



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

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

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Alvin Au 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: Alvin Au, Anthony Chang, Lynne Matusow, Carlton N. Middleton, Dolores Mollring, T.A. Ruby, Tom Smyth, Burton White (appointed at this meeting) and Stanford Yuen (Arrived at 7:48 p.m.).

Members Absent: None.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Shawn Hamamoto, Gordon Bruce (Mayor's Representative), Francis Choe (Senator Brickwood Galuteria's Office staff), Frank Lavoie, Act. Capt. Clay Madrona (Honolulu Fire Department), Sgt. Y.K. Chan and Sgt. B. Blancaflor (Honolulu Police Department), Gwen Abella, Sarah Gaver and Richard Doolin (Safe Haven), Barbara Hao, Alfonso Ronquillo and Diana Ronquillo (Citizens Patrol), Marsha Joyner (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff), Gary Otori (Honolulu Rail Transit), Connie Geisler (Ohana Housing Network Oahu) and Kelfred Chang.

Au recognized former Board Chair Frank Lavoie and thanked him for his service as chair.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Those present introduced themselves.

Au moved the agenda out of order and postponed the filling of Board vacancies to after item 6B.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Act. Capt. Clay Madrona reported the following;

- **November 2010 Statistics:** 4 structure fires, 8 rubbish fires, 109 medical emergencies, 5 search/rescues and 12 miscellaneous calls.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. **Rubbish Fires:** Mollring asked if someone is setting rubbish fires. HFD reported an individual had set a number of small fires for a week in the Kauluwela area; however, the individual has yet to be apprehended.
2. **New Years:** Ruby reminded HFD to be ready for a big New Year's celebration.
3. **Turkey Fryers:** Middleton asked if there is any problem with turkey fryers. HFD reported that turkey fryers can be especially dangerous when individuals do not follow proper deep frying instructions such as deep frying frozen turkeys. It was noted that even when instructions are properly followed, turkey fryers are still potential fire hazards and are not recommended.

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

- **November 2010 Statistics:** Included 15 assaults, 2 burglaries, 14 drug offenses, 14 driving under the influence (DUI), 3 family offenses, 4 graffiti, 80 motor vehicle collisions, 7 motor vehicle thefts, 13 property damages, 2 robberies, 3 sex assaults, 5 prostitution arrests, 12 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV), and 146 miscellaneous calls.
- **Prostitution:** A 2 ½ hour prostitution sting operation resulted in five (5) prostitution arrests on Kukui Street.

- HPD Website: HPD has added an interactive crime mapping option to its website. Residents may now track crime statistics and trends by month, year and district.
- Pedestrian Fatalities: There were 58 pedestrian fatalities on Oahu in 2010. District 1 will have a zero tolerance rule for not yielding to pedestrians, jaywalking, disregarding traffic signals, illegal cell phone use and speeding.
- Drunk Driving: HPD will be setting up anonymous checkpoints throughout the holiday season to catch individuals driving while drunk.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Camera Status Update: Matusow asked if all video monitoring cameras were functioning. HPD responded yes.
2. President: Middleton stated that there is no reason to speed while escorting the president. HPD noted that the secret service is in charge of organizing presidential escorts. Smyth noted that previous presidential escorts traveled between 45 and 55 miles per hour (MPH).
3. DUI Posting: Ruby asked if posting of DUI pictures would be reestablished. HPD noted the decision must be made by Chief Kealoha.

Neighborhood Citizens' Patrol – Dolores Mollring reported that the streets have been quiet over the last month; however, two (2) prostitutes were sighted on Tuesday, November 23, 2010. The River Street/Pauahi Street patrol reported no sightings over the last month.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) – No representative was present; no report was given.

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

Safe Haven – Sarah Gaver reported that there will be three (3) or four (4) move ins in December. Safe Haven will celebrate its 15th anniversary on January 20, 2011. The event will be open to the public. A flyer will be sent to the Board when finished. There will be a Christmas party at Kekaulike Mall on Sunday, December 5, 2010 with an appearance by Santa Claus at 7:00 p.m.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

Incident: Au noted police cars outside Safe Haven around 1:00 p.m. on December 2, 2010. It was confirmed that HPD was dealing with a Safe haven resident; however, no charges were filed.

Honolulu Rail Transit – Gary Omori circulated an informational brochure on the Public Transit Authority (PTA) and highlighted a few excerpts. It was reported that the PTA will take effect on July 1, 2011. The PTA will not have the power to tax. Membership on the ten member PTA board will be limited to Oahu residents, who do not hold public office. The PTA board will consist of three (3) mayoral appointees, three (3) City Council appointees, the State Department of Transportation (DOT) director, the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) director, the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) director and a tenth member to be voted on by the other nine (9) members. Board membership will be limited to two (2) years; however, membership may be terminated with just cause.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Over Budget: Matusow noted a news report claiming that City officials had under budgeted the proposed rail project. It was noted that studies conducted by an independent group determined that the City would have to spend an additional billion dollars on the project. Smyth noted that the independent group does not know anything about ridership projection. It was expressed that the project would be under budget.
2. Groundbreaking: Middleton asked when groundbreaking for the project would begin. An exact date was not given; however, the City hopes to commence in early 2011.

3. Consultant: Au noted that a consultant from San Francisco called a meeting with DPP to seek feedback on rail stops; however, DPP was not prepared for the meeting and did not know anything about the consultant.

Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA) – No representative was present; no report was given.

Public Concerns:

1. Honolulu Culture and Arts: A resident reported that Ed Korybski will be finishing his role as Director of the Honolulu Culture and Arts by the end of December 2010.
2. Sidewalk Repairs: A resident noted necessary repairs to the Ewa sidewalk on Kuwili Street, near Big Brother Big Sisters.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Yuen arrived at 7:48 p.m.; **eight (8) members present.**

Mayor's Office – Gordon Bruce reported the following;

- Benches: There is a new Department of Parks and Recreation director. Information on the restoration of benches on Fort Street Mall is pending.
- Bus Stop: A picture will be taken of the bus stop across 1055 River Street and submitted to DTS for review.
- Oahu Market: The Lions club participated in a national campaign to help cities and repaired sidewalks on the Kekaulike side of Oahu Market on November 5, 2010.
- Foul Smell: The foul smell on King Street between River Street and Kekaulike Mall is due to merchant's trash. This is an ongoing problem. The City will continually monitor and disinfect as necessary. Merchants are encouraged to double bag trash.
- Curb: A temporary patch was applied to a crumbling curb on Alakea Street, just Mauka of Hotel Street; however, the patch did not hold. A permanent repair is scheduled for December 16, 2010.
- Nuuanu Avenue: The sidewalk on Nuuanu Avenue, between Beretania Street and King Street was temporarily patched by the Lions Club to minimize the hazard. A permanent fix will be completed when resources are available.
- Smith/Beretania Park: Maintenance crews will unlock the gate to Smith/ Beretania Park on Christmas and New Years day.
- Christmas Lights Parade: The City will follow the 2008 street closure format for the Christmas Lights Parade.
- Potholes: The Department of Facilities Maintenance (DFM) will schedule a temporary fix of potholes in the bus lane on King Street; however, the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) will need to work on a contract to repair King Street.
- Bike Rack: Residents wishing to dedicate donated bike racks may contact Richard Haru at 768-3002.
- Kekaulike Mall Trash: DPR will collect trash on Kekaulike Mall.
- Honolulu Hot Zones: Store owners have disconnected antennas used to create the free Honolulu Hot Zones service. Store owners are encouraged to plug in antennas. The mayor's representative volunteered to bring new antennas if necessary.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Chinatown Business and Community Association (CBCA): Smyth suggested working with the CBCA to inform shop owners of the free Honolulu Hot Zones service.
2. Presentation: Au suggested the Mayor's representative do a presentation on Honolulu Hot Zones. The Mayor's representative expressed willingness to provide an informational presentation at the next regular meeting.
3. Pushbuttons: Middleton requested information on the missing push buttons. It was noted that certain push buttons were removed on purpose. An explanation for the removal was requested.

Middleton left at 8:02 p.m.; **seven (7) members were present.**

4. Potholes: Matusow noted potholes in the public section of the Alapai transit center.
5. Hotel Street/River Street: Matusow noted a five (5) second permitted walk time at the Hotel Street/ River Street intersection, heading Diamond Head.
6. Residential Antennas: Yuen asked if it would be possible to install residential wifi antennas. The Mayor's representative said yes.
7. Wilcox Park: Smyth noted that Wilcox Park signage needs to be cleaned or replaced.
8. Beretania Street/Nuuanu Avenue: Mollring relayed an incident of almost being struck by a car at the Beretania Street/Nuuanu Street intersection due to a lack of "No Right Turn On Red" signage.
9. Traffic Signage: Smyth noted that Federal Law states that signs posting speed limits above 25 miles per hour (MPH) are to be written in upper and lower cased lettering. It was noted that a study indicated that people respond better to upper and lower cased lettering.

Middleton returned at 8:10 p.m.; **eight (8) members present.**

10. Bike Rack: Middleton requested bike racks on the 1100 block of Maunakea Street.

Councilmember Rod Tam – Marsha Joyner circulated a handout and reported that Councilmember Tam's term will end at noon on January 2, 2011. It was reported that Councilmember Tam thanked the community and Board for its support.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

Sewer Charges: Matusow asked what the sewer charge provisions were in bill 10-58 to provide relief for condos. It was suggested that condo owners testify at the next hearing. It was noted that bill 10-58 passed first reading and will be discussed in budget committee.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria: Francis Choe circulated a handout and reported that Senator Galuteria's new office manager is Stephanie Deweese.

State Representative Karl Rhoads: No representative was present, no report was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Filling of Board Vacancy: Au opened the floor to anyone interested in filling an at-large seat on the Board. Burton White volunteered to fill the seat. White introduced himself and noted that he is currently the Hawaii Theater manager and had previously served on the Downtown Neighborhood Board for 10 years. Shawn Hamamoto also expressed interest in serving on the Board. Hamamoto introduced himself and noted that he most recently served in Councilmember Rod Tam's office. Hamamoto withdrew himself from the vote.

Matusow nominated White to fill the Board vacancy and Smyth closed nominations.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Political Aspirations: Smyth asked if White had any political aspirations. White answered no.
2. Recuse: Middleton asked if White would recuse himself from voting if the Hawaii Theater is discussed during Board business. White answered yes.

Burton White was appointed to the Board by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 8-0-0 (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth and Yuen).

Au called recess while the neighborhood assistant administered the oath of office to White.

Burton White was appointed; **nine (9) members present.**

A lengthy discussion followed regarding Middleton's residency. Au noted that discussion with the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) indicated that mail sent to Middleton from the NCO had been returned to the NCO due to a vacancy at the address provided to the NCO by Middleton. Middleton stated that he had received all mail sent to him and that he still resides at the address provided to the NCO. Matusow noted that the landlord stated that as of 5:00 p.m. on November 5, 2010, Middleton no longer was a resident of the building. The Neighborhood Assistant clarified that the Neighborhood Plan states that any Board member changing their primary residence must notify the NCO and Board Chair or other presiding officer in writing within ten days of moving. Mollring stated that if a person is not living in the district, they may not serve on the Board. Verbal sparring ensued and Au instructed Middleton to address all comments to the Acting Chair. Au noted that Middleton's residency will be discussed at the next regular Board meeting.

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

Dragon Design for Kekaulike Mall: No representative was present, no report was given.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chinatown New Year Events: Kelfred Chang reported that Chinese New Years is dictated by the Lunar Calendar. The next Chinese New Year will occur on Thursday, February 3, 2011 and will celebrate the year of the rabbit. Events will be held on January 28 and 29, 2011. On January 28, 2011 the Chinese Chamber of Commerce will present an open house. On January 29, 2011 the Chinatown Merchants and Honolulu Chinese Jaycees will present "A Night In Chinatown". 2011 will be phase two (2) of a five (5) year program to increase Chinatown activity to make it more community oriented. Discussions have taken place with the Nuuanu Arts District to expand Chinese New Year activities to include Nuuanu Avenue. It was noted that the Honolulu Chinese New Year celebration has been voted the number six (6) Chinese New Year celebration in the world. Discussions have taken place with HPD, DTS and DOT to ensure the safety of all participants. Discussions are also ongoing with the Board of Water Supply (BWS), McDonalds and The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) regarding a possible water refreshment area at Smith/Beretania Park. It is anticipated that four (4) stages will be set up around Chinatown to provide entertainment. It was noted that notifications have been circulated to condos that would be affected most by the activities.

Questions, comments and concerns followed;

1. Condos: Yuen asked if all condos would be consulted about noise issues. It was noted that planners of the Saturday event are still working with the City and resident managers to address any concerns. It was noted that special duty police officers will be posted beginning between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. to offer crowd control.
2. New Events: Middleton asked if there would be anything new happening with the 2011 celebration. It was noted that celebrations would include all ethnic cultures who celebrate the lunar New Year.
3. Return: Middleton asked if Chang would return and report prior the Chinese New Years celebrations. Chang agreed to return if the Board allowed time on the agenda.

4. Notices: Matusow asked if it was required to send a notice to condos away from areas affected by the parade. It was stated that the City only requires notices be sent to areas directly affected by the parade. Matusow requested that notices to condos and high rises across the street from the events be notified as was done last year. Condos and high rises include Honolulu Tower, Honolulu Park Place, Kukui Tower, Maunakea Tower, and Kukui Plaza.
5. Shut Down: Matusow reminded that all stages are required to shut down at 10:00 p.m. It was noted that the Department of Health is aware of the event and it was assured that all rules will be obeyed.
6. City Culture and Arts: White asked if event planners are working with the City's Culture and Arts office. The Answer was yes.
7. New Administration: White noted the change in City administration and noted that event planners need to talk to all parties involved. It was noted that the Nuuanu Culture and Arts District does not represent everyone.
8. Parking Lot: Middleton asked if the parking lot at 1100 Maunakea Street would be shut down. The answer was yes. It was noted that arrangements have already been made with the parking lot management.

City Council Bill 10-39: Smyth reported that bill 10-39 relating sidewalk regulation was passed. It is noted that the required eight (8) feet clearance would not affect the Downtown area too much.

Restrooms Next to Police Substation: Smyth reported that restrooms will be placed next to the Downtown police substation when funds become available.

Election of Board Officers: Au noted that due to the resignation of former Board Chair Lavoie, the Board needs to elect a new Board Chair and other officers if necessary. Au opened the floor for nominations.

Chair: Mollring nominated Au to serve as Chair. Seeing no other nominations, **Alvin Au was ELECTED Chair by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 9-0-0 (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth, White and Yuen).**

Vice Chair: Middleton nominated Smyth to serve as Vice Chair. Seeing no other nominations, **Tom Smyth was ELECTED Vice Chair by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 9-0-0 (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth, White and Yuen).**

Secretary: Matusow nominated Chang but, Chang declined. Middleton nominated White but, White declined. Yuen nominated Matusow. Seeing no other nominations, **Lynne Matusow was ELECTED Secretary, 8-1-0 (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth, White and Yuen NAY: Middleton).**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **The November 4, 2010 Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13 regular meeting minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AS CORRECTED, 9-0-0 (AYE: Au, Chang, Matusow, Middleton, Mollring, Ruby, Smyth, White and Yuen).** Corrections included the following:

- Page 1 – Under public disturbance should read...and **another** individual digging up a post **in** Kamalii Park.
- Page 3 – Under benches should read...from the Makai side of **King Street** to the...
- Page 4 – Under push buttons should read...the City **cares** more...
- Page 4 – Under sidewalk repairs should read...with the **Lions** Club...
- Page 4 – Under mid block crossings should read...New York **City** study...
- Page 6 – Number 5 heading should read ...**Bass** noise: Matusow noted **bass** noise as...
- Page 8 – Under problematic traffic lights should read...**The** item was **addressed** with...

BOARD REPORTS:

Chairs Report: Chair Alvin Au reported;

- City Lights: Honolulu Christmas Lights will begin with a parade and tree lighting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. on December 4, 2010.
- Honolulu Marathon: The Honolulu Marathon will begin at 5:00 a.m. on December 12, 2010 at Ala Moana Beach Park.
- Riverwalk Revitalization: The Chinatown Riverwalk Revitalization and Downtown Connectivity Study Workshop will be held on December 4, 2010 at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza, No. 302 at 2:30 p.m.
- Other Liquor License Applications or Street Closures: The Chair noted that liquor license requests that were received were from vendors who have not posed any problems in the past.

Future Agenda Items: None.

Treasurer's Report: Dolores Mollring read the November 2011 report and noted a previous balance of \$3177.64, expenses of \$34.50 leaving a remaining balance of \$3143.14. The report was filed.

Newsletter: Discussion ensued regarding the Board newsletter. It was noted that the previous Chair normally put together the newsletter. It was suggested Chang put together the newsletter; however, a decision was not reached.

Neighborhood Commission Office: Smyth suggested the NCO allow boards 45 days to review proposed amendments and provide commentary. Proposed amendments included extending board membership to four (4) years, ending committees at the end of each board term and modifications to the NCO complaints process.

City and County Affairs: It was suggested to have the new Councilmember report on Council issues at a future meeting.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO): Smyth reiterated the law which requires Cities to change lettering on speed signs above 25 mph to both upper and lower case.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 6, 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 9:32 p.m.

Submitted by Kazuaki McArthur, Neighborhood Assistant.

Reviewed by Alvin Au, Vice Chair and Lynne Matusow, Secretary.