



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

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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2007
MAE'MAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Moepono called the meeting to order at 7:21 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sesnita Moepono, Arvid Youngquist, Donald Nitta, Ed Thompson, Loy Kuo, Rachel Glanstein, Wesley Fong, Max Fowler (arrived at 7:31 p.m.).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard Kam, Robert Stubbs, Charles Uehara, Dale White.

VACANCIES: No one came forward to fill the vacancy in Sub District I so it will be carried over to next month's agenda.

GUESTS: Firefighter Lyndon Shima (Kuakini Fire Station), Captain Moana Heu and Sgt. Samuel Fontanilla (Kalihi Police Station); Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor's Representative); Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative); Lydia Chock, (Maluhia Hospital); Lawson Teshima; Coty Ishitani, Princess Alcon, Kelly Yasuda, Emily Favela, Jennifer Kunihiro, Sasha Kimura and Rowena Garcia (University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Nursing); Natasha Wong (Senator Chun Oakland's office); Representative Corinne Ching, Colette Devon (Representative Ching's office), Francis Nishimura, Andy Currican, (University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene), Emi Kaailau (Imua Transit Services); Erik Takeshima; Anthony Lau; Willa Donnelly; Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The minutes were approved as corrected, with the following correction: Page 1 - Under Members Absent put "excused" after Youngquist's listed absence.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' FORUM:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter Lyndon Shima (Kuakini Fire Station) read the January statistics: There were 6 structural and 3 vehicle fires; 77 medical alarms and 9 miscellaneous calls.

Fire Safety Tip for the Month: Every home should have a working smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall mounted detectors should be positioned 4-12 inches below the ceiling and away from air vents.

He couldn't provide detailed information on the two vehicle fires, one of which was torched, because the incidents are under investigation.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Sgt. Samuel Fontanilla, Kalihi Police Station, gave the statistics for January, 2007: Homicides – 0, sex offenses 2, robberies 2, burglaries 16, theft 39, unauthorized entry into motor vehicles 29, car theft 6, assault 8, MVC 99, property damage 14, drugs/narcotics 2, family offenses 7, arguments 81, DUI 4.



Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Answered Youngquist that his district does not cover Downtown/ Chinatown; that is District 1.
2. Glanstein applauded the work the police are doing in her neighborhood below Alewa Neighborhood Park; it seems a lot safer so she can now walk at night.
3. Nitta wants to see a map showing the different beats for the neighborhood with data on the areas with the most collisions. Ultimately he would like a four-way stop sign installed at Kapalama Avenue and Hala Drive which is a major thoroughfare. In November, 2007, he requested statistics from Lt. Kam on the number of collisions there to substantiate getting a four way stop installed because traffic from the Kamehameha School buses and the turn off from the Likelike Highway to Hala Drive generates heavy car traffic. He hopes stop signs will slow down traffic.
4. Sgt. Fontanilla responded to Nitta's concern about cars not stopping at stop signs and not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk, police have been enforcing pedestrian violations and cars violating pedestrian rights. Motor vehicle collision statistics are kept by the Traffic Division and he will have someone contact him and try to give him a map of the different district beats for this neighborhood board.

Capt. Moana Heu reported for the Police Chief that their Human Resources Division presented four bills to the legislature in response to their difficulty filling some of their positions – the baby boomers leaving the work force can't be replaced by the fewer numbers of the generation behind them. Two of the bills are about retaining department retirees under longer contracts - from 89 days extending it to as long as a year. Another bill talks about having a 25 year retirement for police dispatchers and the last one would exempt police officers from having to pay state taxes. Since HPD can't offer our applicants higher wages, hopefully these additions will help us recruit and retain people in our work force.

There was a serious pedestrian accident at the King and Desha Lane in Liliha today sending one man to the hospital in critical condition and there were two other pedestrian accidents in the Kalihi area this afternoon which weren't as serious. The Chief's Pedestrian Task Force will be monitoring pedestrians and drivers, and handing out brochures to reeducate the public warning them of what would happen to violators but at some point HPD will be issuing citations.

Max Fowler arrived at 7:31pm.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Heu helped clarify for Thompson the crosswalk law for drivers that on a two-way road, if the pedestrian is on your half of the roadway, the part that you are traveling or intending to travel, then you must yield. If the pedestrian is half way into the roadway and they start coming into the lane next to you where you are going that same direction, you must stop.
2. Fong congratulated officers for the decrease in burglary and theft in Beat 571 (area bounded by the Palama off-ramp down to Pali Highway, makai bound up Pali Highway to Judd Street, west bound along Judd to Lanakila, going right on School Street to Palama and back down to the freeway) but noted an increase in arguments in January. Heu feels with more families together at the holidays there is more occasion for arguments to ensue; that is what she has experienced working on the beat. Fong's greatest concern is the increase in motor vehicle collisions – he can see on Liliha Street how people go so fast down the street they barely miss a pedestrian. At a recent meeting with the Chief, he asked about 60 people if they would support van cams

and got a 70% positive response. Those who didn't had concerns about how the program would be implemented because the last time it wasn't run well and people were upset. Heu supports van cams to change the mindset of the citizens.

3. There was a Traffic Task Force established by the Chief operating from November to January with 100 officers giving warning tickets but primarily they were to cite people and around 8,000 tickets were given. When the officers were moved to other assignments and the task force stopped operation, Heu feels speeding started again. She doesn't know if there are more accidents because people are distracted with cell phones, music players and drinking coffee. Some of the bills don't allow talking on a cell phone while driving but people don't like being restricted so a lot of the bills don't make it that far. Legislation in the past has not gone well.
4. She responded to Youngquist that when people go out of the crosswalk as they near the curb, they are in violation and could be cited. The officer should remind them to stay in the crosswalk.
5. Chair Moepono had two reports from different residents about incidents on Kunawai Lane. One was a stripped car seen around 10:00 p.m. which was towed by police the next day. Another was when a resident saw a kid sitting on a person's truck bed eating their lunch. When the owner came and asked them to leave they refused until an older boy came and convinced him to move. There seems to be a new group of younger kids in the area calling the park "their home". Neu reported if there is a pattern, the police will be notified on the beat and check the area. You can always call 911 if you need immediate help.

Fowler reported most of these kids are from the Liliha area. Last Monday night three boys came down with baseball bats and some got medical attention from the ambulance and four boys were arrested. The problem seems to be that there's always a group there no matter the time of day. The police advised the neighborhood watch patrol of Kunawai Lane to call the police when it's after hours so a number of us took their advice and call on a regular basis but it seems like they come and talk to the boys and the leave. This Neighborhood Board has discussed this over the last year and a half since Fowler has been on the Board and the kids need to be ticketed being there after hours. He assumes there have been no tickets given because when the police leave the boys are still sitting there. He requests the police write tickets so the children know if they are sitting there they will be ticketed. Heu is not exactly sure what the statute says, maybe they are only ticketed after a warning, but she will have all the shifts be alerted to the problem so they can handle it more effectively.

6. Chair Moepono told Neu that before she joined the force at the station, Moepono received a letter from the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) acknowledging that the stone wall on the pond side and the park side are on park land and are definitely part of the park. In case officers say sitting on the wall is not considered part of the park, Kunawai Park and Pond are singled out as the responsibility of the Parks. The residents would appreciate your driving through the area more often to help monitor these kids and then they might not want to be there so much.
7. Morikawa responded to Nitta she will request the City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to conduct a study to see how many accidents have occurred at Kapalama Avenue and Hala Drive and come back with a response. Nitta said on the mountain side of the intersection there are only three crosswalks. There needs to be another one on Kapalama Avenue on the mauka side but at that intersection the corners don't match so maybe they didn't put a crosswalk in for that reason. Nitta reported the one below it doesn't match either – Hala Drive on the east side is wider than the Hala Drive on the west side.

8. Heu responded to Fong that she feels the City and County of Honolulu don't have a law against talking on cell phones while driving because of all the opposition to this since people just like to be on their cell phones. Some bills she has seen keep you from holding the phone so you use a hands free system ear piece which she feels distracts your attention when in a conversation.
9. Neu responded to Youngquist that pedestrians would be in violation as they near the curb and go out of the crosswalk. The Chief is just now asking for warnings so she doesn't know his exact directions for the officers at this time. Technically they are in violation and could be cited. Youngquist feels a warning could be beneficial.
8. Erik Takashida is concerned because as a resident on Bates Street he sees very fast traffic on Nuuanu Avenue coming down the hill crossing Kawanakoa Place and Judd Streets especially in the morning walking his children to Mae'mae School. The sidewalk is so narrow because of the cemetery. He saw the increased patrol coverage before and asked the Neighborhood Board to request the police do periodic speed checks in this area again. Chair Moepono advised him that the police will talk with you and then give you the results of their investigation.

RESIDENT'S CONCERNS:

1. Morikawa reported to Nitta that Pat Hammers didn't call her to meet with the DPR representative to view the overgrowth of trees at Na Pueo Park. DPR is currently not planning on cutting the trees.
2. Morikawa reported that as part of Long's Drug Store's proposal, they need to complete their traffic assessment and present that to the Board so concerns about traffic patterns at Kuakini and Liliha streets can be discussed. Morikawa spoke to the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) and the Board can request the presentation.
3. Chair Moepono announced a request from Lawson Teshima to hear three resolutions but because of the Sunshine Law we can't take any action on items not on the agenda. It will be on the agenda for next month.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

Chair Moepono requested that all those representing government agencies who distributed a report to the Board members, with extras on the back table for the public, just stand by your report. I am asking you not read your reports; if there is something important you want to add that is not in the report please do.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Iris Oda could not attend but her report was distributed to Chair Moepono. The highlights listed two mainbreaks in January: 1) January 18 at 728 Twin View Drive to a 6-inch cast iron main 77 years old. 2) January 24 at 2665B Liliha Street to an 8-inch cast iron main 72 years old.

Dean Nakano is the new Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer for the Board of Water Supply.

Water Saving Tips: 1. Repair your dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons per year!
2. Operate automatic dishwashers and clothes washers only when they are fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of the load you are using.

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM – He was not in attendance but his report was distributed with the following highlights:

1. Tam continues to work with the Mayor and his administration in seeing the Kuakini Street Extension Project proceed for the benefit of the community. The Mayor assured him additional funds will be placed in this year's budget to combine with \$1 million that is in place from last year.
2. Roof repairs to the Lanakila District Park Gym, per DPR, will be completed by April of this year. The water cooler was purchased and is awaiting installation.

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE - Debbie Morikawa reported on the concerns from January:

1. 1861 Kualono Street - failure to maintain property. - Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) said this issue was referred to Corporation Counsel on Jan 15, 2007 with a current fine of \$4,000.00. If the violation isn't corrected, Corporation Counsel will issue a Demand Letter and if nothing is done to correct it the matter goes back to DPP who can flag the owner's driver license or the vehicle registration to compel compliance.
2. Cement spill at Lanakila Elementary – This was an inadvertent spill near the fire hydrants. Since it can't be determined who did it, and since it is on park property, the City Department of Parks and Recreation will take care of it in the next month.
3. 1726 and 1759 Skyline Drive - Potholes were patched February 1, 2007. Since there is concern about the recurrence of potholes, her investigation found the street is not scheduled for this year but is noted as one of the roads that needs resurfacing.
4. Timing of traffic lights - This was checked by Department of Transportation Services (DTS) who determined there is sufficient time to fully cross the street, however, people tend to cross after the flashing lights start. Cross when it is a white walk sign or wait for the next cycle. Count down lights are in the planning stages for a five year plan. Direct any questions to Ty Fukumitsu, Acting Chief of Traffic Signals and Technology at 768-8387.
5. Orange playground slide at Alewa Park – It is temporarily barricaded during its repair. They chose the same material again because it is the safest and most durable, unlike some metal materials that have a risk of jagged edges when broken causing possible unsafe conditions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. This is "Month in Chinatown" throughout February kicking off the Year of the Boar. There are bags with booklets telling about the activities in Chinatown in them in the back of the room including buttons to afford you 10% discounts at businesses on a list there also.
2. The Family Festival will take place again at Ala Moana Park from March 29-April 1.
3. The City just started an enhanced 911 system called "E 911" upgrading the police department's ability to know the location when a person is calling on a cell phone. They are trying to get all cell phone companies to be part of this plan so police will have a record to track the call.
4. This month the Mayor announced a new department is being created called the Department of Emergency Management because "Civil Defense" is an outdated term. With homeland security issues being more prevalent, there is a need to upgrade that office to a department which is currently before the City Council.

5. The State of the City address by the Mayor will be given Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m., February 22 at Honolulu Hale. It is taped so it could be on Olelo and ask at the Mayor's office to see about simultaneous broadcasting of the speech.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Construction between Pua Lane and School Street - Youngquist appreciated the update on this construction; it is still going on in the ewa direction.
2. Strong smell near Ward Warehouse - Youngquist is very concerned about the strong smell that could be from sewage, which is most intense at the diamond head end of the outdoor parking lot across from Ward Theaters, Kakaako Kitchen, and Pier I.
3. Alewa Heights Park slide - Morikawa reported to Kuo she has been waiting for an answer for a couple months for an estimated time the slide would be fixed and they only responded by email today when she was out so she couldn't respond. She feels if the slide is boarded up they are in the process of doing something and thinks it should be fixed before six months.
4. Lanakila Avenue sidewalk repair between Kuakini Street to Kunawai Lane - Morikawa reported the Department of Facilities Maintenance inspectors looked at it, will write up work orders and send a crew out to fix it.
- 5.. Determining how much time is needed to go through a crosswalk - She advised Nitta she will ask DTS what their criteria is for an elderly person going through a crosswalk as compared to some in their 20s.
6. Dumping trash at the house at Lanakila Avenue and Keola Drive – People are still leaving bulky items for pick-up under the “No Dumping” sign after the designated trash pickup day. Morikawa reported the City Environmental Services Department (ENV) was trying to be very responsive to the community's request to clear the bulky items but when people have the attitude, “If I report it, the items will be picked up even though it's not the right day” now ENV has more pick ups than before so they are evaluating how to handle the situation. Please call 911 if you see someone dumping trash and bulky items. ENV is open to your suggestions as our landfills become increasingly full.
7. Crosswalk timing - At Liliha and Judd Streets a couple weeks ago a woman was hit in the crosswalk. Maybe the timing is enough for an average person to cross but not for the elderly who make up a large percentage of Liliha residents. Morikawa will follow up.
8. Dumping suggestions – Kuo suggested extending the City's dumping site hours until later on the weekends, for example the Middle Street site to stay open later than 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays, so people have more time to dump their own rubbish. Morikawa will follow up but she feels many people do illegal dumping out of convenience.

Glanstein suggested discontinuing bulky item pick up because people aren't respecting the rules so they should loose the service so extend the hours of all the sites and everyone take their items there themselves. Morikawa will make the recommendation.

Chair Moepono reminded the presenting Government Agencies to stand by their report and not just read it. If you have anything additional to say, we would appreciate hearing it.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT - Henry Oliva reported the following:

1. The Governor had a good reception at the Waianae Community meeting where she explained plans to build economic opportunities and raise the standard of living for the residents in a variety of ways.
2. He distributed to the Board the Governor's report "Innovation and Initiative" giving a preview of issues they will be focusing on in 2007 including. The four main components of innovation are the economy, education, workforce development and linking Hawaii to the global economy.

REPRESENTATIVE CHING – Representative Corinne Ching reported House Bill 1807 introduced by Representative Karl Rhoads is to establish the Lihua-Nuuanu Historic Corridor.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Fong appreciated her candlelight tour. Representative Ching thanked the consulates for opening their buildings and those responsible at the Summer Palace, Girl Scout Council and American Cancer Society. She will be doing the tour again next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

IMUA TRANSIT SERVICES – Emi Kaailau described her organization as a recognized, federally tax exempt 501C3 non-profit organization operating in Hawaii that she is trying to get funded. She serves the communities of Aliamanu, Salt Lake, Foster Village, Mauanalua, Kamehameha Heights to Honolulu. She purchased two modified vans with ramps to assist elders, and others in wheelchairs, as well as with disabilities. She can be reached at 839-3935.

She has a registry so when people with Medicaid call her with their doctor's referral, they can be picked up by her transport company for free.

Working with TheHandi-Van for over ten years in customer service, she has talked with many people to know her service is needed. There are roads TheHandi-Van can't enter because it is not City and County approved but she will be doing those routes as well as TheHandi-Van's overflow because they have so many requests. She will provide curb to curb service seven days a week. She is registered with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) which has licensed her drivers.

She is looking for people in the community who are interested in her services and needs documentation of community support which she has from being on the Liliha agenda.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. She answered Fong's inquiry about her wording "serving native Hawaiian elders and people with disabilities". She went to a lawyer to help her with the wording; she serves everyone and is approved for serving Medicaid clients who receive her service for free.
2. She reported that after many meetings with the federal government, they decided her company was too small and suggested partnering with someone. She asked for a \$500,000 loan saying "Everything starts small; if you help me I can become big." OHA responded to her request for funds that since she bought two vans she had the money to pay for them; they forgot this is a non-profit for elders. They did ask me to show I have more community support so I am starting to present myself to neighborhood boards.

Kuo suggested she contact someone in the Federal Highway Administration who offer low interest loans to disadvantaged people who purchase things. He will give her the contact number later.

Thompson moved and Youngquist seconded the motion to write a letter of support for Imua Transit Services. Chair Moepono will write a letter of support. **The motion was accepted unanimously by a vote of 8-0-0.**

LEGISLATIVE BILLS REGARDING THE SUNSHINE LAW AND NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS:

Glanstein moved and Youngquist seconded that Neighborhood Board No. 14 supports all current Sunshine Law amendments related to allowing Neighborhood Boards to better serve the public, especially HB1512, and that the Chair be authorized to send a letter to that effect to the area legislators and the State Office of Information Practices.

There was discussion about the wording of part of House Bill 1512.

Fong called for the vote on the motion which passed unanimously by a vote of 8-0-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chair Moepono read the report stating the current month's expenses were \$39.66 for printing and mailing the February agenda and minutes leaving an operating / publicity account balance of \$2,719.43. There was a refreshment expenditure of \$15.71 in December, 2006 leaving a balance of \$78.74.

The next scheduled meeting is March 12, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Trustin
Neighborhood Commission Staff