



MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/ TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

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DRAFT-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2012** **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 **14 members present**. Note – This 17 member Board requires nine (9) members to establish quorum and take official Board action.

Members Present: Vincent Browne, Ron Cannarella, Diane Chong, Trevor Funk, Philip Hauret, Richard Kawano, Susan Lai Young (departed at 8:10 p.m.), Allan Lee, Eloise Lee, Sam Mitchell, Chuck Reindollar, Isaiah Sabey, Christopher Smith (appointed at tonight's meeting), John Steelquist, Michael Wooten.

Members Absent: Charles Carole and Earl Winfree.

Guests: Captain Greg Ikeda (Honolulu Fire Department), Sergeant Bert Fujinaga, (Honolulu Police Department); Councilmember Ann Kobayashi and Jarret Yip (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office staff), Nathan Miyake (Office of Councilmember Tulsi Gabbard), Linnea Schuster (Office of Representative Sylvia Luke), Kelsey Gaddy (Mayor Peter Calisle's Representative), Justin Kessler (Board of Water Supply), Nalani Aki (Senator Carol Fukunaga's Office staff), April Bautista (Office of Representative Karl Rhoads), Mike Kockler (MyChangeNow.com), Pat Lee (Honolulu Rail Project), Madori Rumpungworn, D'Angelo McIntyre, and Megan Brooker, Matt Olsen, Christopher Smith, and H. Doug Matsuo (Occupy Honolulu), Larry Fenton, Jayson Jasper, and Aisha Wang (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

Vacancies: One (1) vacancy in Sub District 2.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

Filling of One Vacancy in Sub District 2: Chair Steelquist asked of the audience if there was anyone that was interested in filling the vacancy. Christopher Smith of 901 Beretania Street stood and voiced his interest in filling the vacancy. Neighborhood Assistant Wang verified the address from a Hawaii State Driver's licenses. There was a question if the vacancy was in subdistrict 1 or 2, however according to the agenda, the vacancy was in sub district 2. Neighborhood Assistant Wang administered the Oath of Office.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Greg Ikeda reported the following:

- **January 2012 Statistics:** Included 8 structure fires, 3 rubbish fires and 1 vehicle fire, 80 medical calls and 13 miscellaneous calls.
- **Fire Safety Tips:** Smoke alarms save lives and are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Since the late 1970s, properly installed and maintained smoke alarms have contributed to a 50% decrease in fire deaths. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, 65% of home fire deaths reported between 2000 and 2004 resulted from homes that had inoperable or no smoke alarms. An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if every home contained working smoke alarms.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed; **Fire Exit Violation:** A Board member questioned whether it was a violation for the meeting to take place in a room that only had one exit. A back exit was found to be locked, but accessible with a key that was given to another board member who signed out for the meeting room. Ikeda responded that whenever there was a meeting that back exit should also be unlocked to avoid any fire violations.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sergeant Bert Fujinaga reported the following:

- **January 2012 Statistics:** Included 11 assaults, 9 burglaries, 4 drug offenses, 13 driving under the influence (DUI), 1 family offense, 1 graffiti, 97 motor vehicle collisions, 7 motor vehicle thefts, 15 property



damage, 4 robberies, 1 sex assault, 26 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles (UEMV), and 174 miscellaneous services.

- Avoidable Crime Safety Tips: During the month of December 2011, our District 1 Burglary/Theft Detectives received 366 reports of criminal violations. Of the 366 cases, approximately 87 were crimes that could have been avoided. These crimes included: Lost property, unattended property, property taken from unsecured vehicles or buildings pick pocketed items, and items stolen from restroom stalls. That is 23% of all property crimes that were reported in the month of December 2011 were possibly avoidable by using personal safety tips such as keep personal belongings in view while eating, meeting or shopping, keep doors locked – even if you are going to be gone only a few minutes, keep doors locked day or night whether you are home or not, know who is at the door before opening it, insist on seeing an I.D. from anyone you do not know, and in the event that something does happen or if you are a victim of a crime: Use your imagination and good judgment; give yourself time to think.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Graffiti: It was asked and clarified that the statistics show incidences of graffiti was violators caught in the act so that criminal charges could be brought against them.
2. Unauthorized Entries into a Motor Vehicle (UEMV): There was a question as to whether the UEMVs in the report were all in one area. The response was that in beat 161 many tourists are targeted and that is the reason for the high incidences of UEMVs. It was added that with the Citizen's Patrol Task force (CPT), there has been a decrease in UEMVs reported and it can be attributed to the CPT deterring criminal activity.
3. Condominium Activity: It was questioned whether any of the UEMVs were concentrated in a specific condominium complex. Although it was reported in the past, these reports had no area of concentration such as a condominium complex.
4. Personal Property: There was a question as to whether the methods that were being done to handle the 'Occupy Honolulu' movement at Thomas Square was in violation. Kelsey Gaddy, the Mayor's representative responded to this question by stating that because the City was following a new rule implemented, the City was following the letter of the law and taking precautions to assure that no violations were broken in the removal of the property on sidewalks surrounding Thomas Square after being abandoned for longer than the 24-hour period.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Justin Kessler reported the following:

- Follow-up From Last Meeting: Rate increases were discussed because no rate increase had been implemented since 1996 and basically will be used for completing repairs around the entire system.
- Chromium VI: The trace levels of Chromium VI reported by the Environmental Water Group and BWS are within the potential range of normal background levels across the country.
- Main Breaks: There were no water main breaks in the Makiki area for January 2012.
- New Manager and Chief Engineer: BWS announced that Ernest Lau will fill the position of manager and chief engineer for the BWS. As manager, Lau will be responsible for the overall strategic direction and management of BWS, with a focus on furthering the department's mission to provide safe and dependable water source for the islands.
- Detect-A-Leak week: Will begin March 11 through 17, 2012 and BWS is urging everyone to check and repair their household leaks to conserve water.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Potential for Further Increase: A question was asked whether there was a potential that there would be another increase in water rates in the next five years. Response was that with the latest increase the total charges will be less than 50% over what it was and with all the proposed projects they see no need for further increases.
2. Cause of Main Breaks: There was an inquiry into what causes water main breaks. The response was that the age of pipes was the major reason for breaks, however soil contaminants were another factor in the cause of main breaks.
3. Water Pressure: The representative was questioned whether the rate increase would improve services of the BWS because a resident called years ago about low water pressure on his property. Now with all the new, larger developments being built on King Street which increase small usage to larger usages creating

low pressure, there is a greater need for meter's to be re-distributed fairly. Kessler to follow up.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Kewalo Housing Development: Kali Watson and Joe Michaels presented the following:

- Project Site: A non-profit, 38-unit affordable housing property located at 1407 Kewalo Street built in the early 1960s under Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Residents: Thirty residents are under the project based section 8 program, while the other eight residents pay HUD approved rents.
- Project Highlights: Pacific Development Group in partnership with Hawaii Community Development Board (HCDB) will be purchasing the property and apply for federal tax credits through Hawaii Housing Finance & Development Corporation (HHFDC). They plan to refurbish eight units at a time and plan to replace all kitchen cabinets, appliances, bathroom tub surrounds plumbing and electrical facilities, flooring and both interior and exterior paint jobs including landscaping and exterior building improvements.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Management Entity: There was a question as to whether this housing complex would be managed by any management company. The response was that yes this complex would be handled by a managing agent.
2. Future Possibilities: It was asked if there would be any possibility that units in this complex could be sold at full-market value. Watson responded that it was not planned as his company is a non-profit entity.
3. Displaced Residents: A concern was raised for the tenants who would be displaced by the renovations to their unit. Michaels responded that the units would be worked on eight (8) units at a time until completion for at least fourteen days. While the unit is worked on the displaced tenants would be housed in near-by hotels at the expense of the company.

It was moved by Mitchell and seconded by Reindollar to support the affordable housing project. The Makiki Neighborhood Board No. 10 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED the motion to support, 14-0-0 (Aye: Browne, Cannarella, Chong, Funk, Hauret, Kawano, Lai Young, A. Lee, E. Lee, Mitchell, Reindollar, Sabey, Steelquist, Wooten).

Complete Streets: Allen Fujimori presented the following:

- Purpose: Furjimori came before the board to request support from the board to pass an ordinance in City Council that would make access for all to allow utilization of public transportation from universal sites.
- History: Complete streets is a cooperation between City officials and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) who are hoping to get an ordinance passed that opens up communication between the different departments that work to maintain City streets. It is the hope of complete streets to have the support of the neighborhood boards to back the passing of the ordinance through City Council in May.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Effects on Makiki: A question was raised and clarified as to what this project would do for Makiki residents specifically. The response was that for example rather than maintaining sidewalks then roadwork and adding bicycle lanes, the departments would be in communication with each other to work in concert to not add lanes before doing roadwork that would cover earlier work.
2. What is their position: It was asked what the position of complete streets was when the City departments were supposed to already be working in concert with each other. The response was that the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) was championing the support of the ordinance to get support of all departments.
3. Projects in Makiki: The question was raised if there were any projects going on in the community of Makiki specifically. The response was that there were different devices in place that make streets safer to cross.
4. Parking Spaces: It was asked how many parking spaces would be taken away to accommodate any actions by the complete streets ordinance. There was no specific answer for this question.

Mitchell moved and was seconded by Browne to support the complete streets initiative. Discussion followed, however, the motion was tabled for further discussion at a later date. Fujimori was asked if he was able to attend the following meetings with more information.

CITY REPORTS

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi: Councilmember Kobayashi reported the following:

- Waianae Sustainable Plan: The plan is still in the discussion phase in the City Council.
- Property Tax System: The Council is trying to make property taxes fairer in relation to people's income to avoid non-payment.
- Budget: The deadline for the budget is nearing approval in the first week of March and the effort is to reduce government waste.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Complete Streets: The Councilmember was asked what her thoughts were on the complete streets initiative. She responded that there was too much emphasis on cars.
2. Rail Transit: Kobayashi was asked her views on the rail transit project. Her response was that it appears that the Federal government thinks that Cayetano will be able to stop the project because they are rushing to implement construction before this year's election.

Councilmember Tuls Gabbard: Nathan Miyake distributed a newsletter and made himself available to take any concerns to report to Councilmember Gabbard.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Complete Streets: Miyake was asked if he was able to opine the Councilmember's view of the complete streets ordinance. He responded that he would follow-up at the next meeting.
2. Bill 54: The question was asked if the Councilmember was aware of the ramifications of the passing of Bill 54 towards complete streets.
3. Rail Project: It was asked and clarified that the Councilmember is concerned about the cost of the project.

Mayor Peter Carlisle's Representative: Kelsey Gaddy reported the following:

- Bulky Items: A report of bulky items was responded to at the Royal Vista, 1023 Prospect. Gaddy reported that the Bulky Items were found and removed.
- Dog Park: There was a question of the stance on having the dog park located at Makiki District Park. The response was that the Department of Parks and Recreation had not changed their stance on the use of the Makiki District Park.
- Honolulu 311: The City Department of Information Technology (DIT) has released a new application that can be utilized by a smartphone which allows citizens to report a concern by taking a picture and having the concern sent into the City. The correct department will then be notified of this concern for proper handling. The Mayor is happy for the positive reception of this new application.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Thomas Square: A question was raised as to whether Thomas Square was ever considered as a location for the dog park. Gaddy will take this suggestion back with her report.
2. Magellan Park: Another suggestion was made to inquire if it would be feasible to have a dog park at the Dole Park – 602 Magellan Avenue.

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Carol Fukunaga: Nalani Aki distributed a newsletter and reported the following:

- Mailed Surveys: Aki urged everyone to turn in a mailed survey and return to Senator Fukunaga's office even though the date to receive it is Monday, February 20, 2012. The four main topics asked of the survey are regarding the Lunalilo off-ramp project, school consolidation, housing, and transportation.

- Town Hall Meeting: There will be a town hall meeting held at Stevenson Intermediate on Thursday, February 23, 2012 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria: Representative not present; report made available.

Representative Sylvia Luke: Linnea Schuster distributed a handout and highlighted the following:

- Free Tax Service: Schuster invited the audience to take the opportunity to receive free help with taxes at a session held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 in the Capitol room 329 from 9:00 am – 2:00 p.m.

Representative Della Au Belatti: Representative Della Au Belatti reported the following;

- Legislature: The legislative session is in the middle of the session and many bills are passing third reading.
- Charter Schools: The bills related to the charter schools are moving through the legislature.
- Reapportionment: There will be a hearing held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at the capitol in room 329 at 6:00 p.m. The Representative made a heartfelt plea for the board to examine the boundaries relating to the Makiki district which would change her representation from the Makiki area. She intends to circulate a petition opposing the redistricting.

Representative Karl Rhoads: April Bautista reported the following;

- Update Vector Control: Representative Rhoads' office had received a complaint about mosquito infestation at the Pensacola Chelsea (1310 Pensacola Street) due to stagnant water. A letter was written to the State Department of Health (DOH) and received a response that stated that the Vector Control Branch no longer responds to nuisance complaints at residences or places of business. These types of complaints are now directed to seek private pest control services.

8:10 p.m. Board member Lai Young departed; fourteen members present.

BOARD BUSINESS

Hearing no objections, the Governor's representative was introduced at this time.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative: Calbert Young reported the following:

- Vector Control: Young explained that with the Reduction in Funds (RIF) the government was attempting to downsize government by eliminating waste and one of the departments that was severely cut was Vector Control.
- Governor's Stance on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO): Young will follow-up on this issue.
- Internet Speed Test: The state has launched a new website that will allow Hawaii's internet users to determine their computer or electronic device's internet speed. The data collected will assist the state in identifying and closing gaps in service throughout the Islands, as part of the Abercrombie Administration's Hawaii Broadband Initiative. To take the test, visit: hawaiispeedtest.net.

Questions, comments and concerns that followed:

1. Race to the Top: A Board member questioned whether the Federal grant was in jeopardy because Hawaii school's were not performing as expected. The response was that the 75 million dollar appropriation granted was to go towards payroll purposes not current expenses.
2. Narrowbanding: A question was raised as to whether the term "Narrowbanding" was known. The response was that this is a term for converting wide band to narrow band meaning that VHF/UHF stations will be completely shut-down by the Federal Communications Commission.

9:30 p.m. Board member Hauret departed; thirteen members present.

Hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist added the topic of genetically modified organisms (GMO) to the agenda.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO): Cindy Goldstein reported the following:

- Presentation: Goldstein shared with the audience a powerpoint presentation highlighting the history of the genetic engineering controversy. She stated that labeling of products that were produced with GMOs was not necessary, however, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring the action to label products. She also stated that by having labels showed that the FDA found that use of GMOs to produce food products was safe and that labeling would just validate the use of GMOs.
- Current Foods: The Agriculture Biotechnology department assists farmers in Hawaii to increase yields through improved pest control. The main crops that are biotech produced are soybeans in the U.S. and typically in Hawaii approved biotech crops are soybeans, corn, canola and papaya. Biotech foods are safe to eat and are a widely approved product.

GMO's Continued: Gayle Hori of the University of Hawaii reported the following:

- Stance: Hori presented the view from the stance of the University of Hawaii. Though the University funds research of the GMOs and receives sponsorship from large corporations that support GMO produced foods, the issue of labeling is a difficult thing to endorse. Hori states that the fact that a product is labeled organic or not all comes down to a matter of being a smart shopper.

The board tabled the matter to discuss this issue at later meeting; hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist added this item to the next meeting agenda.

9:50 p.m. Board members Allen and Eloise Lee departed; eleven members present.

Approval of the January 19, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes: **The minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED with the following corrections. 11-0-0 (Aye: Browne, Cannarella, Chong, Funk, Kawano, Mitchell, Reindollar, Sabey, Smith, Steelquist, Wooten.)**

- Pg. 2 of 7 under vacancies; there was one person who was interested in filling the vacancy, however, he was not qualified.

Treasurer's Report: Board member Chong reported that the beginning balance was \$3,132.00 with postage and printing charges beginning in July 2011 thru January 2012 leaving an ending balance after the month of January 2012 of \$2,772.31. Report was filed.

Scottish Rite Day Care Facility at 1408 Nehoa Street Update: Chair Steelquist attended the hearing to provide testimony on the matter. Board member Chong reported that the request was denied.

Contract for the Videographer: The meeting tonight was not videotaped due to the fact that the supervising teacher could not be present and there was no coverage. The contract has not been solidified with the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) because there was no contact between Roosevelt High School and the NCO office. Therefore presently, Olelo is not able to air meetings. A board member raised concerns over the quality of the video taping because it is aired on channel 49 and not many community members are able to view this channel.

Complaints of Noise from Roosevelt High School: Chair Steelquist has sent a letter to the High School with no response and no further complaints have been brought to the board's attention.

The City's Proposal to Issue a Single-Vendor Towing Contract: No report.

Skateboarding and Bicycling on Tantalus and Round Top Drive Update: No report.

Dog Park Update: No further updates; this matter was discussed with the Mayor's representative.

Recycling Days in the Makiki Area: No report.

Occupy Honolulu: Board member Mitchell raised an issue regarding the closing of the bathrooms in Thomas Square after hours. He believes that this has created a problem for people who are members of the movement 'Occupy Honolulu.' He asked that the board discuss the rescinding of the resolution supporting the closure of bathrooms on City property.

Board member Funk moved and was seconded by Canneralla to continue this discussion on the next agenda. The Makiki neighborhood board UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED the motion to discuss this issue further. 11-0-0 (Aye: Browne, Cannarella, Chong, Funk, Kawano, Mitchell, Reindollar, Sabey, Smith, Steelquist, Wooten).

COMMITTEES

Planning and Zoning: No report.

Transportation: Pat Lee of the Honolulu Rail Transit Project presented the following:

On February 6, 2012 HART received permission to start “heavy construction” by way of a letter of no prejudice (LONP) from the federal transit administration (FTA). The FTA’s letter allows the city to begin up to \$184.7 million in heavy construction with intent of federal reimbursement.

The LONP allows limited construction activities, including foundations and columns for the rail guideway on the first half of the alignment from East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium as well as construction on the train maintenance and storage facility in Waipahu.

President Obama also included \$250 million for the Honolulu rail project in his FY2013 federal budget. This budget request, which would come from the New Starts Program for rail projects, was the largest amount for any project in the country for this year, and reflects the confidence the FTA has in Honolulu’s ability to build the rail system.

The city can expect to obtain a final commitment of federal funding (called a Full Funding Grant Agreement or FFGA) by October for the \$1.55 billion federal share of the \$5.174 B project, which will be nearly one third of the entire construction cost. There is more than \$800 M in the financial plan for any unforeseen contingencies such as delays and \$295 M allotted for any finance charges.

The local share comes from a half-percent excise tax surcharge on Oahu which has been in effect since January 2007 and runs till December 2022. The project has received a total of \$810.4 million in GET surcharge revenue so far. The GET revenues have been higher than expected because of stronger visitor arrivals. Visitors pay about 30% of the GET.

In the next 20 years, most of Oahu’s population will either live or work within the 20 mile rail corridor from Kapolei to Ala Moana. Revitalizing the urban core also takes development pressures especially for housing, off other parts of the island, and helps to keep the country country.

For more information, please visit our website at www.honolulutrainsit.org or call our hotline 566-2299.

Health, Safety, and Wellness:

Funding or Videotaping of Neighborhood Board meetings: No videotaping of meetings have been paid for as yet, because no invoices have been transmitted to the Neighborhood Commission Office. This is due, in part, to there being no one to take charge of the program through Roosevelt High School.

Parks: No report.

Education: Teacher Tenure

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 15, 2012** at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Submitted by: Aisha Wang, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by: John Steelquist, Chair