at nights, because they had good movies and good food. One vendor mentioned that they made more money the first night than in two nights last year. The Planning Committee is deciding if they should do it again next year and welcomed volunteer's input and comments. If interested, contact her.

Representative Sylvia Luke - Newsletter was available.

Representative Karl Rhoads reported: 1) He followed up on two sidewalk complaints, one on the 1200-block of Victoria Street. 2) Fixing potholes on Wong Ho Lane. 3) Questions were raised if the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles have use of the Opticom system, where they can change the lights to "green" at Piikoi and King Streets and at Piikoi and Beretania Streets. 4) Other items he worked on included installing a loading zone, street sweeping on Pensacola/Piikoi Streets, burglaries between King and Beretania Streets and King/Piikoi Streets pedestrians. 5) At Kinau Street and the H-1 freeway, he had asked the State Department of Transportation (DOT) to trim the bushes. 6) He sent a letter to HPD on enforcement of noisy motorcycle mufflers.

Governor Linda Lingle's Representative - Duane Okamoto reported: 1) As a cost-saving measure, the monthly Governor's Neighborhood Board Update is no longer being produced. 2) The Farmer's Market is good and he urged everyone to support locally grown produce. Vendors should see the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) at Keeaumoku and S. King Streets.

Comments followed: 1) At a May DLNR public meeting, it was proposed to have buoys separating stand-up paddlers from swimmers at the Ala Moana Beach Park. To date, nothing has happened. Curt Cottrell thought it was to be a voluntary separation without buoys, but he will follow up.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Representative - No representative or report was present.

Councilmember Rod Tam - No representative or report was present.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi - No representative or report was present.

Committees

Appointment of New Committees and Chairs - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Planning and Zoning - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Transportation - Monthly report by Pat Lee, Honolulu Rail Transit Project (H RTP) - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Health, Safety, and Wellness - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

Newsletter - This item was deferred to the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chris Lee distributed a newspaper which highlighted the homelessness issue.
- Chair Steelquist had several publications for interested people to review.
- The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by:
K. Russell Ho
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:
Phil Hauret
Secretary
and John Steelquist
Chair