



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 PAUHI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Frank Lavoie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **with a quorum of five (5) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members for a quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Anthony Chang (Arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Frank Lavoie, Lynne Matusow, Dolores Mollring, T.A. Ruby and Tom Smyth.

Members Absent: Alvin Au, Carlton Middleton and Stanford Yuen.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Brittany Yap (Hawaii Pacific University), Peter Hirai and Ken Gilbert (Department of Emergency Management), Firefighter Guy Masutani and Firefighter Braderik Harrison (Honolulu Fire Department), Gary Payne, Sgt. Y.K. Chan and Lt. Mark Boyce (Honolulu Police Department), Ed Korybski (Culture and Arts District), Scott Truesdell, Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff), Representative Karl Rhoads, Connie Geisler (Ohana Housing Network Oahu), Gwen Abella, Alfonso and Diana Ronquillo, and Kazu McArthur (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Those present introduced themselves.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Firefighter Braderik Harrison reported;

- **August 2010 Statistics:** Included 3 structure fires, 2 rubbish fires, 2 vehicle fires, 97 medical emergencies, 1 rescue and 10 miscellaneous calls.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** Prepare for a fire by using the following fire safety tips 1) Install and maintain working smoke alarms. 2) Place at least one (1) smoke alarm on every level of your home, in all bedrooms and outside all sleeping areas. 3) Prepare and practice a fire escape plan. 4) Identify a meeting place where everyone can meet outside. 5) Ensure that family members know two (2) ways to exit every room in your home. 6) Sleep with bedroom doors closed to minimize smoke from traveling. 7) Maintain windows to ensure they open easily from the inside in case it is needed as an alternative escape route. 8) Once safely outside, call 911 immediately.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. **Windows:** Smyth relayed an incident of a former Downtown resident standing halfway out the window during a fire. It was noted that the window can be safe place to escape smoke during a fire.
2. **Lusitania Street/Pele Street Fire:** A resident asked if an overcrowded dwelling was a factor in a house fire near the Lusitania Street/Pele Street intersection. HFD recommended calling 523-4340 for more information.
3. **Overcrowded Residences:** A resident asked if firefighters receive training regarding overcrowding and fire safety. HFD responded that overcrowded residences increase the risk for fire.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sgt. Y.K. Chan reported the following:



- August 2010 Statistics: Included 13 assaults, 3 burglaries, 7 drug offenses, 11 driving under the influence (DUI), 4 family offenses, 78 motor vehicle collisions, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 7 property damages, 8 robberies, 8 sex assaults, 3 prostitution arrests, 9 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (JEMV), and 131 miscellaneous calls. It was clarified that miscellaneous calls are calls that were received that were not criminal in nature.
- HPD Beats: HPD Districts are divided into sectors and beats. The sector to which Downtown belongs is divided into five (5) beats.

Chang arrived at 7:10 p.m.; **six (6) members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Camera Status Update: It was reported that one (1) monitoring camera is being repaired.
2. Fort Street Mall/Queen Street Crossing: Smyth reported that the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) has created a work order to narrow the width of the crosswalk at the Fort Street Mall/Queen Street intersection, install "Commercial Parking Only" signage and install additional "No Parking/No Stopping" signage along Queen Street. It was noted that HPD has been patrolling the area and issuing citations to illegally parked vehicles. Lavoie noted that there is no center line on Queen Street.
3. Bikes on Sidewalks: Matusow reported that there are an increasing number of persons riding bicycles on the sidewalk. Matusow asked if bicyclists are required to use a bell to alert pedestrians as they approach. HPD stated that there is no law for bicyclists to alert pedestrians; however, it was noted that it is illegal for bicyclists to ride on sidewalks in Downtown. HPD also noted there is lack of signage to inform bicyclists of Downtown bicycle restrictions. Ruby also reported mopeds traversing the sidewalk.
4. Bicycle License: Smyth expressed that certain intersections along King Street and Beretania Street are dangerous for bicyclists. It was stated many inexperienced bicyclists travel through Downtown. It was noted that there is no required license program to educate persons of safe and proper bicycle use.
5. Introduction: Lt Mark Boyce was introduced to the community.
6. Sidewalk: A resident asked if it was lawful for individuals to sleep on the sidewalk. HPD noted that there is no specific statute or City ordinance against sleeping on sidewalks; however, the City is working on changing the law regarding sidewalk obstructions. Smyth stated that the City is working on a Pedestrian Safe Zone Bill which requires a minimum of eight (8) feet of sidewalk be clear for pedestrian traffic at all times. Smyth noted that many sidewalks in Chinatown are less than eight (8) feet wide.

Neighborhood Citizens' Patrol: There was no report.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU): Brittany Yap reported that the HPU fall semester will begin Thursday, September 7, 2010. Upcoming activities on Fort Street Mall include: 1) Welcome Week Kick-Off Lunch on Tuesday, September 7, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 2) Movie on the Mall on Friday, September 10, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 3) Club Carnival on Friday, September 17, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 4) Taste of Home from 12:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Honolulu Culture and Arts District: Ed Korybski reported that the Honolulu Culture and Arts District office has closed and moved to The Arts at Marks Garage. The University Of Hawaii School Of Architecture will be moving into the Small Business Resource Center on October 15, 2010. It was noted that crowds from Waikiki are now attending First Fridays. Planners of First Friday are looking into scheduling mini-busses to transport people to different areas that participate in First Fridays. Signage will be created to inform the public of bus stops. Slow Art Friday has been created to cater to an older crowd. Slow Art Fridays will occur on Pauahi Street and Fort Street Mall. It was noted that there are increasing amounts of fashion boutiques opening near Fort Street Mall. It was reported that there is a desire to open up more businesses on Fort Street Mall. It was noted that the owner of Club Hubba Hubba will be renovating the establishment. It was stated that The Department of Parks and Recreation is planning on reallocating benches from the makai side of Fort Street Mall to the Makai side. Due to a lack of approval from

Corporation Council, an Oktoberfest is being planned on Nuuanu Avenue instead of Fort Street Mall. River Wok block party feedback was requested.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. River Wok Noise: Matusow stated that HPD was contacted due to the excessive volume caused by the speakers during the River Wok block party. She said it could be heard more than two blocks away, even with all doors and windows closed. Korybski suggested that the excessive volume may have been attributed more to the positioning of the speakers rather than the volume level itself.
2. National Guard Drug Program: Smyth noted that the presence of the National Guard Drug Program at the River Wok block party helped build public-private partnership. It was expressed that it was nice to see different organizations getting involved.
3. Success: Mollring stated that the block party was a big success for individuals who attended and participated. It was suggested that individuals participate in activities planned for the community rather than complain about noise. It was stated that the majority of the feedback was positive.

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

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

River Wok Block Party: Mollring noted that Safe Haven workers stayed all day to monitor the children's bouncers at the block party. Gratitude was expressed.

Honolulu Rail Transit: No representative was present; no report was given.

Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA): No representatives were present; no report was given.

Public Concerns:

Living Wages: It was asked if the Board could come up with a way for homeless individuals to make a living wage. It was noted that there is an increasing amount of homeless individuals.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Representative: No representative was present; no report was given.

Councilmember Rod Tam: Shawn Hamamoto circulated a handout and reported that Bill 78 CD2, FD1 relating to fines for incorrect placement of bulky items has passed third reading and is awaiting the Mayor's approval. Bill 34 CD2 relating to the ban of consumer fireworks was deferred to the next City Council meeting on September 22, 2010. Bill 38 relating to a ban of gas powered leaf blowers was not on the Public Safety Committee agenda. There were concerns about the ability to enforce a ban. Since Councilmember Tam is not a voting member of the Public Safety Committee, a letter was sent to Councilmember Donohue listing concerns voiced by the neighborhood board. Due to Hotel Streets status as a Bus Transit Mall, intermittent freight loading zones cannot be placed on Hotel Street. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) investigated and reported that McDonalds does not have a special permit to load on Hotel Street. A request for investigation has been submitted to the City to have the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) reevaluate the appropriateness of the HI-5 redemption center on Vineyard Boulevard.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Bill 38: Smyth clarified that Councilmember Kobayashi decided to leave Bill 38 off the agenda due to procedural matters.
2. State Leaf Blower Bill: Smyth noted that the State law makers decided not to ban gas powered leaf blowers due to a Federal Law which states that off highway gasoline engines cannot be regulated.

3. Pedestrian Safe Zone: Smyth reported that the Bill 39 relating to a Pedestrian Safe Zone seems to be progressing without opposition. It was noted that many sidewalks in Chinatown are not even eight (8) feet wide. It was stated that the bill should help with sidewalk obstruction.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland: No representative was present; a handout was not available.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria: No representative was present; a handout was available.

State Representative Karl Rhoads: Karl Rhoads reported the following;

- Pauahi Street Parking: DTS still plans to implement two (2) hour parking on the mauka side of Pauahi Street, between Smith Street and Nuuanu Avenue. The DTS person in charge of the project has recently been replaced and the project is expected to move ahead.
- Gold Bond Smoking Area: A request was made to the Gold Bond building manager to designate a smoking area that is not located right at the end of the covered walkway.
- Drug Dealing: HPD has been notified of multiple complaints of drug dealing occurring in the Oka Fong building and in the parking lot on Maunakea Street across from Duc's.
- Speeding: DTS will conduct a study in October in response to concerns relating to cars speeding down Pali Highway and turning onto Kukui Street.
- Christmas Tree: In response to a suggestion for the City to grow its own Christmas tree, the City stated that a fully grown tree would block view of Honolulu Hale and would take too long to grow. It was also stated the Christmas tree is donated to the City each year.
- Pedestrian Crossing: The pedestrian crossing on Nuuanu Avenue on the mauka side of Beretania Street does not allow ample time for pedestrians to cross the street. A request has been submitted to DTS to install an automatic pedestrian crossing.
- Sidewalks: Requests have been made to repair sidewalks on the Kekaulike side of Oahu Market and on Nuuanu Avenue, between Beretania Street and King Street.
- Smith-Beretania Park: A request has been sent to the City to repair a large patch of dead grass at Smith-Beretania Park.
- Foul Smell: A request has been sent to the City to eliminate foul smells on King Street, between River Street and Kekaulike Mall.
- Sun Yat Sen Mall: A request has been sent to the City to address the large amount of bird droppings at Sun Yat Sen Mall.
- Borthwick Mortuary Leaf Blowing: A letter noting the new anti-leaf blowing law and a request to refrain from early morning leaf blowing has been sent to Borthwick.
- Curb Repair: A request has been made to the City to repair a crumbling curb on Alakea Street, just mauka of Hotel Street.
- Prostitution: HPD has been notified of an increasing amount of prostitution activity near Harbor Court between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.
- Hosoi Mortuary: A letter has been sent to Hosoi Mortuary to consider changing garbage pick up from 4:00 a.m. to a later time.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Macy's: Lavoie suggested a letter be sent to Macy's requesting garbage pick up be changed to a later time.

2. Clean Team: Mollring noted that due to numerous noise complaints by residents, the Clean Team visits Chinatown less often. Visits will only be done during scheduled times.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fort Street Mall Benches: The item was deferred to the next meeting.

Liquor License Application 1207 (Castagnola's): No representative was present; no report was given.

Liquor License Application T-1377 (Pacific Liquor and Grocery Store): No representative was present; no report was given.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

Letters: Lavoie noted that letters had been sent to Castagnola's and Pacific Liquor and Grocery Store. The chair was not contacted; however, no complaints were received.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Newsletter: **Matusow moved, Smyth seconded to publish a Downtown Neighborhood Board newsletter. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED. 6-0-0 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Mollring, Ruby and Smyth).** Lavoie noted that the chair usually writes the majority of the newsletter.

Dragon Design: Mollring reported that the Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA) has formed a committee to approve a dragon design for the Kekaulike Barnes Dance Crosswalk. It was noted that Board member Yuen is part of the committee. The item will be deferred to the next meeting.

Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan: Ken Gilbert and Peter Hirai of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) presented the following:

- Purpose: The purpose of the mitigation plan is to reduce or eliminate risk of damage to people and property. The plan identifies and prioritizes hazards the City may be exposed to along with preventive measures. The City must have an approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to receive Federal funding following a natural disaster. The plan is updated every five (5) years.
- Survey: A public survey was taken to determine what the public considered to be the most important disaster concerns. The plan will be created around results from the survey. New concerns included vog, drought and hurricane shelter analysis. The survey indicated the public is most concerned about hurricanes and earthquakes. Other items being considered for the plan include high wind conditions, storm conditions, road closures, coastal erosion, protecting critical infrastructure and storage of essential goods.
- Approval: The goal is to have the plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by December 15, 2010. FEMA has 45 days to review the draft plan and return to the City for modifications.
- Information: To view updated tsunami maps and/or sign up for emergency updates via text messaging and/or email, visit www.oahudem.org. To receive mitigation plan information on pc-cd call 723-8960.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Evacuation Zone: Smyth noted that streets that border the evacuation zone are considered part of the evacuation zone. It was asked if the streets on the border of the evacuation zone would be closed during an evacuation. DEM responded yes.
2. High Rise Evacuation: Smyth noted that buildings from the eighth floor and higher could be used for evacuation for floods. It was asked if a resident would be allowed to enter the evacuation zone to take refuge in their apartment after streets have been closed. DEM encouraged people to stay out of the evacuation zone if there is no reason to be there. DEM reported that roads will be closed one (1) hour prior to evacuation; however, travel may be discouraged as early as ten (10) hours prior to evacuation. It was stated that HPD will not allow any non-essential travel into the evacuation zone.

3. Emergency: Smyth asked what to do if a person needed medical attention within one (1) hour of evacuation. DEM instructed the public to call 911. DEM stated that emergency vehicles would not enter evacuation zones 30 minutes prior to an evacuation. DEM clarified that though traffic entering evacuation zones would be limited, traffic exiting evacuation zones would always be allowed.
4. Zone Borders: Matusow asked how the evacuation borders were determined. DEM stated that the zones depicted on the tsunami map do not signify the water inundation. It was clarified that a safety buffer was added to computer modeling and existing streets were used to delineate the zone. It was noted that the borders are only the minimum evacuation limits. It was stated that the computer modeling was simulated in a worse case scenario.
5. County Plans: Matusow asked if each county is to submit their own mitigation plan to the State. DEM responded yes. It was noted that the State has its own plan which is updated every four (4) years.
6. Switching Gear: Smyth suggested the condo associations look into moving or waterproofing the buildings switching gear. It was noted that the switching gear would be exposed to water if flooding were to occur during a disaster.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The August 5, 2010 Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 regular meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS CORRECTED, 9-0-0 (Aye: Au, Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen). Corrections included the following:

- Page 1 – Under Guests...Sandra Pohl is listed twice.
- Page 1 – Fire Safety Tip should read...A well-prepared and **practiced**...
- Page 3 – Under July 2010 Statistics should read...that the **State Legislature**...

BOARD REPORTS:

Chairs Report: Chair Frank Lavoie reported;

- Other Liquor License Applications or Street Closures: Oceans Night club is requesting to extend its license premises on September 5, 2010, September 18, 2010, October 30, 2010 and October 31, 2010. The extension will be to stay open until 4:00 a.m. and be outdoors.
- Future Agenda Items: None.
- Neighborhood Commission: Smyth reported that the Neighborhood Commission is handling sanctions and sorting through past complaints.
- Queen's Medical Center Update: Lavoie reported that Queen's Medical Center had sent a letter. There were no new updates to report. Smyth suggested that Queen's Medical Center be invited to discuss the Vineyard Boulevard on-ramp project that will take place.
- Office of Information Practices: There was no report.

Treasurer's Report: Mollring reported a balance of \$1,931.77. The report was filed.

City and County Affairs: Smyth noted the Leaf Blower Bill and the Pedestrian Safe Zone Bill as important bills that would affect the Downtown area. Ruby asked when the City Council would go back into session. Smyth noted that the council meets monthly. It was noted that the next council meeting will be September 22, 2010.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO): Smyth reported that OMPO is working on the Pedestrian Master Plan and the Statewide Transportation Plan. It was also reported that the City scheduled a meeting to discuss mobility for the disabled and elderly using the transit system. It was noted that a suggestion was made to not make the rail transit centers public property to prevent homeless individuals from loitering. It was also noted that measures are being suggested to ensure that rail passengers do not stay on the train all day. It was stated that the

train will not have drivers; however, attendants are being considered to monitor passengers. It was also stated that there is a possibility of having transit police.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Walk in voting begins at City Hall on September 3, 2010 and ends on September 16, 2010. Polls are open Monday through Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Polls will be closed on Labor Day but will be open during City furloughs.
- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 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 Diamond Head 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 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by Kazuaki McArthur, Neighborhood Assistant.

Reviewed by Frank Lavoie, Chair