



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010 PAUHI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Frank Lavoie called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **with a quorum of seven (7) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish quorum and take official Board action.

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

Members Absent: Alvin Au.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Linda R., Sgt. Steve Forges and Lt. Walter Ozeki (Honolulu Police Department), Fire Fighter Ken Kahahawai and Fire Fighter Harrison (Honolulu Fire Department), Alan Feliciano (Safe Haven), Chu Lan Schubert-Kwock (Chinatown Business and Community Association), Mark Kikuchi (Department of Transportation Services), Representative Karl Rhoads, Keith Kurahashi, Gwen Abella, C. Geisler, Cedrick Yamanaka (Queens Medical Center), Lee Stack (Chinatown Improvement District), Judy Orlando and Kazu McArthur (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Those present introduced themselves.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. Walter Ozeki reported the following:

- **October 2010 Statistics:** Included 14 assaults, 1 burglary, 7 drug offenses, 12 driving under the influence (DUI), 6 family offenses, 1 graffiti, 89 motor vehicle collisions, 5 motor vehicle thefts, 19 property damages, 2 robberies, 5 sex assaults, 1 prostitution arrest, 14 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV), and 162 miscellaneous calls.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. **Camera Status Update:** Matusow asked if all video monitoring cameras were functioning. HPD responded no; however, repairs are being made.
2. **Crime Trends:** Smyth requested that statistics be compared from the same month last year. It was also requested that statistics be compared to other districts on the island. HPD stated that the request would be taken back and taken into consideration.
3. **Public Disturbance:** Ruby relayed incidents of an individual pleasing himself and digging up a post near Kamalii Park.
4. **Halloween:** Mollring commended HPD for a good job patrolling during Halloween.
5. **Banging on Door:** Lavoie asked if it was against the law to repeatedly bang on the door of an establishment. HPD noted that it is not illegal to bang on a door unless damages are caused by the banging.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter Harrison reported the following;



- October 2010 Statistics: Included 2 structure fires, 4 rubbish fires, 1 vehicle fire, 103 medical emergencies, search/rescue and 23 miscellaneous calls.
- Fire Tip: For many people, the holiday season means festive decorations, extensive food preparations and family get togethers. Enjoy family celebrations during the holiday season with the following helpful fire wise tips:
 - Consider a fire resistant, artificial Christmas tree. If a real tree is purchased, choose one as fresh as possible and keep it hydrated and away from heat sources. Use non-combustible materials for decorations. Choose only underwriter's laboratory approved electrical decorations and follow the manufacturer's instructions for installation and usage. Do not over load extension cords.
 - Family gatherings often include extensive food preparation and visiting guests. If you must leave the stove, even for a few minutes, turn it off. Unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires. Have a metal lid ready to cover grease fires in pans. Never wear long, loose sleeved clothing while cooking. Turn the handles on pots and pans inward to prevent accidents. Keep children away from cooking areas.
 - Turkey fryers can be very dangerous. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) discourages the use of outdoor gas fueled turkey fryers that immerse the poultry in hot oil. The NFPA states that turkey fryers that use oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for acceptably safe use even by a well informed and careful consumer. Further information can be found on the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org. Using the search engine, type in "turkey fryers".
 - If you are hosting overnight guests, share your home escape plan with them, including the designated meeting place outside the home.

Neighborhood Citizens' Patrol – Dolores Mollring reported that the Citizen's Patrol has been postponed due to rainy conditions; however, it was also noted that no unusual activity has been spotted.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) – Dolores Mollring reported that everything is fine at HPU.

Honolulu Culture and Arts District – No representative was present; no report was given.

Safe Haven – Alan Feliciano reported that three (3) residents have moved out and three (3) new tenants have moved in. It was noted that Homeless Awareness Week is from November 15, 2010 to November 19, 2010. It was further reported that volunteers have recently painted out graffiti in the alley. Safe Haven is currently planning activities to celebrate its 20th anniversary. Safe Haven is continuing its efforts to work with HPU and Fort Street Mall security to keep the public safe.

Yuen arrived at 7:18 p.m.; **eight (8) members present.**

Question, comments and concerns followed;

Safe Haven People: Mollring stated that the Safe Haven people are great people to work with.

Honolulu Rail Transit – Frank Lavoie reported that an extensive report on the rail transit project would be provided at the December meeting.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Public Transit Authority: Smyth noted that the Public Transit Authority (PTA) is completely defined in the charter amendment and can be implemented immediately.
2. City Council: Matusow reported that the Mayor will not work on the formation of the PTA until all City Councilmembers are sworn into office.

Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA) – Chu Lan Schubert-Kwock reported that the CBCA is still on target with proposed projects with the City. The association's priorities included resolving issues with parking, homelessness and cleaning. The CBCA is attempting to attract more tourists to Chinatown by cleaning up the area. The CBCA is also working to educate vendors on sidewalk regulations.

Public Concerns: None.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Office – Gordon Bruce introduced himself as the Mayor's representative and reported the following;

- Illegal Parking: HPD has issued 29 citations to illegally parked vehicles at the crosswalk of Fort Street Mall and Queen Street. HPD will continue to monitor and take enforcement action whenever violations are observed.
- Recycling Noise: Please refer all noise complaints associated with recycling centers to the State Department of Health (DOH).
- Benches: Two (2) park benches will be reallocated from the Makai side of Fort Street Mall to the Mauka side.
- Hotel Street Traffic Timing: City buses do not deviate from scheduled routes unless there is some emergency or planned detour. The timing of traffic signals on Hotel Street is continually adjusted to optimize traffic operations in the Downtown area.
- Crosswalk Lights: The City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) checked and verified that pedestrian timing at the Hotel Street/Bishop Street and Merchant Street /Alakea Street Intersections are set appropriately. DTS wants to remind everyone, a pedestrian should start to cross the street only when the white "walkman" appears and it is safe. Once the white walkman turns into a blinking red hand you can continue to cross. However, if you **have not** started to cross by this time DO NOT enter the crosswalk because you will not have sufficient time to cross the street safely. When the solid red hand is displayed, NO ONE should start to cross the street.
- Traffic Light Master Plan: There are several traffic signal optimization efforts currently underway at the City. The Downtown area has gone through an initial signal optimization and is currently undergoing refinements. These optimization efforts are what drive the overall signal operations in an area like Downtown Honolulu where the traffic signal installations are mature. This type of effort is much more effective than a static master plan.
- Bus Stop: A City Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) supervisor checked the conditions of the Bus Stop on River Street, near the River Street/Smith Street intersection and did not notice any tripping hazard conditions.
- Crosswalk Button: The crosswalk button at the Beretania Street/ Smith Street intersection has been repaired.
- Tsunami Maps: There was a well publicized meeting on Wednesday, August 4, 2010. There were over 50 persons in attendance from downtown businesses. Visit www.oahuDEM.org to download the Frequently Asked Questions and download maps.
- Speeding: DTS is still conducting an investigation of speeding down the Pali while turning on to Kukui Street. The investigation may require field assessments, traffic history, speed counts, and data analysis. DTS will inform the board of the status of the study at the November 2010 meeting.
- Nuuanu Crossing: Due to the high volume of traffic turning right from Beretania Street to Nuuanu Avenue, putting the pedestrian signal on automatic would severely reduce the amount of green time for the right turning vehicles and cause significant traffic queues on the two right lanes.
- Smith/Beretania Park: Work Requests were submitted to MSS Plumbers for irrigation/valve repairs on June 25, 2010, Work Request #238979. MSS Plumbers have been to the site to assess what needs to be done and need to return to do the repairs. The district has contacted MSS Plumbers to follow up on what is needed and how the City may be able to assist the plumbers to expedite the repairs. (Thus far, it is known

that Station #8 does not shut off, Station #12 has a broken line and sprinklers heads need to be repaired or replaced.)

- Kekaulike Mall: Work Request #238999 was submitted on August 3, 2010 by the West Honolulu District to repair/reset brick work as needed. This kind of work is done by The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) as it is part of the floor-structure of the mall itself.
- Bird Droppings: Scheduled pressure washing of Sun Yat Sen Mall was completed on September 21, 2010 and it is done on a monthly basis.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Queen Street/Fort Street Crossing: Smyth noted the problem with illegally parked vehicles at the Queen Street/ Fort Street Crossing has nearly been resolved. It was noted that a narrowed pedestrian crossing lane, additional signage and frequent HPD patrols have contributed to resolving the problem.
2. Merchant Street/Alakea Street: Smyth noted a 10 second delay between the permitted pedestrian crossing time until the light turns yellow at the Merchant Street/Alakea Street traffic light heading Diamondhead. It was also noted that the traffic light is not visible by pedestrians.
3. Smith Street/Beretania Street: Matusow requested the gate to the Smith Street/Beretania Street park be opened on Christmas and New Years day.
4. Street Closures: Matusow requested a guarantee from DTS to use the same street closure format from 2009 for the Honolulu Christmas Lights parade.
5. King Street Potholes: Mollring raised concern about the potholes on the King Street bus lane. The concern was noted and it was also explained that individuals may contact the pothole hotline at 768-7777.
6. Kekaulike Mall: Mollring noted that individuals often leave trash behind when Kekaulike Mall closes. It was noted that the City Clean Team only comes on scheduled days.
7. Bike Rack: Mollring noted that community members would like to dedicate a donated bike rack on December 5, 2010. City permission was requested for the installation.
8. Push Buttons: Middleton stated the City care more about cars than pedestrians. An increased amount of push buttons at crosswalks were requested.
9. Bus Lanes: It was noted that pavements of car lanes have been fixed; however, pavement of bus lanes have been neglected.
10. Sidewalk Repairs: It was reported that the Chinatown Improvement District is partnering with the Lyons Club to repair sidewalks on Saturday, November 6, 2010.
11. Road Repairs: Middleton expressed that City roads won't ever be repaired.
12. Mid Block Crossings: Matusow stated that a New York study showed that mid-block crossings are safer than intersection corner crossings.
13. Crosswalk Button Repairs: It was noted that crosswalk button repairs can be requested by calling 768-5333.

State Representative Karl Rhoads: Representative Karl Rhoads reported the following;

- HPD Patrols: An increased amount of HPD patrols have been requested at the parking lot across the street from Duc's Market on Maunakea Street.
- Left Turn Lane: A resident request to install a left turn lane from Kukui Street onto Nuuanu Avenue was forwarded to DTS.

- Illegal Parking: HPD was informed of illegally parked vehicles during rush hour on Merchant Street, between Bethel Street and Bishop Street.
- Prostitution: HPD has been contacted about prostitution activities on Merchant Street, between Fort Street and Bethel Street.
- Garbage Retrieval: Letters requesting later garbage retrieval times were sent to the General Managers of the Downtown Macy's and Maunakea Tower.
- Nuuanu Street Crossing: A letter requesting an automatic crossing be installed on the Mauka side of the Nuuanu Street/Beretania Street crossing was submitted to DTS; however, DTS declined. DTS indicated that an automatic crossing would slow down traffic.

Middleton left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.; **seven (7) members present.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Fort Street Mall Benches: The item was addressed during the Mayor's report.

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

Dragon Design for Kekaulike Mall: Chu Lan Schubert-Kwock and Mark Kikuchi reported that a satisfactory dragon design has not been found for the mid-block crossing. A final design will be brought before the neighborhood board before it is painted. It was hoped the design would be used on buildings throughout Chinatown. It was noted the final design needs to be submitted by the end of 2010. CBCA is working with DTS on configuring the timing of the mid-block crossing light.

Middleton returned to the meeting at 8:04 p.m.; **eight (8) members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Mahalo: Smyth thanked Kikuchi for assisting to resolve illegal parking issues at the Fort Street/King Street crossing.
2. Final Design: Lavoie asked how the community would be able to decide on the final design. It was reported that a presentation on the design would be made at the next neighborhood board meeting.
3. Border: Smyth asked if the border of the design would leave space for additional wording when used at different locations. It was noted that the design would be placed in a circle.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lotus Downtown Japanese Cuisine & Sake Bar: Gerald Chun reported plans to open the Lotus Downtown Japanese Cuisine & Sake Bar. The establishment will be a Japanese Izakaya style restaurant and sake bar. The restaurant will be located at 34 N. Hotel Street and will be approximately 2100 square feet. Operating hours will be Monday through Friday and all major holidays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. The establishment hopes to attract Downtown workers, locals and tourists. Entertainment will include live jazz, pre-recorded music on the weekends and various nightly art showcasing. Management will strive to work with the community on any noise complaints.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Neighbors: Smyth asked who the surrounding neighbors to the restaurant were. It was noted that neighbors included PYNK and The Manifest.
2. Cabaret License: Middleton asked if a cabaret license would be sought in the future. The answer was no.

3. Noise Control: Middleton asked what measures would be taken to control noise. It was noted that all residents' complaints would be responded to. It was also reported that two (2) to four (4) security guards would be posted at the door to help disperse crowds.
4. Doors: Matusow asked if the doors would remain closed. The answer was yes.
5. Base Noise: Matusow noted base noise as a frequent problem. It was stated that music will include more live jazz and contemporary music. It was reiterated that the establishment would work with the community on any complaints.
6. Alcohol: Ruby asked if the bar would offer alcohol other than sake. The answer was yes.
7. Commendation: Yuen noted that the proposed business is the type of business needed in Downtown. It was noted that family friendly businesses attracts less crimes than club themed establishments.
8. Outdoor: Smyth asked if the outdoor eating area would be fenced off. It was reported that rope or planter boxes would be used.

Yuen moved, and Matusow seconded to endorse the proposed Lotus Downtown Japanese Cuisine & Sake Bar. Discussion followed;

1. Crowd: Yuen noted the establishment brings in the right type of crowd.
2. Complimentary Cuisine: Matusow noted the establishment compliments other cuisines in the area.
3. Classy: Ruby described the restaurant as classy.

The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen).

Queens Medical Center: Keith Kurahashi gave a brief history of the Queens Medical Center and reported that original expansion plans included additions to the Miller Street parking garage and General Services Building, a 150-foot extension to the Queen Emma Tower, a 100-foot expansion to the Honolulu Medical Library, a 90-foot expansion of the Behavioral Health Building and a 40-foot expansion of the Lauhala Street parking garage. Due to the downturn of the economy, the Queen Emma Tower extension has been eliminated and the Lauhala Street project is now being redesigned in two (2) phases. Phase one (1) includes the demolition of the Harkness Building cafeteria, construction of the Behavioral Health Building extension and construction of the Lauhala Street garage extension and Cancer Center. Phase two (2) will focus on eliminating private patient rooms, decreasing room size, building an outpatient center, creating office space and providing additional parking stalls and beds for patients.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Library: Lavoie asked if the library would be retained. The answer was yes.
2. Cafeteria: Ruby asked when the cafeteria would be rebuilt. It was reported that the cafeteria would be rebuilt during Phase one (1).

Matusow moved, Middleton seconded to accept the plan as presented to the Board. The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, 8-0-0 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen).

Kinau Off-Ramp Project: Keith Kurahashi reported that a fiber optic cable was found on the Diamondhead side of the off-ramp. It was also noted that Okada Trucking has been very responsive to residents' concerns. Work will not occur during Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Commendation: Smyth noted that Perry and Price were pleased with the quality of the project. Smyth also noted the effectiveness of the posted signage.

2. Mahalo: The Board was thanked for support of the project.
3. Traffic: Questions were asked about traffic reconfiguration. It was reported that an informal meeting took place with DTS to discuss several traffic options. The Board will be informed of any modifications.

Installation of "No Bike Riding on Sidewalk" Signage: Lynne Matusow noted that the lack of "No Bike Riding on Sidewalk" signage hinders HPD's ability to cite individuals for illegally riding bikes on sidewalks in the Downtown business district.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Business District: Smyth noted that the definition of a business district is very complicated. It was expressed that most people don't know Downtown is a business district. It was also noted that a test is not required for bicycle registration. It was stated that bicyclists feel safer riding on the sidewalk due to unfavorable road conditions. It was noted that narrow streets do not allow for much room for bicyclists.
2. Run Over: Multiple persons relayed experiences of almost being run over by a bicyclist.
3. Amsterdam: It was stated that Amsterdam has a high amount of bicyclists; however, it was noted that bicyclists are also educated. It was expressed that practical rules need to be applied to provide safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.
4. Rude: Ruby described bicyclists as rude.
5. Allowance: Middleton expressed opposition to chasing bicyclists out of Chinatown. It was suggested that signage list all illegal activities.

Matusow moved, Ruby seconded to request that the City install "No Bike Riding on Sidewalk" signage in the Downtown/Chinatown where statutes or ordinances prohibit bike riding.

Smyth moved, Ruby seconded to amend the motion to include that City Hall and all satellite City Hall's post a map displaying restricted bike riding areas in Downtown and to publish a brochure with bike rules and regulations to be distributed to all individuals registering bicycles.

Middleton moved to amend the motion to include that signage list all activities restricted on the sidewalk. There was no second and the motion failed.

The Amendment to include that City Hall and all satellite City Hall's post a map displaying restricted bike riding areas in Downtown and to publish a brochure with bike rules and regulations to be distributed to all individuals registering bicycles was ADOPTED, 7-0-1 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen ABST: Middleton).

Discussion followed:

1. Hit: Chang expressed that it is better to be a pedestrian hit by a bike rather than bicyclist hit by a car.
2. Restriction: Smyth noted though bikes on sidewalks are restricted in business districts, bikes are not restricted on all sidewalks. It was noted that posted signage in business districts would enforce the existing law.

The original motion was ADOPTED, 7-0-1 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen ABST: Middleton).

Proposed Neighborhood Plan Amendments: Smyth reported that the Neighborhood Commission is meeting to fix language that Corporation Council previously amended. It was noted that Corporation Council will need to approve any changes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The September 2, 2010 Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 regular meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS CORRECTED, 8-0-0 (AYE: Chang, Lavoie, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen). Corrections included the following:

- Page 2 – Under Camera Status Update should read...that one (1) **video** monitoring camera...
- Page 4 – Under Foul Smell should read...eliminate **foul** smells on...

BOARD REPORTS:

Chairs Report: Chair Frank Lavoie reported;

- Vineyard Recycling Center: The Vineyard recycling center has erected wooden walls to curb noise pollution.
- Liquor License: The Chair noted that liquor license requests that were received were from vendors who have not posed any problems in the past.
- Resignation: The Chair will be moving out of the district on November 15, 2010. A resignation letter will be sent to the Neighborhood Commission.
- Future Agenda Items:
 - Enforcement of Ban on Sidewalk Sleeping: Smyth noted that Bill 10-39 was signed and passed by the Mayor. It was noted that the law does not ban sleeping; however, items on the sidewalk are banned. The Chair indicated the item would be discussed at a future meeting.
 - Second Police Sub-Station Restroom: Smyth noted that a restroom will be built. The Board decided the item would not be placed on a future agenda.
 - Require All Restaurants have Restrooms: The Board decided the item would not be placed on a future agenda.
 - Panorama Door Size Requirement: The Board decided the item would not be placed on a future agenda.
 - Problematic Traffic Lights: the item was arrested with the Mayor's representative.
 - Re-Open Pauahi Street Parking: The Board decided the item would not be placed on a future agenda.

Treasurer's Report: Mollring reported a balance of \$3,207.94 on the September 2010 report and a balance of \$3,177.64 on the October 2010 report. The reports were filed.

City and County Affairs: None.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO): Smyth reported the long term plan is being finalized. It was noted that King Street repaving may be a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) in four (4) years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2010 at the Pauahi Community Center; 171 North Pauahi Street at 7:00 p.m.
- Citizen's Patrol: 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 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by Kazuaki McArthur, Neighborhood Assistant.

Reviewed by Alvin Au, Vice Chair and Tom Smyth, Secretary.