



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

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007
MAE'MAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Robert Stubbs called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arvid Youngquist, Donald Nitta, Ed Thompson, Loy Kuo, Rachel Glanstein, Max Fowler (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Leonard Kam, Robert Stubbs, Claude Uehara, Dale White.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sesnita Moepono.

VACANCIES: No one came forward to fill the vacancy in Sub District I for Pu'unui.

GUESTS: Firefighter Daniel Smith (Kuakini Fire Station), Sgt. David Yomes, Sgt. Ontiveros (Kalihi Police Station), Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor's Representative), Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative), Lydia Chock (Maluhia Hospital), Natasha Wong (Senator Chun-Oakland's office), Representative Corinne Ching, Colette Devou (Representative Ching's office), Francis Nishimura, Hong Li, NeGene Oshiro, Leina'ala Medeiros (Ala Punana Leo School), Emi Kaailau (Imua Transit Services); Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The minutes were approved as corrected:

Page 1 – Members Absent - change the spelling of "Charles" to "Claude" and indicate all members were excused.

Page 8 - Line 1 after "offer low interest loans" add "The loans are for organizations providing transportation for the disadvantaged population." He provided her contact information and she was successful in contacting the organization.

For the record, Nitta received the maps from HPD that he requested last month showing the different beats of the neighborhood and the areas on them with the most collisions.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' FORUM:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter Daniel Smith (Kuakini Fire Station) read the February statistics: There were 12 structural and 1 brush, 1 rubbish and 2 vehicle fires; 105 medical alarms and 11 miscellaneous emergencies. There were no unusual incidents in the area.

Fire Safety Tip for the Month: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. Be responsible and extinguish fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Formulate plans and communicate with family members and neighbors to create a safer community. Report and remove hazards. Maintain a 30-foot wide firebrake



by clearing vegetation surrounding all structures. (This mostly pertains to the west side of the island at Makaha and Nanakuli.)

For further information on creating a safe space around your home, street or community, contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise Communities at 808-281-3497 to go to www.firewise.org.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Sgt. David Yomes, Sgt. Ontiveros, (Kalihi Police Station), gave the statistics for February 2007: Arguments 59, assaults 8, burglaries 5, drugs and narcotics 1, DUI 1, homicide 1, motor vehicle theft 16, motor vehicle collision 83, property damage 17, robbery 1, sex offenses 1, theft 35, UEMV 19. The one homicide happened in District 1 but the arrest was in Liliha.

Sgt. Yomes reported the School Street and Nuuanu Avenue area has been watched day and night with citations issued. On Kapalama Avenue there were citations given for running stop signs. At Kunawai Park at late night hours there were checks made and two people were arrested for warrants in the park. There was no drinking at that time.

Sgt. Yomes wanted to know if the disturbance in Kunawai Park happened before or after 10:00 p.m. Before 10:00 p.m. HPD can only talk to the people in the park because they can legally be in the park. HPD will continue to make checks in that park because that is an issue that has been brought up by this Board a couple times. HPD will hold the officers accountable for the checks that were done and how any violations were handled.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Nitta explained that the boys were talked to and given warnings but when the police left, the boys came back again. The Board member wanted the police to cite them so they would quit coming back; he thought it was after 10:00 p.m. Sgt. Yomes said they can't cite juveniles (they must arrest them) but they can cite adults for being in the park. If there was a second call made, the officer should have made the arrest. Children 15 and under are breaking the curfew law and can be arrested if they are out from 10 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.; just call police to report it.
2. Nitta explained Fowler wanted the police to break up the gang fight with boys using baseball bats and not just give them a warning - they should go one more step. Sgt. Yomes said the person who sees the boys coming back after they were warned should call 911 and ask for a supervisor so we can make sure the situation is taken care of. Sgt. Yomes will make sure the officers know the park is a hot spot and to check it regularly.
3. Sgt. Yomes responded to Stubbs concerning pedestrian/crosswalk citations that he asks his officers on his third watch on a monthly basis to issue a certain number of citations; for February they issued 107 citations. They just started keeping track of all pedestrian accidents and pedestrian violations and they will look at preparing the statistics Stubbs mentioned.
4. Kuo complimented the Sgt. because walking by Kunawai Park during the month and on weekends he saw increased enforcement by the police and the past week there has been less loitering after hours at the park.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

1. Flight pattern of Emergency Helicopters in Neighborhood Board #14 Area – A few months ago concerns were expressed about helicopters flying overhead midday in Liliha affecting our quality of life. With the recent two helicopter crashes on Kauai, an FAA investigator reported their crash investigation concluded, "the contributing factor to the crash was the lax enforcement of the flight

rules by the FAA” and that really concerned Kuo because potentially the situation could get worse. However, since last night’s helicopter crash there will no doubt be a lot more people watching this issue. Kuo suggested the Board take action, perhaps the Congressional delegation should provide more oversight or support the FAA so they can properly support the flight rules, making sure the flights fly above certain altitudes to minimize the impact of noise and lessen the safety risk if any unexpected thing should happen.

Kuo moved and Youngquist seconded to send a letter to the congressional delegation requesting more support and supervision to help the FAA enforce their flight rules and regulations.

Discussion ensued. **The motion was not adopted, voting 5-2-2 (Yes:** Kuo, Youngquist, Stubbs, Glanstein, Thompson; **No:** Nitta and Uehara; **Abstain:** Kam and White). Seven (7) votes were required to adopt the motion.

2. Hill Crest Area – No one present for discussion.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Vice-Chair Stubbs read the Board of Water Supply report that was delivered to him as Iris Oda was not in attendance. The highlights were:

1. No main breaks in February
2. The deadline for participating in the 2007 Water Conservation Week Poster Contest whose theme is “Conserving Water Starts With Me” is tomorrow, March 13. The winners will receive a savings bond and their artwork will be featured in the 2008 Water Conservation Calendar distributed to island elementary schools and the general public. The posters are an effective outreach tool to teach children and their parents about the importance of sufficiently using one of our most precious resources – water.
3. Water Savings Tip: Use hose washers between spigots and water hoses to eliminate leaks. If you have a swimming pool, consider a new water-saving pool filter. A single back flushing with a traditional filter uses from 180 to 250 gallons or more of water.

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM – Claude Uehara distributed Tam’s report and there were no questions.

MAYOR’S REPRESENTATIVE - Debbie Morikawa reminded everyone that “The Family Festival” will take place at Ala Moana Beach Park at the end of this month. Reviewing the issues from last month’s meeting, she reported the following:

1. Cement spill at Lanakila Elementary School –This was an inadvertent cement spill that the City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will take care of, but she doesn’t know how soon.
2. The strong smell at Ward Avenue – that exists because they are doing sewer work in the area.
3. The four-way stop at Kapalama Avenue and Hala Drive - The City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will conduct a study to see if a four-way stop is necessary as well as a fourth crosswalk on Kapalama Avenue on the mauka side of the intersection. DTS expects to provide the findings of the study by June 2007. If you have any questions, please call Sara Toyama at 768-8336.

4. Timing of traffic lights at Liliha, Judd and Kuakini Streets - She is still awaiting a response from the DTS as to how they determine what amount of "walk" time is considered "adequate".
5. Walkways on Lanakila Avenue – Kuo reported that on March 3, 2007 a road crew came out and filled in gaps in the sidewalk with asphalt.

Questions, answers, and concerns:

1. Resident Li asked about Kunawai Park renovation and Uehara reported \$600,000 was budgeted to repair the recreation building and the restrooms. Li heard the lowest bid came in much lower than that and wondered if the remaining money could be used to fix the pond on the makai side of Kunawai Lane, which seems to be drying up and the fish in the pond are dying. Uehara said the money is set aside for the renovation of the park; he will ask if the money could be used for this issue.
2. Vice-Chair Stubbs asked for a resident, what are the legal requirements if a neighbor's leaves from their tree falls onto the neighbor's yard creating a mess – is the neighbor required to clean it up? If the leaves blow on the public road in front of your house, are you required to clean up that green trash? Morikawa said since this is on private property it is a civil issue between neighbors.
3. Morikawa responded to Vice-Chair Stubbs about his seeing a significant increase in the number of potholes that there was a backlog on getting asphalt and a great deal of rain. Trustin identified the way to find the pothole hotline on the homepage of the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) web site at www.honolulu.gov/nco. The link to the potholes is at the bottom of the page under "Links". When you click on "Potholes" a form comes up that you can fill in. Morikawa advised that the website is the quickest way to get a response from the City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM).

GOVERNOR'S REPORT - Henry Oliva circulated the Governor's report. He pointed out a few items:

1. The State of Hawaii has formed a partnership with NASA, the National Aeronautic Space Administration, to explore opportunities for future collaborations in commercial space initiatives and innovative programs supporting research, education and work force development in the aerospace field; the State is very excited about this partnership.
2. Eddie Flores, Jr, president and CEO of L & L Drive-In, which was originally established in Liliha, is being recognized as Sales and Marketing Executives of Honolulu's 2006 "Salesperson of the Year" for his efforts to support the community.

REPRESENTATIVE CHUN-OAKLAND – Natasha Wong representing Representative Chun-Oakland reported on the following:

1. Explained what is covered for children on Quest and Medicaid.
2. Asked for support for Aloha Aina Day, March 24, 2007 by bringing bulky items to support recycling and raise funds for the Farrington High School athletic department.
3. Provided Councilmember Tam's letter to Senator Chun-Oakland explaining the installation of a traffic signal near St. Theresa School.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Vice-Chair Stubbs is very concerned that so many people are leaving out bulky items for pickup on many major streets when it is not their designated day for pick-up. Glanstein suggested at last month's meeting to solve the problem that bulky items should no longer be picked up making individuals responsible for taking the items themselves to the recycling sites. Since Vice-Chair Stubbs was not at the last meeting, Morikawa explained when the City Department of Environmental Services (ENV) became more conscientious, responding to more citizen calls, they found people began thinking "if we just take it out, someone will take it away," and people just started taking items out seemingly whenever they had something to discard rather than waiting for their scheduled pick-up day. He sees the worst offenders are renters who are moving and dump their unneeded items. Morikawa suggested notifying the apartment associations, if possible, to deal with this problem.
2. Thompson lives in the Anapuni neighborhood consisting of single family homes and only one apartment building which continually puts out bulky items. Morikawa will investigate about their rights to put out bulky items.

REPRESENTATIVE CORINNE CHING - Representative Ching reported the following:

1. She is drafting up information on the Heritage Caucus.
2. The Debit Card Bill passed over to the Senate. This bill assists teachers to buy their own supplies and innovative curriculum tools wherever they find them, which is often at workshops or book fairs offering discounted prices. Using the card bypasses the school's protocol which is often a lengthy process delaying the receipt of the products and not taking advantage of discounted workshop prices. With their debit card they can make purchases anywhere and meanwhile a principal can have access to check where the money is going.
3. She is asking support for a resolution being introduced called "Recognizing the Nuuanu/Liliha Corridor as the Nuuanu/Liliha Historic Corridor." The area was chosen as the most historic corridor on Oahu which extends down to Chinatown; this will give more credence to the importance of preserving places like the Walker Estate. One historic corridor is chosen for each island.
4. Representative Berg introduced a resolution regarding the A+ program asking it focus more on academics which will be heard Wednesday, March 21.
5. Each year Rep. Ching can nominate a person to be recognized for their service to the community and this year she has chosen Mr. Paul Matsuoka who will be honored on the floor of the House this Friday, March 16 for his long time involvement with children as well as other special contributions. She asked any of the Neighborhood Board members to call her office if they will be attending and she will introduce them in the gallery.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Youngquist asked her to comment on the gambling bill. She doesn't think Hawaii needs gambling – there are many beautiful things to enjoy here. When Mr. Hemmeter moved to New Orleans, she did her own research and asked the people there how they were receiving him and his casinos. They said unequivocally that gambling was a detriment to New Orleans because of their city's unique tourist-based economy causing their tourist income to decrease with lowered attendance at museums and heritage events in favor of families going to gambling casinos.

This telephone card bill is the beginning of introducing gambling here, therefore she introduced a bill to prohibit these telephone cards with HB 1836.

2. She clarified the specific boundaries of the Nuuanu/Liliha historic corridor as the entire valley of Nuuanu from the Koolaus on both sides of the valley all the way down to the water. Chinatown was like the "Ellis Island" of Hawaii where nationalities converged which is why you have the first Korean and Japanese temples in Liliha because it is close to Chinatown. She doesn't think the historic corridor includes Lanakila Avenue; she will check with Historic Preservation Hawaii.

Representative John Mizuno – No representative or report presented.

Hawaiian Immersion School – Leina'ala Medeiros reported she works with the non-profit school Ala Punana Leo specializing in strictly a Hawaiian emergence curriculum from pre-school through the college years established in 1985. There is an opportunity for them to lease a building at 243 North Judd Street for classes of three and four year olds. She is aware there are two other pre-schools on that street. Since it is in a Residential-5 zone, the school is required to seek approval and support from our Neighborhood Board here. They were invited by the family who owns the property to look at it. The school hopes with reconstruction and community support, they will be able to open up at this site. They want to close and consolidate their current two sites which are on the grounds of Kawaihae Church with 27 students and four staff and spaced is leased at a church in Moanalua serving 25 children and four staff. The location is 1/8 mile before the cemetery on the makai side of Judd Street. Parents drive into the school, turn around and drop the students off. They will only serve a maximum of 45 students; the total number of staff throughout the day would be no more than nine and the school would be in operation from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. The school's main media staff is one in number on Oahu where most of our printing but our main office is in Hilo and they don't see the staff number getting larger.
2. The proposed lot is 1.1 acres. The school would only be leasing the large house with an option to purchase the large house only; there are residential homes behind it. The first floor will be used as a pre-school and the upstairs will be for offices. Parking would need to be provided for handicapped in front of the school. An architect, electrician and carpenters have seen the building making sure it is up to code and noted all the required changes.
3. The school does have monthly meetings that are required by the parents, so at the most, once a month, we would have a meeting which would involve 45 – 50 cars being parked from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. and sometimes from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. They are working on sharing spaces with the other schools on the block.
4. Vice-Chair Stubbs' only concern is that Judd Street is a major artery coming down off Alewa Heights for those going to the Pali highway; coming from the North Judd area, Mahalo Street, and Lanakila Avenue. He is concerned about the effect on traffic, particularly in the mornings for people coming from Liliha Street making left turns across the traffic and one lane out stopping the traffic. This would be 1/8 of a mile away from Waolani Judd School, at Liliha and Judd Streets.
5. She responded to Youngquist about licenses they are required to attain. The City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) requires that the school come before the Neighborhood Board seeking approval for our project to continue the process of receiving a Conditional Use Permit. The State of Hawaii Department of Human Services, who licenses teachers, requires the school

follow the statutory laws required for a preschool program and they want to abide by those rules. The State Department of Human Services also does teacher background checks and all federal licenses.

6. On this particular project the school has an advisory board of professional business people who help and support the project by helping to raise money to build the structure. At this point Kamehameha School has offered us \$2 million and they do get some funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Most of the federal grants are ending soon so the school is currently projecting to increase tuition and seek private donations from businesses that are interested in the Hawaiian immersion program. There is a need to consolidate and this will cut costs. Both places where we are currently located have other non-profits on their sites so we are competing for the use of the facilities at the schools.
7. She reported parents now attend language school twice a month in Honolulu with their whole families and friends, usually for an hour. At Kawaiaho'a Church and at all other sites the meeting is once a month for an hour.
8. The school was advised by DPP to come to this Board meeting before talking with their potential neighbors on Judd Street. Because of the amount of work they need to complete before moving, they see that happening in the next year and a half to two years, or at the most three years.
9. Vice-Chair Stubbs stated previously, when proposed projects wanted to move into the neighborhood, a petition was required before the Board would vote to make sure there would be good relations between the proposed project, that particular neighborhood area, and the Board. He wants to see the survey responses of the people who will be affected by the school and the traffic that will be created.
10. Kuo supports the Hawaiian Immersion school program but is concerned about the density of 45 children and nine teachers on a 1.1 acre site. On the night of the Hawaiian language meeting there could be over 100 people and their cars on that site. Medeiros reported they are looking at an alternative site in Ewa on Fort Weaver Road. Concerning the number of parked cars on the one-acre lot, they hope to share a parking lot with the other pre-schools on that street. Kuo said there is an empty lot by St. Luke's Church which used to be a nursery; Medeiros has seen it.
11. Vice-Chair Stubbs reported the Board hasn't required surveys of other schools but they were established schools. The Board always has required a survey be done when parking and traffic are affected in the area. Huna and Huli Streets are an example – a survey was required before the City would act. The other survey that was required the Board voted on without having considered it properly (Na Pueo Park operational hours and dog rules) and he thinks it would be irresponsible for the Board to approve something without getting community input.

Kam moved and White seconded that this item stay on the agenda for the next meeting, provided their organization notifies the neighbors of that area about the location of the meeting and provides copies of the notification to the Board. Nitta suggested the address of the school, 243 Judd Street, should be on the agenda. Therefore the motion was amended to add "243 North Judd Street" in the agenda item. **The motion that this item stay on the agenda for the next meeting, provided their organization notifies the neighbors of that area (243 North Judd Street) about the location of the meeting and provides copies of the notification to the Board, was ADOPTED by unanimous consent.**

Adoption of a Congratulatory Resolution Honoring McKinley High School Basketball Team -

Kuo reported he also wants to honor the Farrington High School Varsity Basketball Team. There are students in the neighborhood attending both schools, some of whom he knows personally, who had a very outstanding year in basketball. McKinley High won the Division 2 State Championship and Farrington finished third. Kuo thinks many of these kids would agree it wouldn't be possible to have won without the support of many people who come to this meeting - from the State supporting the high school athletic programs, the City maintaining the parks and sponsoring the recreational league and the police sponsoring the Police Athletic League (PAL). He feels if not for all the Board members working hard every month to keep up the park maintenance so they can stay open, the kids wouldn't have positive activities to keep them off the street. Too often the Board hears about kids sitting on the walls of the park getting cited for drinking and in trouble in other ways, but stories like this are a reminder that there are positive things to be done to instill pride and joy into the community. He feels such success is worthy of the Board adopting congratulatory resolutions and perhaps sending certificates to the school to show the neighborhood's appreciation.

Kuo moved and White seconded to have Kuo draft a Certificate of Recognition for the McKinley and Farrington High School Basketball Teams with Chair Moepono's signature, and send it to each team, which was ADOPTED by unanimous consent.

Kuo read the inscription to go on a City Neighborhood Board Certificate as follows: "Certificate of Congratulations. As officers of the City & County of Honolulu, we hereby commend the McKinley High School Varsity Basketball Team for a successful season that brings joy and pride to our community." Another certificate with the same wording will go to the Farrington High School's team.

NEW BUSINESS: None

TREASURER'S REPORT – There was no Treasurer's Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Mr. Ben Kama, past Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission Office passed away February 13, 2007. **Unanimous consent was used to allow Chair Moepono to send a sympathy card to the Benjamin Kama's family.**
2. The next scheduled meeting will be held April 9, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Trustin
Neighborhood Assistant