



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, SEPTEMBER 17, 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 (arrived at 7:07 p.m.), Charles Carole, Diane Chong, Phil Hauret, Richard Kawano (arrived at 7:26 p.m.), Allan Lee, Chris Lee, Eloise Lee, Mike Sarrazin, Martin Schiller, Alika Smith (arrived at 7:22 p.m.), John Steelquist, Edmund Wong (elected at this meeting) and Susan Lai Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Cannarella and Sam Mitchell (notified absence).

VACANCIES: One in Subdistrict 2 (Kinau, Lower Makiki, Kewalo), due to insufficient number of candidates in the Neighborhood Board elections.

GUESTS: Representative Della Belatti, Diane Dunphy (Representative Karl Rhoads' Office); Chrystn Eads (Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative, Mayor's Office), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Torin Ching and Michele Sansone (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office), Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Sgt. John Aguo and Ofc. Mace Minakawa (Honolulu Police Department); Capt. Curtis Aiwohi (Honolulu Fire Department); Suzanne Jones, Amy Long and Tamara Farnsworth (Department of Environmental Services); Ann Mahi (Principal, Roosevelt High School), Susan E. Lee, Pam Vessels, Thad Nakajima, Trina Orimoto (The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery), Kiana Rivera (Waikiki Health Clinic), Brandi Tamasog (Hale Kipa Inc.), Alister Cowley (Reach In, Reach Out), Tracy Ryan, Mr. Fukuda; Kathryn Xian and Trina Orimoto (The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery), and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office).

FILLING OF VACANT BOARD SEATS: One in Subdistrict 1 (Tantalus, Mott-Smith, Heulu) - Edmund Wong volunteered to serve on the Board for the remainder of the 2009 - 2011 term. He is a real estate agent and has lived in the Makiki District for several years. **Schiller nominated; C. Lee seconded that Edmund Wong be elected to the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10. The motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 10-0-0 (AYE: Carole, Chong, Hauret, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Sarrazin, Schiller, Steelquist and Young).** As Wong's address was confirmed, the Oath of Office was administered. **11 members present.**

Bigay entered the meeting at 7:07 p.m.; **12 members present.**

One in Subdistrict 2 (Kinau, Lower Makiki, Kewalo) - Alister Cowley volunteered to serve on the Board for the remainder of the 2009 - 2011 term. He has attended a few Neighborhood Board meetings and gave some background information. He has been a resident of Makiki since 1996. **Schiller nominated; Hauret seconded that Alister Cowley be elected to the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10. The motion was NOT ADOPTED, 2-6-4 (AYE: Hauret and Schiller; NO: Carole, Chong, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee and Sarrazin; ABSTAIN: Bigay, Steelquist, Wong and Young).** Nine votes were needed to be elected. Cowley wanted to appeal the decision and was advised to continue attending the Board meetings.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) - Capt. Curtis Aiwohi reported: 1) August 2009 Statistics - 10 fire-related calls; 48 medical emergencies and 29 miscellaneous calls for service, which include hazardous conditions, stalled elevators, water evacuations, assist patients and good intentions. 2) Fire Safety Tip: Fire Prevention Week (FPW) has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire on October 8 -10, 1871. On the 40th anniversary of that fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided the anniversary should be observed nationally to inform the public about the importance of fire prevention. Since 1992, FPW has been observed the week of October 9. The National Fire Protection Association has selected "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned" as the theme for FPW on



October 4-10, 2009. This year's campaign will focus on burn awareness and prevention, and keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires. Testing a child's bath water prior to placing him or her in the tub or wearing an outfit with short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking are simple actions that may prevent serious burns. The Honolulu Fire Department encourages every family to take the necessary steps to ensure that the home is safe from fire hazards and that the family is prepared to escape when alerted by smoke alarms. Has the family fire escape plan been practiced? Has a safe meeting place outside of the home been designated? In October, children attending elementary schools statewide will receive a Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG) from their teachers. HFD encourages parents to review the FFSG with their child, create or revisit the family fire escape plan, practice the plan, test smoke alarms, and consider the other safety tips in the guide.

Comments followed: 1) Unattended cooking fires are the most common fires, but fire extinguishers are not required, as violations would be "unenforceable." 2) However, sirens on HFD vehicles are required, even late at night.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Sgt. John Aguo reported: 1) August 2009 Statistics - 11 assaults, 23 burglaries, 1 drug offense, 6 DUI (driving under the influence), 31 family offenses (+27), 3 graffiti, 115 motor vehicle collisions (+22), 13 motor vehicle thefts, 17 property damages, 3 robberies, 1 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle) (-20), and 214 miscellaneous calls for service (+31).

Comments followed: 1) Regarding the HFD sirens, the HPD is required to use sirens, too.

As there were no objections, Chair Steelquist moved the rest of the City-elected officials to the bottom of the agenda.

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

Smith entered the meeting at 7:22 p.m.; **13 members present.**

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Resident Request for a Sidewalk to be Installed on the Makai-side of the 1400 Block of Nehoa Street - No resident spoke on this agenda item.

Resident Request for Road Repair around 1001 to 1015 Wilder Avenue - No resident spoke on this agenda item.

Roosevelt High School and McKinley High School - Principal Ann Mahi and an associate, Mr. Fukuda, reported: 1) The next School Community Council meeting will be on October 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Roosevelt High School Library. 2) Regarding school "uniforms," six shirts cost \$40.00. The shirts are used to identify students. Badges are issued for Department of Education (DOE) personnel. Students are given identification cards and must show authorized persons upon request. 3) The stadium is completed and is open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m. It is not open on the weekends and holidays, as there is no one to supervise. There was a fire that cost several hundred dollars to repair. There is no police for security at football games. 4) The auditorium is open.

Comments followed: 1) There is a dangerous situation for pedestrians crossing Nehoa Street at football games in front of the stadium.

Kawano entered the meeting at 7:26 p.m.; **14 members present.**

BOARD BUSINESS:

Curbside Recycling Program Expansion to Makiki in November 2009 - Suzanne Jones, City Recycling Coordinator, explained that Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is distributing the three carts with an information packet to the Makiki area. 100,000 homes are already in the curb-side recycling program, with 25,000 additional homes by November 2009. The May 2010 expansion for Leeward O'ahu will be the last one. Makiki residents already have the gray carts. There will be trash pick-ups two times a week. Residents should start using the carts the week of November 2 and may request a second green and/or blue cart. The gray carts will be monitored. This program is not for condos. For more information, go to the website - http://www.opala.org/solid_waste/curbside.htm. #1 and #2 plastics go in the blue bin.

Comments followed: 1) Regarding the economic cost, there are start-up costs to buy the bins and operating costs. 2) Condos can set up their own programs and ENV may refund up to \$2,000 to the Association of Apartment Owners (AOAO). 3) The blue cart is for high-value recyclables, like newspaper, glass, cardboard, aluminum cans, and bottles. 3) Jones introduced associates Amy Long and Tamara Farnsworth. 4) In a few weeks Oceanic Cable television will start The Green Channel, Channel 332, and broadcasts will also be on www.opala.org.

Department of Land and Natural Resources Recreational (DLNR) Renaissance "Plan B" - No representative or report present.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2009 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: **The minutes of the August 20, 2009 regular meeting were APPROVED as circulated by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 14-0-0 (AYE:** Bigay, Carole, Chong, Hauret, Kawano, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist, Wong and Young).

(Governor's representative Duane Okamoto had e-mailed his corrections before the meeting.)

- Page 5, under Governor Linda Lingle's Representative, it should read, "Duane Okamoto reported: 2).... Sponsors should contact the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) at Keeaumoku and S. King Streets if they need assistance in identifying additional local vendors."

Anti-Human Trafficking Resolution in Support of the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery's (P.A.S.S.) Proposed Legislation for 2010 - 1) At last month's meeting, there was disagreement on if pimps and/or "johns" are violent or dangerous. It was presented that the relationship between pimps and prostitutes is complicated and multi-faceted and could not be understood simply on the basis of violence. The Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (P.A.S.S.) is against forced human trafficking and child kidnapping. P.A.S.S. presented a PowerPoint slideshow, similar to the one from earlier 2009. They claimed that law enforcement needed this law. In 42 other states, the law is working. A Federal report did not name the other eight states. 2) An alternate view was presented by an unidentified male, who dresses as a girl and practices "safe sex" in Waikiki. He makes choices, does not have a pimp and is not in favor of laws that tell people what to do. 3) Tracy Ryan mentioned that the August minutes were wrong. They did not reflect that before the vote to table any action on the P.A.S.S. resolution, she and her group would be allowed to present their side at the next meeting. Pimps are not violent, but "johns" can be violent. 4) Waikiki outreach worker Reverend Pam Vessels has worked for 10 years with Waikiki prostitutes, or "sex workers." The biggest obstacle, which prevents them from "leaving the business," is that they have arrest records. She favors decriminalization for the sex workers. 4) Tracy Ryan explained about Dunbar in India. They are against trafficking and have self-regulatory boards that regulate the entry of a new sex worker and undertake social welfare activities. In Hawai'i in the 1930s to 1944, HPD "regulated" prostitution. In 1942 there was a strike. The prostitutes were making \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year and were not forced. Of the \$3 paid, \$2 went to the woman and \$1 went to the "Madame." Ryan also had information about the Amsterdam - December 2007 Press Conference and "Myths and Facts about Nevada Legal Prostitution." Chair Steelquist had to call for order a few times. The Board recognized that all sides were very committed to their positions and that they should present their positions to the Legislature in January 2010.

Hauret moved; Chong seconded that any action on the P.A.S.S. resolution be tabled indefinitely. The motion was ADOPTED, 12-1-1 (AYE: Bigay, Carole, Chong, Hauret, A. Lee, C. Lee, E. Lee, Sarrazin, Schiller, Smith, Steelquist, Wong and Young; **NO:** Kawano; **ABSTAIN:** ?).

Dog Park at Makiki District Park - Board members Schiller and C. Lee observed that the area, proposed last month for the dog park, is a picnic area for people waiting to use the courts. They changed their view on the dog park location. They want to wait until community residents look at five or six other sites and report back.

Parking near Stop Sign at Thurston and Wilder Avenues - No report.

Buoys to Separate Stand-Up Paddlers and Swimmers at Ala Moana Park - The Board would like the DLNR to explain what was said at the May Ocean/Boating meeting.

Traffic at the intersection of Piikoi and Lunalilo Streets - No report. Board members were concerned about drivers who block traffic at Piikoi and Lunalilo Streets.

Noise in Makiki (early morning trash pick-up/mopeds) - No report, but Chair Steelquist will leave on the agenda.

Kapiolani Medical Center Expansion - No report.

The Contemporary Museum Restrictions - No report.

Tree Removal on Tantalus - No report.

Report on Annual Makiki Newsletter Responses - Chair Steelquist received three or four more pet peeves.

Elected Officials

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi reported: 1) She has not visited the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 in a while and was surprised at the interesting topics for discussion. 2) She introduced two staff members - Torin Ching, Senior Advisor, and Michele Sansone. 2) She will work on bulky item pick-up. She mentioned that near Soto Mission and on Hokoia Place there had been no trash pick-up for three weeks. 2) The other issue she will work on is transparency in the spending of rail transit funds. She wants the public to know how \$100 million was spent. She mentioned light rail, at grade, as being preferable to heavy rail for populations less than 2 million. In order to float \$1 billion in bonds, six votes are needed on the City Council. She opposes building the rail system on prime agricultural lands.

Councilmember Rod Tam - Shawn Hamamoto distributed Councilmember Tam's newsletter and, in the interest of time, was available for questions.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Representative - Chrystn Eads reported: 1) The sidewalk fronting Safeway on Beretania Street is a City sidewalk. The temporary patch is being monitored and will be re-patched, if it deteriorates. Permanent repairs will be scheduled as resources become available. 2) HPD started enforcing the "No Animals" rule, because the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) received complaints from nearby residents and some park users about the growing number of dogs being in the park both on- and off-leash, causing concerns about safety of other park users, particularly school-aged children participating in organized sports. DPR contacted HPD to request their assistance in enforcing the posted "No Animals" rule. The rules for dogs in City parks are at the following website: <http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/rules/dogs.htm>. This website provides a list of parks where dogs may be brought on-leash. Some parks that are on the list and are near the Makiki area are: Archie Baker Mini Park, Thomas Square Urban Park, Mother Waldron Neighborhood Park, and Alewa Neighborhood Park. 3) Yes, DPR authorized the closure of Cartwright Park from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. The signs have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible upon receipt. HPD is aware of the upcoming change. HPD - District 1 will be notified when the signs are installed. 4) Regarding the City's proposal to install 75 parking meters, the meters on Ward Avenue should be completed in two to three weeks. South King Street and Young Street should be completed in six weeks. 5) While bike lanes are generally the preferred treatment, Ward Avenue would require the removal of street parking or a travel lane to accomplish this. Recognizing this, the draft 2009 Oahu Bike Plan proposes that Ward Avenue be designated as a "Bike Route" with the addition of signing and possibly some pavement markings. This is intended to increase awareness of drivers to the presence of bicyclists and is a reminder to "share the road." 6) The retaining wall, which is approximately four feet high, is on Spencer and Emerson Street, and along the driveway on Spencer Street. The wall is cracking and leaning. The section of the wall at the corner of Spencer and Emerson Street has separated and is in danger of collapsing into the unimproved sidewalk area. A Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued to the owner on August 20, 2009 to rebuild the retaining wall. 7) Regarding 711 Prospect Street, the subject property has a lot area of 7,465 square feet, is zoned A-2 Medium Density Apartment District, and is subject to a 40-foot height limit. The maximum building area (lot coverage) is 60%, and the maximum density (floor area) is about 8,000 square feet. As such, it is estimated that only a three- to four-story apartment building would be possible. Per DPP, the site is in the Punchbowl Special District, and a new apartment building would require a minor Special District Permit. 8) Regarding the Iolani/Alapai area, the location is an unimproved sidewalk area. In accordance with Revised Ordinances of the City & County of Honolulu (ROH), the abutting property owner is responsible for maintenance. 9) The Board is especially concerned about the intersection of Piikoi Street and Lunalilo Street. This item was referred to the State Department of Transportation (DOT). 10) Regarding 702 Prospect Street and Federal agents and the Sheriff raiding this house at the end of July 2009, this item was referred to the State Department of Public Safety. 11) Regarding the area fronting 925 Prospect Street, there are no City trees fronting 925 Prospect Street. However, four City Shower trees adjacent to 711 Prospect Street are included in an active tree maintenance contract that began on August 10, 2009, and were pruned on September 4, 2009. Only Division of Urban Forestry (DUF) personnel and/or a private contractor, hired by the City, are allowed to prune recognized City trees within City planting strips, parks, and traffic medians. Unauthorized

pruning of a City tree would be considered an act of vandalism. Concerned citizens may report tree concerns to DUF at 971-7151. As stated in the ROH 1990, Sec. 14-20.1 Cleaning of sidewalks - "Every property owner whose land abuts or adjoins a public street shall continually maintain, and keep clean, passable and free from weeds and noxious growths, the sidewalk and gutter area which abuts or adjoins the property owner's property."

Comments followed: 1) Kawano requested the background for the "no animals" rule. He was informed that other dog parks are doing great. It may take a few years for a dog park in Makiki.

Governor Linda Lingle's representative - No representative or report present.

Representative Della Belatti distributed her newsletter.

Representative Karl Rhoads - Diane Dunphy reported 1) A constituent raised concerns that criminal activity has increased on Young Street between Victoria and Pensacola Streets. Representative Rhoads sent a letter to HPD asking for their assistance. 2) Following up from last month, DTS has agreed to put in a "Turning Traffic Must Yield to Pedestrians" sign for left turns from King Street onto Piikoi Street. 3) Following up from last month, DOT has issued a work order to remove the brush at the mauka end of Osorio Place in the H-1 right of way. 4) Following up from last month, the City is having a sidewalk uplift corrected on Victoria Street, just makai of 1221 Victoria Street (the Admiral Thomas).

Senator Carol Fukunaga's newsletter was e-mailed to Board members.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria - No representative or report present.

Representative Sylvia Luke - No representative or report present.

REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report - Martin Schiller reported that the previous balance was \$5,135.41; \$40.33 was expended for the printing and mailing of the agenda and minutes, leaving a balance of \$5,095.08. The Treasurer's report was filed. To save money, the Refreshment Budget was deleted by the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO). However, Representative Belatti brought cake from the earlier Makiki Library anniversary celebration.

Committees

Appointment of New Committees and Chairs - No report.

Planning and Zoning - No report.

Transportation - Pat Lee, Honolulu Rail Transit Project (H RTP) sent a written report -

SEPTEMBER NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD REPORT

A: GET SURCHARGE

- A recent article mentioned that the cost of rail will be \$4,000 per person in a Honolulu household. This article failed to mention that \$4,000 is spread out over the 16 years that the tax is in place. That comes out to around 50 cents per day, way less than the cost of a gallon of gas.
- GET surcharge is not a flat tax, and people who spend less pay less of the tax. Visitors pay about 25 percent of the GET revenues on Oahu. The FTA is also expected to contribute \$1.4 Billion to the cost of the rail project.
- The AAA puts the cost of owning and operating a car at \$8,095 per year, given today's gas prices, maintenance, parking, insurance, licenses and fees. So, if a family can eliminate that second car and use rail, you have a net savings on transportation costs, which is a major expenditure to Hawaii's families after housing and food costs.

- Honolulu's new rail transit system is moving toward groundbreaking at the end of the year. Once construction begins on the elevated rail system, it will start creating new jobs in the construction industry and inject new revenue into the sagging local economy.

B. AT-GRADE RAIL

- There have been suggestions that the city should build a street level, "at-grade" system rather than elevated rail. I noted in earlier reports that an elevated system would be faster, safer, carry more people, be more reliable, require less right of way and have less operating costs than at-grade due to the train running on an elevated guideway, separated from general traffic.
- Besides these factors, it is important to note that our roads are narrow and our city is already built up, so a street level train would require either the removal of two existing traffic lanes to make room for the train, or more property acquisition if you keep the same number of traffic lanes.

Health, Safety, and Wellness - No report.

Newsletter - Kawano requested to look at all of the pet peeves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 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, October 15, 2009 at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
K. Russell Ho
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:
Phil Hauret
Secretary
and John Steelquist
Chair