



## NUUANU/ PUNCHBOWL NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 12

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT) TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007 PAUOA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Paula Kurashige called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. with a quorum of eight members present. She apologized for the late start and explained that a quorum of eight members is necessary to convene the meeting. She also recognized Neighborhood Assistant Ho for his hard work; the Board acknowledged him with applause.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mason Aiona, Al Canopin, Jr., Richard Carreira, Jay Fidell, Paula Kurashige, James Marn, Wendy Ogawa (7:25 p.m.), Jack Schweigert (7:22 p.m.), Bob Tom and Sylvia Young (7:25 p.m.).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Bannan, Heather Crislip, John Harrison, Audrey Hidano (notified) and Phil Nerney.

**VACANCIES:** None.

**GUESTS:** Mark Bennett (State Attorney General, Governor Linda Lingle's representative); Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Katie Churchey (Representative Corinne Ching's Office Manager), Gail Haraguchi (Deputy Director, Department of Enterprise Services, Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative); Councilmember Rod Tam, Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff), Firefighter Brendan O'Connor (Nu'uuanu Station, Honolulu Fire Department), Sgt. Carl Kalani, (District 1, Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department); Sgt. Fontanilla (District 5, Kalihi, Honolulu Police Department); Doris Aragaki, Evelyn Aragaki, Kara Anderson, Susan Atwell, Rodney Hurtig, Karran Uhr, Edward Uhr, Robert Wolf, Harriet Kiriara, Michael Wong, Danell Saito-Wong Dennis Arakaki, Janet E. Lee, Francis Toyama, Fran Toyama, J.C. Carson, Barbara Breckenridge, Donald E. Lee, Gay Tatsuno, Larry Blum, Bruce Graham (Craigside Retirement Residence); Emmet White and Lester Obayashi (15 Craigside), Barbara Annis, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** - Firefighter O'Connor reported: 1) 3 structure, 1 rubbish and 2 vehicle fires, 36 medical emergencies and 8 miscellaneous calls for service; and one major incident, a structure fire at 2393 Tantalus Drive, where eight fire companies responded. 2) Fire Safety Tip: This holiday season, consider a fire-resistant, artificial Christmas tree. If you purchase a natural tree, choose one as fresh as possible, keep it hydrated, and keep it away from heat sources in the house. Use noncombustible materials for decorations. Choose only Underwriter's Laboratory-approved electrical decorations and follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and load. Do not overload extension cords.

Comments followed. 1) Fidell was concerned about extension cords and plugging a microwave device into a surge-protector. Firefighter O'Connor advised NOT to plug anything that produces heat (toasters/microwaves) into an extension cord or a surge-protector, but directly into the socket. 2) Last month Schweigert was concerned about a burned-out building. Firefighter O'Connor reported that the building on Booth Road by Star Road was issued citations for violations that can be corrected by the owners. If they do not correct the problems, then, there is prosecution with multiple options. 2) Because of recent fire in Aliamanu, Aiona was concerned about kids playing with matches. HFD responded that they hold Fire Prevention Week each year with education as top priority.

### **Honolulu Police Department (HPD)**

**District 1 (Honolulu)** - Sgt. Kalani reported: 1) 9 burglaries, 17 UEMVs (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle), 7 auto thefts, 7 assaults, 7 property damage, 52 MVCs (motor vehicle collisions), 3 family offenses, 1 drug offense, 3 graffiti and 110 miscellaneous services calls. Many of these statistics are for the Makiki/Tantalus area. 2) The mess in the credit union parking lot appears to be left by juveniles, judging from the food items; officers will continue monitoring and patrols.

Comments followed: 1) Young mentioned seeing aerial fireworks last Saturday night coming from Papakolea. Sgt. Kalani said that aerial fireworks were illegal and HPD was looking for the suspects. 2) Young reported two brothers



from Wahiawa were in the news for loud mopeds. Last Sunday on Pauoa Road between 10 a.m. and 12:00 noon, two riders were speeding up and down the wet street riding loud mopeds; they live at 2603 Pauoa Road. She was advised to call 911. Aiona reported seeing a red, a yellow and a silver or gray-colored moped since October. HPD would follow up with more frequent checks. 3) Vice Chair Canopin thanked Maj. Clayton Saito and his staff for following up on residents' concerns. Canopin mentioned there were several unreported robberies from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays. It seems that moped riders are scouting for a van at Booth Park. Canopin was advised to call 911; he noted that 911 was not customer-friendly and may need improvement. 4) Tom reported there is an open van at the hairpin turn on lower Pacific Heights Road. Sgt. Kalani will follow up on these concerns and added that in Papakolea a female suspect was arrested for thefts, due a resident reporting it at 10:00 p.m. 5) Carreira reported a construction truck parking near a white dumpster near the park on Prospect Street, for two weeks straight; Sgt. Kalani will follow up. 6) Young reported seeing plain clothes policemen in a black and white police car in the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) parking lot. Sgt. Kalani said that plain clothes policemen are allowed to use police vehicles.

**Kalihi (District 5)** - Sgt. Fontanilla reported: 1) October statistics - 13 arguments, 3 assaults, 5 burglaries, 1 drugs/narcotics, 1 DUI (driving under the influence), 1 graffiti, 1 motor vehicle theft, 17 MVC (motor vehicle collision), 1 property damage, 1 robbery, 1 sex offense, 5 thefts and 13 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle). 2) For many of the crimes, there may be a Chinese suspect in the Pali/Jackass Ginger/Nuuanu and Judd Street area.

Comments followed: 1) Chair Kurashige, also a member of the Nuuanu Neighbor Watch, reported an increase in burglaries, stolen TVs and a taxi cab driver wearing dark glasses. Sgt. Fontanilla advised her to call Officer Mata, who oversees the Neighbor Watch program and call 911. HPD will increase patrols at the Pali Lookout and along Nuuanu Pali Drive. 2) Sgt. Fontanilla mentioned safety issue with mopeds; the Kalihi Weed and Seed program will be moving to Nuuanu; keep doors and windows locked; concerns about "The Fruit Man." Call 911 with concerns. 3) The bus stops and shelters on Pali Highway are "tagged" with "WOW." There may be three groups "tagging" in Nuuanu. HPD would continue patrolling.

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS/ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Residents' Concerns** - A resident reported that at Kawanakoa School, air horns are used instead of alarms. She called the Principal and the Department of Education (DOE); Carreira will follow up.

**Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative** - Gail Haraguchi reported follow up on the status of the Dowsett Highlands development project. The November response was: The applicant requested and was granted a first extension of the tentative approval that will expire on November 19, 2007. Review of the construction plans by the pertinent agencies continues. Upon approval of the plans by the Director of DPP and other pertinent agencies, construction may commence. No other information is available.

Comments followed. Young asked if Dowsett Highlands was the project that the Nu'uanu Valley Association was suing the landowners. It was. **Fidell moved, and Carreira seconded, that the Nu'uanu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board No. 12 write a letter to Mayor Mufi Hannemann with copy to Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) requesting the status of the development of the 48.6 acres of the Dowsett Highlands project. Also, are there applications requiring DPP approval? The motion was NOT adopted, 6-3-1.** (Due to the lack of the necessary eight votes required.) **Aye** - Carreira, Fidell, Kurashige, Marn, Schweigert and Tom. **No** - Aiona, Canopin and Young. **Abstain** - Ogawa. Fidell expressed his profound disappointment. Canopin and Young felt that the previous motion violated the "Sunshine Law," as it was not listed on the agenda. The Board requested a representative from DPP to attend a Board meeting.

2) In October the Board voted to recommend closure of Booth Park from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. They wanted the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to post the necessary signs and notify HPD about enforcement. The November response was that DPR will request concurrence from the Board of Parks and Recreation. Upon concurrence, DPR will post signs notifying the public of park closure and inform the Honolulu Police Department for enforcement. Haraguchi will notify Aiona.

3) Chair Paula Kurashige complained about the maintenance of the bridge and banks behind 38 Wood Street. The debris from the grating has been cleared and the remaining debris scheduled to be removed by Friday, November 23.

Comments followed: In July, a resident reported a damaged wall across from 2670 Pacific Heights Road. Please update on the demand letter and the status of the wall that was damaged.

**Councilmember Rod Tam** - Councilmember Tam reported: 1) The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) had advertised for bids on November 13, 2007 for the repaving of Lusitana Street. Bid opening is scheduled for December 13, 2007 and construction is likely to start mid-2008. 2) Regarding the "sinkhole" at the Puiwa/Park Street intersection, DDC installed a liner in the sewer pipe and Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) will resurface the road by the end of the month. DFM cited an asphalt shortage, so a new asphalt company will be started.

Comments followed: 1) Regarding Dowsett Highlands, Fidell asked about permits for the subdivision; not building permits, but how many houses were permitted. 2) Aiona was concerned about paving and the Board district's infrastructure. Councilmember Tam replied that there was money for restructuring bridges and is working with the City Administration. 3) Young complained about barking dogs. Hamamoto added that because Nerney was concerned about this issue, Councilmember Tam introduced a bill, regarding animal nuisances.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS)** - Iris Oda e-mailed her report and asked it be included in the minutes: 1) MAIN BREAK REPORT - There was one main break on October 6 at 3012 Pacific Heights Road of a 6-inch main installed in 1926. 2) GENERAL WATER ANNOUNCEMENTS: A) In celebration of this festive holiday season, the BWS invites the public to several holiday events. The BWS will offer two wreath-making classes at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden on Saturday, November 24 and December 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The class will teach how to use xeriscape or "unthirsty" plants to create colorful and festive holiday wreaths. Advanced registration is required one week prior to the class, and there is a cost of \$5.00 per person. For more information or to register, please call the Communications Office at 748-5041. B) The Board will also be participating in the annual decoration of Honolulu Hale and Kapolei Hale in December. Trees decorated by each City department will be on display in the lobbies of the two city halls. C) The BWS Ohana will also participate in the City's Christmas parades on December 1, 2007 in downtown, and on December 8, 2007 in Kapolei. D) Check out BWS' annual Christmas light display at their South Beretania Street building. E) BWS wishes everyone a very safe and happy holiday season!

**Governor Linda Lingle's representative** - The Governor's Update and her Neighborhood Board Update were distributed and Mark Bennett reported: 1) The Legislative Special Session was mostly concerned with the "Extended Sentencing" law and the Superferry. 2) The U.S. Supreme Court is hearing arguments on the second amendment of U.S. Constitution. The District of Columbia has a gun law and the Federal Court must decide if a "well-regulated militia" has the right to bear arms or if it is an individual's right. This is a historical decision on gun control. Hawaii is one of five states, who will file a brief supporting the District of Columbia. Bennett mentioned it would be an honor to state Hawaii's position before the Supreme Court, but he does not know who will go from Hawaii.

Fidell commented that while this is a national issue and not a Neighborhood Board issue, he is interested in the topic.

#### **LEGISLATORS:**

**Senator Carol Fukunaga** - Senator Fukunaga's office staff notified Neighborhood Assistant Ho that she would not attend the meeting.

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland** - Senator Chun Oakland's materials were distributed.

**Representative Sylvia Luke** - Representative Luke's materials were distributed.

**Representative Corinne Ching** - Katie Churchey had earlier distributed Representative Ching's newsletter.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Craigside Retirement Residence Update** - Rodney Hurtig, representing the Association of Apartment Owners (AOAO) at Craigside and 200 signers of a petition, displayed a drawing with the original design and a revised design with an added area in green. Hurtig felt this was "misrepresentation," as the green area would block the mauka view plane. The resident in 607 thought this was "bait and switch," as the plans have been substantially changed to affect the view plane.

Developer Emmet White and Lester Obayashi, Architect responded that after the August public hearing, their development group provided an update at the Board's September meeting. They are going through government channels. The DPP questions every detail, sets many of the conditions and must approve the design. The "footprint" will be the same. The "green part" was proposed at the beginning of the year, but conditions by DPP called for one floor up and no green part. They will resubmit plans soon without the "green part" and will come back to the January 2008 meeting with Hurtig.

(9:19 p.m.) Carreira left the meeting (nine members present).

Young claimed the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) did not send the August public hearing notice to the Board and the residents. Neighborhood Assistant Ho explained having e-mailed the August public hearing notice to all Board members with an e-mail address.

**Mark's Estate Update** - Douglas Himmelfarb, owner, was not present

**Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)** - DPP's proposed bill for zoning changes was e-mailed to Board members. Comments are due by November 30, 2007 and the public hearing is scheduled on December 12, 2007.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Report by the Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) on the 2007 Revised Neighborhood Plan (RNP) public hearing** - Canopin had not attended the public hearings. Young mentioned that no one from the Nu'uaniu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board No. 12 attended any of the three public hearings. Chair Kurashige asked Young, who is also a Neighborhood Commissioner, for any comments. Young mentioned she thought that since she was not listed on the agenda, it was a violation of the "Sunshine Law." She had no comments.

(9:30 p.m.) Marn and Tom left the meeting (seven members; lost quorum.)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Nu'uaniu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board No. 12 will recess in December 2007. The next Nu'uaniu/Punchbowl Neighborhood Board No. 12 regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 7:15 p.m., at the Pauoa Elementary School Cafeteria. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!
- MRSA disease or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (infection to skin, blood, and lungs) is spreading across the United States, including Hawaii. Proper hygiene is advised. If any suspected symptoms are observed, see a doctor immediately!

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Kurashige adjourned the meeting at 9: 30 p.m.; when quorum was lost.

Submitted by:

K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by:

Paula Kurashige, Chair

and

Jack Schweigert, Secretary/Treasurer