



LILIHA/ PUUNUI/ ALEWA/ KAMEHAMEHA HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 14

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007
MAE'MAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Moepono with a quorum of seven present at 7:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sesnita Moepono, Arvid Youngquist, Donald Nitta, Robert Stubbs, Dale White, Rachel Glanstein, Wesley Fong, Max Fowler (arrived at 7:40 p.m.).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Charles Uehara, Ed Thompson, Leonard Kam, Loy Kuo.

GUESTS: Firefighter L. Shima (Kuakini Fire Station), Sgt. R. Ontiveros, Lt. Ching (Kalihi Police Station), Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative), Iris Oda (Board of Water Supply), Lydia Chock (Maluhia Hospital), Leina'ala Medeiros ('Aha Punana Leo School), Natasha Wong (Senator Chun Oakland's office), Colette Devou (Representative Ching's office), Lori Lussier, Coleen Lyum, and Mark Awaya, Christopher Loy, Director Emeritus (Hawaii Kids at Work), Francis Nishimura, John and Joan Keaulana, Kathleen Hayasaka, David Silva, Jacce Mikulanec, Eugene Takahashi, Brant Yasaka, Roy Benham, Cece Van Dyck, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

VACANCIES: No one came forward to fill the vacancy in Sub District I, for the areas of Puunui, Coehlo Way, so it will be carried over to next month's agenda.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The following corrections were made:

Page 1 - Wesley Fong should be listed as absent and the Board agreed to accept all absences as excused.

The minutes were approved as amended.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' FORUM:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter L. Shima, Kuakini Fire Station, reported the following:

1. The March statistics were 12 structure fires, no brush fires, 4 rubbish fires and no vehicle fires. There were 91 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue and 13 miscellaneous emergencies. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. Fire Safety Tip - Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second leading cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen for a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A10BC) in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it hasn't expired.



Questions, answers and concerns:

These statistics are just for the Kuakini area.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Sgt. Ontiveros gave the statistics for March, 2007 as follows:

1. There were 80 arguments from 59 in February, 7 assaults from 8, 16 burglaries from 5, one drugs and narcotics arrest the same as in February, 4 DUI from 1, 11 family offenses from 0, no homicides from 1, 14 motor vehicle thefts from 16, 21 property damage from 17, no sex offenses from 1, 4 robberies from 1, 50 thefts from 35, and 15 car break ins from 19.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Lt. Ching will investigate why there is a higher incidence of burglaries in Beat 571 and present ways to curtail it.
2. The concern for pedestrian fatalities in crosswalks on Liliha Street is being addressed by the police by enforcing the pedestrian laws and giving citations. They noticed a decline in the number of people cited from the numbers when they began this monitoring.
3. He will advise Nitta about their findings on a man living in a grass shack under the palm tree in the graveyard near School Street and Kapalama Avenue across from the Kamehameha School bus terminal. The area might be private property.
4. The difference between burglary and theft is burglary is entry into a business or residence and there is a crime committed against a person or property but a theft is when a person has something stolen from them without making entry.
5. Nitta reported neighbors have witnessed a man whom they know who carries a shopping basket and takes mangos off trees in an area from Kuakini Street up to Liliha Streets on the Waikiki end of the corner and up to Judd Street. Both the neighbors and police know who he is. Sgt. Ontiveros explained that a person has to see him in the act of taking the mangos and be willing to come to court to testify that that person took fruit from a specific tree to get someone convicted of stealing. The police can go to the scene and make the report.
6. He responded to Stubbs that he will work on singling out crosswalk offenses in the statistics report.
7. Glanstein feels the police are unfairly ticketing her car because there are three ways to get to her house and each way you pass one dozen illegally parked cars but hers is the only car consistently ticketed. Sgt. Ontiveros reported that police respond to calls for illegally parked cars but if they see other illegally parked cars around that car, it is up to the discretion of the officer whom they ticket. When they get a parking complaint there could be only one car blocking a drive way and other cars committing other violations that do not need to be attended to immediately. In the meantime, if another call comes to them which must be addressed right away, they will take care of that call first. She can fight the ticket in court since she feels it is unfair.
8. A family argument is classified as such when police go to a residence and determine that family members are involved but if they are at a bar and people unrelated are arguing it is considered an argument. They can't clarify where the increased numbers of arguments were located, up to 80 in March from 59 in February.

9. Youngquist reported that the owner of the shave ice store at School Street and Frog Lane told him there were human feces by their business so they called the City and County complaint department. Since the feces were located closest to the property line of the shave ice store, they were told it was their responsibility to clean it up. If someone comes by and slips on it and hurts themselves, the shave ice store owner could be sued. The person contacted at the complaint department said there were no written rules that someone from their department was supposed to come and clean up the feces but someone other than the owner did clean it up. Youngquist explained how negative this situation is for the store owners and their customers. Chair Moepono asked the police to monitor the area, especially since it is highly populated with apartments and Liliokalani Gardens is two blocks away.
10. Fong has a friend living in Liliuokalani Gardens who has seen a homeless person in her backyard – some homeless live down there by the water. If this problem is by the shave ice store, it could be around Liliuokalani Gardens also so he would appreciate the police monitoring the area.
11. Lt. Ching reported scattered debris on the road is supposed to be removed by the contractor who clears away a damaged car. Nitta reported at Kapalama Avenue and Hala Drive the contract people are not doing it because he has seen a lot of debris left there. Someone who went down the street got a flat tire from debris but the City and County wouldn't compensate them for the damage. Nitta is requesting that the City clean the accident debris from the road. Lt. Ching said the debris should have been picked up. He asked Nitta to call the police station when debris is left when the contractor leaves the scene after an accident.

He lives on the ewa side and driving on the freeway there is leftover debris from accidents which has damaged his car – it happens to everyone. Chair Moepono hopes the police will help clean up the debris if it is left after an accident.
12. Youngquist made a formal complaint to a City Council member and the Mayor about how the a complaint was handled by the Complaint Department regarding a sweeper's cleaning up after construction was completed on School Street.
13. Lt. Ching responded to Chair Moepono about the vandalized signs on Date Street off Nuuanu, not on the Liliha side, and asked her to submit a request so it will be cleaned up.
14. Chair Moepono reported that on Skyline Drive her neighbor had their moped stolen around Christmas and at the same time there was a rash of burglaries and vandalized cars in the early morning. Unfortunately this street is a dead end; people are coming up to the graveyard and around 2:00 a.m. while residents are sleeping. She asked the police to monitor the area occasionally so hopefully their presence would deter the people from congregating anymore.
15. Chair Moepono noted Beat 571 has an increase in arguments, burglary, MVC, property damage and theft. The police acknowledged this is one of the busier areas along with Beat 569. She requested a map for the different beats of their neighborhood board area. Nitta was given it and will share it with the Board members next month.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

1. Fong submitted three concerns to Debbie Morikawa, Mayor's office representative as follows:

- a. Will the area of 117-1150 Alewa Drive be repaved after the current construction is finished and is there a projected date?
 - b. At Na Pueo Park there is a lot of erosion around the walking path and the weeds are very high. How often do they maintain the area and when will they take care of these items?
 - c. What is Corporation Counsel doing about the situation at 1861 Kualona Street which has been going on for two years?
2. Youngquist on Thursday testified before OHA. When the interim period after the death of Trustee Linda Dela Cruz had passed, the new trustee named from the Big Island was Mr. Lindsey, a coffee farmer. Hopefully in the future, the OHA Board of Trustees and its Chair will insist that the OHA Board of Trustees have Big Island interest represented while awaiting the replacement's appointment.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY - Iris Oda reported the following:

1. There was one main break on March 22, 2007 on Iholena Street on a 6" cast iron main that was 76 years old.
2. In June all water service holders will receive the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) Annual Consumer Confidence Report which is mandated by Federal and State law and the Department of Health. It will identify the water source that supplies your address and any contaminants in your water to insure that the water you drink meets the All Safe Drinking Water Standards. It describes any treatment process used, if necessary, it explains terms used in regulation of drinking water and tells you where to go for additional information.
3. Three water saving tips: 1) Take advantage of the \$100 rebate for replacing your old toilet with the new low flow one. Go to www.boardofwatersupply.com for more information. 2) You can use a screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture; if it goes in easily you don't need to water. Proper lawn watering can save gallons of water annually. 3) For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
4. The Liliha Water System Improvement Project Phase B was projected to start in April but it actually will begin in June because some needed parts are on order. They are installing a 12 inch main along Liliha Street from School Street to Judd Street.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. She will check on the status of all nine projects to change the water pipes for the next meeting that was presented a while ago when Board of Water Supply first started their improvements.
2. Glanstein thanked the BWS for fixing the main break on Iholena Street so quickly.

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM – He was not in attendance but his report was distributed.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Youngquist wanted it noted that there will be a City Council's Budget Committee meeting later this month on all the items funding the city. He encourages everyone to go or watch on Oleo.

2. Fong complimented Councilmember Tam for appropriating \$7,000 to build a fence to restrict the feral pigs in Alewa Heights and the Na Pueo Park and \$111,000 for new resources needed for the Lanakila District Park.

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE - Debbie Morikawa was not in attendance but her responses to last month's meeting questions, read by Chair Moepono, were as follows:

1. There are two different timings for crossing the street at the intersection of Judd and Liliha, one is the normal four feet per second which is what the intersection is set at currently and the other is three feet per second, usually for areas where more elderly people and young school children walk. Chair Moepono could put on the agenda for next month to have the Department of Transportation Services lengthen the time for crossing at Judd and Liliha Street. Based on three feet per second, the Board could ask them to do it on busier intersections such as Kuakini and Liliha Street intersection and Nuuanu and Kuakini Streets.
2. When leaves fall onto private property, it is the property owner who is responsible for the rubbish. If the property owner wants to hold the neighbor responsible, it would be a civil matter. If the leaves blow into the street, it is the responsibility of the one that has jurisdiction over that particular street. While it may be possible for the City to cite a property owner from allowing their rubbish to blow into the streets, it is unlikely that this would occur.
4. The illegal dumping of bulky items by independent apartments is explained in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) Chapter 14, Article 20, requiring property owners along public streets to keep their sidewalks clean and passable. However, the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) does not typically issue notices of violations based on bulky items that sit out on sidewalks because by the time the 20-day cure period runs out, the items have usually been picked up so enforcement would be meaningless.
5. The cement spill at Lanakila Elementary School has been cleaned up and the grass is returned.
6. The residents at 1861 Kualono Street have been sent a demand letter from Corporation Counsel for failure to maintain their property but Corporation Counsel has not received a response. The case will be referred back to DPP for attachment of lien and/or flagging of license or registration renewals.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Youngquist asked when the crosswalk signals installed across the street and before St. Theresa's Catholic Church on North School Street will be in operation; there have been black bags over them for the last month.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT: Henry Oliva distributed the Governor's report and highlighted the following items:

1. Public employers and HGEA have reached a tentative agreement for ratification for a 4% increase for each of the next two years.
2. Lillian Kohler, director of the Department of Human Services, has been chosen to receive the 2007 Commissioner's Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families for her outstanding achievements in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

3. Upcoming events will be April 12 for the 28th Annual Prayer Breakfast and April 14th is the annual March of Dimes Walk America.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Youngquist requested the Lt. Governor's newsletter be published only when the Governor is out of state.

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN-OAKLAND - Natasha Wong distributed documents from Senator Chun-Oakland including a letter from Laverne Higa, P.E., Director and Chief Engineer of the Division of Road Maintenance, to the Senator reporting her office will inspect the roadways of Puunui and Liliha to find surfaces that need to be repaved and they will be scheduled for work but dates are not available. A description of Crossover Bills was also handed out. There were no questions.

REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING - Collette Devou of Representative Ching's office distributed the newsletter explaining the following highlights:

1. The Liliha-Nuuanu Historic Corridor Resolution has passed to the Senate and it appears it will be adopted. We look forward to that bringing more attention to this area and consequently increased funding.
2. The gambling bill has passed the Senate and if the Governor approves it, the phone cards which are actually like a sweepstakes, are going to be outlawed.
3. The Representative is in the early planning stages of holding a neighborhood town meeting so her office is seeking times that are best for residents and topics they want to discuss; please call her office with your responses.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Youngquist requested Representative Ching speak up on the Governor's 42nd message to Congress, her first veto of a budget bill that would fund expenses of the legislature, auditor, legislative reference bureau and ombudsman. Without these funds there will be no staff or funding to pay anyone in the legislature during or after session if the veto is sustained. He would appreciate a response sometime between now and the next Liliha neighborhood board meeting of May 14, 2007.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MIZUNO – Representative Mizuno was not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of Hawaiian Immersion School - The Hawaiian Immersion School request for the development of the property at 243 North Judd Street has been withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS:

Take Action on Hawaii Kids at Work Application for a Day Care Center - Chair Moepono announced that there is an application from the Hawaii Kids at Work preschool to establish a day care center at 243 N. Judd Street. They are making a presentation this evening to inform the Board and neighbors of their plans.

Colleen Lyum, Vice President of the Hawaii Kids at Work Board, and a parent of a student at this day care center, made the presentation. She was joined by other directors of the Board and Lori Lussier, Executive Director of the everyday operations of the school, and friends to let the audience know who they are, what they do and how it would impact this neighborhood, their potential neighbors.

They are a non-profit daycare center for children ages three months to three years that has been in operation for about 15 years. Located conveniently for parents in the downtown area, they now are looking for a more permanent home at 243 North Judd Street near the corner of Nuuanu Avenue going in the direction of the Pali Highway. This is a large property with several structures on it; they want to lease the main house of about 5,400 square feet using the ground floor for the children's day care activities and the upper floor for administrative offices. Zoned as R-5 residential, they have begun the process to apply for a Conditional Use Permit Minor. They project upgrading it for ADA accessibility, fire safety for the children and adding extra parking stalls to eliminate street parking. Minor improvements are planned for the interior and if there is any lead or asbestos in the structure it will definitely be abated.

They do not anticipate too much increased traffic to the area; the maximum capacity would be 45 children dropped off by their parents. There are two driveways on the property so it is a one way loop around with a drop off including a big turn-around area in the back around some parking stalls creating a drop off place and then they exit. The school's operating hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the main drop off times between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. and pick-ups from 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Lyum reported not all parents come at the same time and because of the depth of the property, the cars will be off the street.

Potential noise would be the children playing out in the front yard which they plan to surround with a chain link fence. Children will play outside for two hours in both the morning and afternoon. She showed a floor plan of the existing ground floor structure and what they plan to do. They need to designate fire exits and renovate one of the restrooms with keiki size toilets.

Questions, answers, and concerns:

1. Lyum is not requesting a variance; as a daycare they are allowed a Conditional Use Permit Minor.
2. Kathleen Hayasaka reported she is a renter on the property and this is the first she has heard of the property being renovated except for the letter she received from Hawaii Kids at Work. She feels 44 cars coming into the property and creating 5 parking spaces will bring a lot of activity and as a tenant she feels this will definitely disrupt the quiet nature of the property in question on which they now live. The staff cars and parents dropping off and picking up students will be added to the ten cars now on the property because each of the five living units have two cars. In addition there is traffic coming off the Pali Highway; they have a hard time getting out of their driveway under current conditions. She does appreciate the school wanting to open a drive to make it circular for easy drop off, but when she leaves for work between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. she could be blocked in by these cars coming onto the property.

Lyum explained that at the school's current location they share four parking places with the entire building on Maunakea Street and they don't have to wait for a parking place.

When Hayasaka mentioned some of her neighbors were not notified of this meeting by Hawaii Kids at Work, an attendee, Christopher Loy, Director Emeritus of the school, an architect and

very familiar with the Land Use Ordinance, explained that the ordinance requires notification of the adjacent property owners only, not all the neighbors.

3. Gene Takahashi spoke representing his in-laws who are neighbors to the property being discussed and they are concerned about traffic in their area. Looking at the short stretch of street between Nuuanu and Judd Streets there are four public facilities averaging 300 – 400 feet: Pali Preschool, Waiolani Judd Nazarene Preschool, the Tenrikyo Honolulu Ko Church, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church at the end. For any short strip of street, 300-400 feet proposed for the facility, especially one that drops off at the peak hours in the morning is their major concern. Personally he is often at the house in the morning and you can't move out of the driveway at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m., the traffic is backed up from Nuuanu past your 243 N. Judd up to Waolani Judd and sometimes up to Pali Preschool; you will be competing with traffic from the places I just mentioned.

That stretch of Judd Street doesn't have sidewalks and there is a large tree there that could be difficult to remove. If the tree stays, children and parents would have difficulty walking around it. Kuakini Street is also very heavily trafficked but it has sidewalks. He asked them to consider that there are three driveways within 50 feet and suggested they get a good traffic analysis to see how the traffic would impact their abutting neighbors.

Takahashi's in-laws have a wide driveway to accommodate two cars. What assurances can they give the residents that people will not be parking on Judd Street for various reasons? He suggests there is much to consider.

Also, even though by the Land Use Ordinance you only have to address abutting landowners, you should also do your due diligence and address any tenants on the property who will be affected by the proposal.

4. Youngquist reminded us that last month we asked the Hawaiian Immersion School to notify people in all directions in a two block radius and do their due diligence. He suggested this school do the same in canvassing a broader area of the neighborhood.

Lyum reported that she personally delivered the information letters during the afternoon trying to reach as many people as possible and she talked with a few people; one person called her office and she did answer their question. She had a certain number of notices to give out around the area and she has a map that shows to whom they were given.

She reported to Youngquist that in her letter she mentioned her school's desire to move to 243 North Judd and it was on the Liliha Neighborhood Board agenda for tonight and would be discussed; they were invited to come and say how they felt.

5. Glanstein feels there are requirements to follow but more importantly there should be consideration of the neighbors and children are not quiet. She appreciates that Lyum walked the neighborhood distributing her flyer but feels she should expand to blocks in all directions and talk to everyone, not just people who will be immediately affected.
6. Loy thanked Youngquist for his questions and acknowledged the school's director, Ms. Lyum, who went beyond the call and walked the neighborhood. He feels if the Board wants her to canvas people farther out, they need to tell her that.
7. Chair Moepono responded to Fowler concerning the Board's plans for next month on this topic, the school was put on the agenda because they asked to be. Unless another neighbor asks

to put issue on the agenda next month, we don't need to do anything further. However, if the Board wants to entertain requesting DPP to hold a public hearing on this subject we could take that action.

Fowler moved to express the concerns of some of the neighbors about the Hawaii Kids at Work School to DPP and Fong seconded it.

Stubbs amended the motion to say "to have a public hearing" and Fong seconded it.

The Board passed the motion to amend unanimously with a vote of 7-0-0. The Board passed the amended motion unanimously with a vote of 7-0-0.

CHAIR'S REPORT - Information Hearings on Recycling by the Mayor will be held as follows: Tuesday, April 24 from 7-9 p.m. at Kaiser High School and Tuesday, May 8 from 7-9 p.m. at the Mission Memorial Auditorium. Brochures about recycling were distributed.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Youngquist reported he will be attending the Wednesday Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) meeting on April 11, 2007 standing in for Donald Nitta.
1. Chair Moepono made the correction that none of the Sunshine Law Bills for the Neighborhood Boards survived. The Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee thought that HB 1512 and HB 128 should be heard together - hopefully they will be heard next year. The Senate IGM committee held HB 1512.

Chair Moepono asked this Neighborhood Board to get involved next year concerning the Office of Information Practices (OIP) ruling that no more than two members of the Board can be at an informational hearing. Supposedly if we go as individuals, we are violating the law but she feels if they restrict board members as individuals from going to informational hearings, they are violating our freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Les Kondo, Director of the Office of Information Practices, seems to be wielding a very dictatorial hand over the Neighborhood Board. We are trying to provide a forum for people to express their concerns by meeting at night when people can attend, unlike the legislature which meets during the work day. She was appalled at an attorney who is trying to strangle the neighborhood boards. It affects the public because if we weren't around, the public wouldn't be able to have a say on this preschool application and the school would have gone through the steps asked by DPP without any kind of hearing.

2. The Neighborhood Board election is going on right now and our Board candidates' biographies will be seen at the following times on Channel 54: on April 11th at 6:30 a.m., April 13th at 8:00 a.m. and April 14th at 8:31 p.m. If you have a ballot, please mail it in or vote on line by April 16.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Bonnie Trustin
Neighborhood Assistant