



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010

PAUHI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Frank Lavoie called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. **with a quorum of seven (7) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members for a quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Alvin Au, Anthony Chang (arrived at 7:18 p.m.), Frank Lavoie, Lynne Matusow, Carlton N. Middleton, Dolores Mollring, Tom Smyth and Stanford Yuen.

Members Absent: T.A. Ruby.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Marsha Rose Joyner (Arts District Merchants Association), Derek Tamura (Pacific Express), Lieutenant Mark Boyce, Sergeant Y.K. Chan and Officer R. Fikani (Honolulu Police Department), Pat Lee, Gwen Abella, Brenda Lucas, Bill Brennan (Mayor's Representative), Rep. Karl Rhoads (State House 28), Alonso and Diana Ronquilo, Yee Mark, Shain Miller, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Fire Fighter Clay Madrona (Honolulu Fire Department) and Kazu McArthur (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Those present introduced themselves.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Fire Fighter Clay Madrona reported;

- **May 2010 Statistics:** Included 138 total alarms, 7 structure fires, 3 rubbish fires, 97 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue and 30 miscellaneous calls.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** Summer is upon us, and the island will be at higher risk for fires due to dry vegetation and hot weather. Please use caution when utilizing flame – producing devices, such as fireworks, matches, and/or lighters, around wildland vegetation; the smallest spark and/or flame can ignite the dry vegetation. As a reminder, the law states that children under the age of 18 shall not possess or have access to fireworks, matches, and/or lighters, except under adult supervision. Flame – producing devices are not safe for young children. Sparklers burn at 1200°F. At this intensity, a burning sparkler can cause third – degree burns. Always follow the manufacturer's directions on the label. As Independence Day nears, consider leaving fireworks displays to pyrotechnic professionals and enjoy one of the several public fireworks displays offered by communities. Individuals who may suffer from respiratory difficulties, such as asthma, should consider staying indoors.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sergeant Y.K. Chan and Officer Fikani reported;

- **April 2010 Statistics:** Included 18 assaults, 3 burglary, 7 drug offenses, 10 driving under the influence (D.U.I.), 3 family offenses, 2 graffiti offenses, 78 motor vehicle collisions, 4 motor vehicle thefts, 9 property damages, 2 robberies, 3 sex assaults, 15 prostitution arrests, 10 unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle (UEMV) and 151 miscellaneous calls.
- **Provisional Drivers License:** A Provisional Drivers License is issued to drivers between the ages of 16 and 18. Drivers with a Provisional Drivers License must adhere to the following guidelines: 1) All riders must wear a seatbelt. 2) There may be no more than 1 passenger under the age of 18; unless, there is a licensed parent or guardian in the vehicle. 3) Driving is not allowed between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.; unless, a) Driving to or from work with a signed letter from the employer stating the necessity for



driving at that time. b) Driving to or from a sanctioned school activity with a signed letter from the school authorizing the driver to drive at night.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Camera Status Update: It was reported that all cameras are operational.
2. Bulky Item Pick-Up: Matusow reported noise on Maunakea Street which lasted for 20 minutes at 11:15 p.m. on Sunday May 30, 2010. Disturbances included yelling from workers, beeping from trucks and police lights due to monthly bulky item pick-ups. It was clarified that the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) plans a monthly cleanup of Chinatown in which they pick up trash along a predetermined route starting at 6:30 p.m. HPD does assist with the cleanup and apologized for the disturbance and said they would try to streamline the process in the future by patrolling the area at 6:00 p.m. and identifying trash areas before the rest of the trucks arrive.
3. Nuuanu/Beretania: Mollring reported that a car had crashed into a church on the corner of Nuuanu and Beretania and wondered why the corner is so dangerous.

Chang arrived at 7:18; **eight (8) members now present.**

Prostitution Operation Stats: Officer Fikani reported that a prostitution operation had been conducted in May and reported the following stats. six (6) males arrested for prostitution related activities, 1 male arrested for criminal contempt and 1 male arrested for promoting dangerous drugs. A truancy operation was also conducted in May and it was reported that 25 juveniles were arrested (2 were from the Chinatown area). Officer Fikani stated that residents may contact him at 590-1710. It was also reported that Project Clean will be held at Beretania Park during the weekend.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Tamarind Park: Smyth asked and Officer Fikani clarified that the gathering at Tamarind Park on Wednesday June 2, 2010 was an awards ceremony for police officers.
2. Graffiti: Smyth suggested that volunteers attending Project Clean consider cleaning the park at the Hotel/King Street intersection.
3. 215 N. King Street: Officer Chan reported that complaints were received from residents at 215 N. King Street concerning homeless persons sleeping under a monument on an island at the intersection of Hotel and N. King Street. It was reported that HPD cannot make any arrests as the island is not considered a park. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) verified that the island on which the monument is situated is the responsibility of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) HPD is currently working with City officials to resolve the situation.
4. Bulky Items: Au commended HPD and the City for their efforts to keep Chinatown clean; however, it was also noticed that because the City is doing monthly bulky item pickups, a number of people in the community are leaving bulky items in high traffic areas that cause a hazard to pedestrians. It was further expressed that certain persons are forming bad habits and assuming that the City will clean up their mess. It was stated that HPD is creating a pamphlet from the State that will cover legal and illegal dumping guidelines. The pamphlet will be available in a variety of languages and disseminated to the public.

Neighborhood Citizens' Patrol: Mollring reported 50 people volunteered and formed three patrols. There were no prostitution sightings.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Graffiti Patrol: The graffiti patrol took down addresses of areas that had been hit by graffiti in preparation for Project Clean on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Beretania Park.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU): Rick Murray reported that the HPU women's softball team won their first ever National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II championship. Various awards were also announced. Nearly 900 students graduated in the Spring 2010 class. The Ceremony was held at the Waikiki Shell on May 19, 2010 and the commencement speech was given by retired HPU Senior Vice-President of Academic affairs Dr. John Fleckles. The traditional pinning ceremony was held for more than 85 Bachelors of Science Nursing students. Ken Sakoda will teach a Pidgin class from July 6, 2010 to August 25, 2010 every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:10 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Questions, Comments and concerns followed;

1. Fort Street Mall: Middleton expressed gratitude for decorations to Fort Street Mall by HPU students.
2. Celebration: The Board will receive information via email concerning celebration activities to honor the HPU women's softball team along Fort Street Mall.
3. HPU Guards: Lavoie asked and it was clarified that two (2) HPU guards were attacked by a Safe Haven resident. The guards are fine and HPU is working with Safe Haven to receive instruction on how to effectively interact with Safe Haven residents.

Honolulu Culture and Arts District: Marsha Rose Joyner announced First Friday and introduced Slow Art Friday. Slow Art Friday will take place every third Friday on Pauahi Street and will begin at 3:00 p.m. Slow Art Friday is intended for an older crowd with a mellower atmosphere. It was reported that the issue concerning the Smith/Beretania Street parking structure hours is being revisited with the City. It was also mentioned that since the scheduled meeting with the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) in April, tow away signs have not been moved. Sun Yat-Sen Park has been adopted. It was also requested that the Board send a congratulatory letter to veterans of the Korean War.

Safe Haven: No representative was present; no report was given.

Honolulu Rail Transit: Pat Lee reported that the issue concerning the rail project encroaching upon the runway protection zone has been resolved. Soil testing is also being conducted along Farrington Highway from Kapolei through Waipahu. It was further reported that rail collections are at 99.5% of what the city had estimated.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Construction Contract: Middleton asked and it was clarified that a contract for construction on the portion of the project from East Kapolei to Pearl Highlands had been awarded. Though actual construction cannot commence, the contractor has been given a notice to proceed with soil testing as part of the contract.
2. Project Cost: Smyth stated reasons why the rail project is cheaper at this particular time are: 1) Material costs are down 2) There is an excess of workers in the work force and only the best workers are being employed. 3) Contractors are taking a lower profit margin.
3. Time Issue: Yuen pointed out that meetings are running overtime and reminded the Board that discussion should be reserved for issues that affect the Board area.

Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA): Lavoie read a report and highlighted that issues concerning the Pauahi mid-block crossing, handicapped parking stalls along Pauahi Street and the repairs to the Kekaulike crossing will be placed on the July agenda. It was also reported that the Chinatown police substation received a new plaque. Project Clean will take place on Saturday, June 5, 2010.

Public Concerns:

King Kamehameha Day: It was asked and clarified that the Kamehameha Day Parade will be on Saturday, June 12, 2010. The parade will begin at Saratoga Road in Waikiki and end at Iolani Palace.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Representative - Bill Brennan reported:

- Right Turn On Green Only: DTS will review the replacement of the five (5) Right Turn On Green Only signs at the Nuuanu/Beretania Street intersection and seek to find a balance between visual pollution and adequate driver information.
- Pothole: DFM filled the pothole near the entrance of the Alapai Transit Center on May 24, 2010.
- Maunakea Street Bike Racks: DTS will review the request to place bike racks on Maunakea Street. The narrowness of the sidewalk could make it difficult to install racks.
- Police Substation Cleaning and Signage: The restroom has been cleaned. There are no plans to install the requested signage at this time.
- Kukui Plaza Trash: DFM replied that the City does not own any dumpsters located at Kukui Plaza.
- Crosswalk Signals: Different signal timings are based on progression of traffic volume at differing intersections. Hotel Street was recently retimed to balance cross street traffic.
- Fort Street Mall Benches: The issue is being reviewed and the City will look into replacing benches along Fort Street Mall. It was stated that the city would check with the Fort Street Mall Business Improvement District.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Kamali'i Park: Mollring clarified that people are rummaging through loose trash bags left by City crews at Kamali'i Park. It was clarified that Kukui Plaza residents are only witnesses to persons rummaging through the trash. It was requested that Kukui Plaza not be contacted about the issue.
2. Fort Street Benches: Matusow stated that a group has adopted Kekaulike Mall and is working on getting benches in that area. It was further stated that the former administration took the benches from Fort Street Mall and it is being requested that they be returned. It was expressed that Fort Street Mall needs its benches back before any are placed in Kekaulike Mall.
3. Wilcox Park: Smyth reported that signage located at Wilcox Park is ineffective at resolving real issues at the park. It was further pointed out that there is a sign that is covered with graffiti and stickers that need to be cleaned. It was expressed that though the park is being maintained, it looks as if nobody cares.
4. Fort Street Mall Signage: Smyth requested that signs be posted along Fort Street Mall from Queen Street to King Street that state what type of activities are, or are not legal.
5. Crosswalks: Middleton reported that due to the fact that the crosswalk signal at the Hotel/Smith Street intersection is 60 to 90 seconds long, people are Jay-walking because they don't want to wait. It was asked if there is a plan to retime and repair crosswalk signals.
6. Queen/Bishop Street Sign: Lavoie stated that the sign at Queen/Bishop Street is missing and inquired about the current status of the sign.

Councilmember Rod Tam: Al Canopin circulated a report.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Bill 59: Middleton asked and it was clarified that Bill 59 is not being scheduled for a hearing in committee. Middleton expressed concern that persons will continue to be allowed to loiter at bus stops without consequence until action is taken on the Bill.
2. Bill 32: Smyth expressed that it should be clarified that Bill 32 affects mostly non-profit organizations.

State Senator Brickwood Galuteria: Senator Galuteria circulated a newsletter and highlighted sections explaining State budget deficit solutions and how school furloughs were resolved. A report of the 2010 Legislative highlights was also circulated and reviewed. It was further reported that a noise pollution task force has been formed and the Downtown Board has been tasked with providing a representative.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Loan Guarantee: Smyth asked if the loan guarantee situation had been resolved. It was stated that the situation will be the responsibility of the Governor next year. It was also expressed that the \$10 million dollars might not be needed.
2. Senate Bill (SB) 189: Middleton asked and Galuteria clarified that he would not be opposed to reintroducing SB 189.

State Representative Karl Rhoads: Karl Rhoads reported that House Bill (HB) 1863 regarding anti-prostitution, was signed into law on May 11, 2010. It was also reported that a Weed and Seed sign has still not been placed in front of Honolulu Park Place. Businesses having trouble with persons trespassing and committing other crimes are encouraged to contact Lt. Grimm at 723-8481. A letter requesting that Longs consider more lights and more patrols along the Kukui Street side of the building has been sent.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Planter Boxes: Middleton suggested that planter boxes be placed on Longs side of Kukui Street to help cut down on suspicious activity.
2. HB 1863: Smyth stated that HB 1863 doesn't change much.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Department of Parks and Recreation – Lack of Benches: The item was covered during the Mayor's report.

With the unanimous consent of more than two-thirds of the membership, Chair Lavoie allowed a presentation by Terry's Place from the May 6, 2010 agenda and added it on the June 3, 2010 agenda. 8-0-0 (Aye: Au, Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Smyth and Yuen).

Terry's Place: A Terry's Place representative reported that the establishment will be looking to attract after-work crowds by providing laid back music and opening at an earlier time. It was stated that the establishment has not had any noise complaints in the past and does not anticipate any change to the current noise level. It was also stated that there would be no dancing and it was promised that the establishment would not make noise that would bother neighboring residents.

Questions, comment and concerns followed;

License: Middleton asked and it was clarified that there are no plans to obtain a license to allow operation until 4:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Nuuanu Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA): Marsha Tamara reported that the Nuuanu YMCA is currently working with the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to transition from a part-time to a full-time licensed preschool. The proposed preschool is anticipated to begin sometime during the fall and would run from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The preschool will be open to children from ages three (3) through five (5). The program anticipates accommodating a maximum of 24 students with two (2) teachers. There will be no further construction necessary as YMCA has already designated two (2) existing second floor rooms to be used as classrooms. It was stated that there is adequate parking for drop off and pick up of children. It was further expressed that there would be no additional traffic, noise or parking issues associated with the opening of the preschool. It was stated that parents of current YMCA preschool students have expressed desire for the YMCA to start a full time program.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Queen Emma Gardens: Matusow asked and it was clarified that Queen Emma Gardens has been notified.
2. Licensing: Smyth asked and it was clarified that YMCA is currently working to get licensed by the State Department of Human Services (DHS). It was pointed out that since the existing structure is an older building, it is very important to meet DHS requirements or the school may be forced to shut down in the future.
3. Room Capacity: Middleton asked and it was clarified that the maximum capacity of the second floor is 328 people. It was also stated that the rooms were built in 1995 and are equipped with fire sprinkler systems.
4. Cost: Lavoie asked and it was stated that the average cost for similar preschool programs are usually between \$650 to \$800 per month. Advertisements will be made through Family Magazine, the YMCA website and by word of mouth by parents of current preschool students.
5. Financial Aid: Middleton asked and it was clarified that financial aid would not be available at the start of the program but that there are plans to have fundraisers in the future to provide financial aid for parents that may need financial assistance.

Student Letter on Homeless Issue: Lavoie proposed that the Board send a letter of recognition be sent to the student who did research and wrote a letter to the Board addressing Downtown homeless issues.

Seeing no objection, a letter of appreciation will be sent.

Speaking Limits for Board Members: Lavoie stated that a number of Board members have brought up concerns about Board members taking up too much time at meetings and presented the following speaking rules to the Board for consideration;

- Each Board member will be allowed two rounds of discussion on each item or motion on the agenda.
- The first round of discussion will be limited to three minutes including responses.
- The second round of discussion will be limited to two minutes.
- No member will be allowed to speak a second time until every Board member has had an opportunity to speak the first time.
- Extensions may be granted by the Chair unless the majority of the Board is in opposition to the extension.
- The Chair would say "wrap it up" as a signal to finish the comment or discussion.
- There would be a time keeper other than the Chair with the Chair keeping time if the time keeper is speaking.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Clarification: Smyth pointed out the phrase "each item" needs to be clarified because there could be many items under an agenda item such as public concerns which would start a new round of discussion.
2. Reports: Matusow requested that it be clarified that Board members making a report does not count as a round of discussion for the Board member reporting.
3. Concerns: Middleton stated that there would be a problem with speaking rules if a Board member is a candidate running for office. It was also stated that Board members would not have adequate time to bring up issues that are received prior to the meeting from the public due to the speaking time limits.

Middleton moved to not accept the proposed speaking limits. There was not a second and the motion died.

4. Reason for Limits: Matusow expressed that the proposed rules are similar to other speaking rules enforced in other organized meetings. It was further expressed that the need for speaking limits originates from concerns that a certain Board member is monopolizing meetings by speaking for a time that is greater than that of the rest of the Board members combined.

5. Sufficient Time: Smyth pointed out that the Neighborhood Plan states that the Board may decide on speaking limits during a meeting. It was expressed that three (3) minutes is a sufficient amount of time to speak.
6. Rules for Speaking: Middleton expressed that a proposal for speaking rules were made in the past and it was not deemed necessary.
7. Faster Meetings: Au stated that Middleton takes 30 minutes at every Board meeting and expressed that meetings would go a lot faster if speaking limits were put in place.

Smyth Moved, Matusow seconded to adopt the proposed speaking limits as a decorum policy for the Downtown Neighborhood Board as presented with the addition that each segment of a motion be counted separately.

Middleton moved to amend so that Chairs who are also candidates may not give reports. There was not a second and the motion died.

The motion was ADOPTED, 6-1-1, (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Mollring, Smyth and Yuen; No: Middleton; Abstain: Lavoie).

Noise Task Force: Lavoie asked if there were any volunteers to serve as a representative and an alternate for the Noise Pollution Task Force.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

Task Force Background: Smyth expressed that the resolution did not come out the way it did. It was stated that though it seemed that the Board would not be opposed to the resolution, there was not sufficient amount of time for the Board to take a formal stance on the issue before it was passed. It was further stated that the task force is a legislative committee that will look at solutions that have worked in other cities.

Without objection, Matusow was selected as the representative with Smyth as the alternate.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May 6, 2010 Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 regular meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS CORRECTED, 8-0-0 (Aye: Au, Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Smyth and Yuen). Corrections included the following:

- Page 1 – Ed Korbyski’s title should read...Honolulu Culture and Arts District Executive Director.
- Page 3 – Mayor’s Report should read...**Power Scooters on City Busses.**
- Page 4 – Kukui Plaza should read... **Kamali’i Park**...left out by **Kamali’i Park**...
- Page 5 – Benches Wanted should read... Matusow pointed out that **many** elderly residents...
- Page 5 – Smith Beretania Parking should read...Smith Beretania Parking **Garage.**
- Page 7 – Chinese New Year’s Street Closures review should have added...Matusow said that Sonny Wong said at Mayor Harris’ Downtown task force meetings that “people shouldn’t live down here”.

BOARD REPORTS

Chairs Report: Chair Frank Lavoie reported;

- Future Agenda Items:
 - Middleton requested that Tent City be added as an agenda item. It was also requested that future agendas not include reoccurring issues.

The request to add Tent City as an agenda item was not seconded.

- Lavoie stated that the three items reported under the CBCA report would be added to next month's agenda as well as Board elections.
- Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO): Lavoie reported that beginning June 2010 through April 2011, HECO will be closing a number of parking stalls along Merchant Street. Roof work will be done Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A few weekends will require road closures to bring in cranes.
- Neighborhood Commission: Smyth stated that the Neighborhood Plan Committee is considering a number of proposed changes to the Neighborhood Plan. It was also pointed out that the Council of Chairs will be meeting at Kapolei Hale from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5, 2010. Smyth invited the Board to bring up concerns to be brought forth at the Council of Chairs meeting. It was further stated that the Neighborhood Board funding has been approved.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

Multiple Concerns: Matusow requested that the agenda template not be revived. It was also requested that presentations on issues that affect a particular area should be reserved solely for areas for which it will reasonably affect.

Lavoie ruled Middleton out of order for speaking out of turn and breaking decorum on multiple occasions.

Queens Hospital: No new updates on the project.

Treasurer's Report: Mollring reported a balance of \$1,174.03.

Office of information Practices: No new updates.

City and County Affairs: Matusow stated that of 27 candidates running for former Councilmember Charles Djou's seat, five (5) will be considered on Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization(OMPO): Smyth reported that Brian Campbell is the new Executive Director of OMPO. Smyth also stated that a bylaw was proposed to allow the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to have a quorum of thirty percent of its members. It was further reported that the 2010-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan includes the proposal to switch the direction of one way traffic on Pi'ikoi and Pensacola as well as a proposal to widen the entrance to Vineyard Boulevard.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 1, 2010 at the Pauahi Community Center; 171 North Pauahi Street at 7:00 p.m.
- The Neighborhood Citizen's Patrol meets each Tuesday on the Diamondhead side of Kukui Plaza at 8:00 p.m. Please consider joining the patrol and supporting its efforts as they express their service and pride in our Downtown/Chinatown community.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Submitted by Kazuaki McArthur, Neighborhood Assistant.

Reviewed by Frank Lavoie, Chair