



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

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008 MA'EMA'E ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Stubbs with a quorum of eight members present at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Wesley Fong, Loy Kuo, Maddie Lum, Lester Matsomoto, Sesnita Moepono, Don Nitta, Karen Shishido, Chair Bob Stubbs, Dale White.

Members Absent: Claude Uehara, Arvid Youngquist.

Member Seats Vacant: One in Sub-district 1.

Guests: Sgt. K. Kessler (Honolulu Police Department, Kalihi Station), Capt. P. Shimizu (Honolulu Fire Department, Kuakini Station), Henry Oliva (Governor's Representative, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services), Debbie Kim Morikawa (Mayor's Representative, Director, Department of Community Services), Lydia Chock (Maluhia Hospital), Iris Oda, Steve Teruya, Finance Factors Francis Nishimura, Willa Donnelly, Representative Corinne Ching, Colette Devou (Representative Corinne Ching's office), Dennis Arakaki (Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland's office), Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2007 – The minutes were approved as distributed. The Board recessed in December.

FILLING OF A VACANCY IN SUBDISTRICT 1 – There were no volunteers to fill the vacancy.

EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' FORUM

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. P. Shimizu, Kuakini Station, read the statistics from the month of December as follows: 10 structure, 2 rubbish and 2 vehicle fires, 88 medical emergencies, 8 search and rescue and 6 miscellaneous emergencies. There were no major or unusual incidents.

Fire Safety Tip: Ensure that your smoke alarms are functioning properly by testing them regularly in the presence of all household members. Practice your escape plan together. As a result of a smoke alarm and a parent's quick response, a child's life was saved. The child was unable to escape from the room where the fire originated; however, the parent told Fire Investigators that upon hearing the smoke alarm, she went to the room to investigate and was able to save her child.

There were no questions for the Fire Department.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) - Sgt. K. Kessler reported the current statistics compared to those from the previous month. He noted high number of car collisions around the Pali Highway involving the large number of visitors at the lookouts and trails, as well as residents going to the Windward side.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Unauthorized entry into motor vehicles are mostly at lookouts which HPD monitors via private companies that have cameras.
2. Sgt. Kessler noted the large amount of fireworks being shot off since Thanksgiving is from leftovers from the previous New Year's and the Fourth of July. HPD must witness a violation to take action. The penalty for aials is jail time and fines. Police can give criminal citations which summons a person to court.



3. Sgt. K. Kessler explained that the designated "No Parking" areas around bus stops are 90 feet in front and behind a bus stop. At times these locations are not marked if a bus stop was moved and the signs were not replaced to reflect that change.
4. A Makaanani Drive resident a parking problem on Saturdays and Sundays at the Natsunoya Tea House. Capt. Shimizu reported HFD is trying to get parking only on one side of the street.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS: Nishimura expressed concern about the Kuakini Extension Project which was the first item of Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Kuakini Extension Project Update - Francis Nishimura reported that the City and State continue to meet on this issue. City personnel were unable to attend the January 8, 2008 meeting thus it could not proceed. The City representative attended the December 6, 2007 meeting and offered to bring information to the planned December 13th meeting but was unable to attend. Nishimura continued, the City asked the State to assist with the city project and if a representative cannot attend, he feels the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) should send someone else. Nishimura asked Morikawa to contact DTS and ask for cost information showing how much money is left in the account for this project, so that the projected costs for funding can be given to Senator Chun Oakland. Nishimura asked Morikawa to solicit the Mayor's help.

Kunawai Park – Morikawa reported that MJ Construction has been awarded the contract for this project. The Notice to Proceed will go to the contractor in three to four weeks and they usually start a little bit later. This gives them a 300 day contract with possible construction beginning in February. The Project Manager will be Dan Takamatsu.

Brownfields Program Follow-Up – Chair Stubbs explained the definition of a Brownfields is a City project for properties that may contain hazardous substances, pollutants, petroleum or contaminants that hinder their redevelopment. ERM has the contract with the City to works on Brownfields. Please call Chair Stubbs if you notice such sites or contact Ashley Kerr at Ashley.kerr@erm.com.

OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES' FORUM:

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Iris Oda distributed their 2008 Water Conservation Calendar that includes art work from winners of their 2007 art contest for school age children. The calendars suggest ways to conserve water and are available in the lobby of the Board of Water Supply main office on Beretania Street. This month's water safety tips are as follows:

- Operate dish washers and clothes washers only when fully loaded or properly set the water level for the size of the load you are using.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill one sink or basin with soapy water. Quickly rinse under a slow-moving stream from the faucet.

There were four main breaks in November and December (the board was on recess in December and therefore did not hear the November announcements). They were as follows:

- November 18 at Lanakila Avenue and Kamaka Lane a 6 inch pipe broke installed in 1938.
- November 23 at 2137 Bachelot Street a 6 inch pipe broke installed in 1939.
- December 3 at 1530 Kealia Drive, a 6 inch pipe broke installed in 1930.
- December 16 at 2151 Hillcrest Street a 6 inch pipe broke installed in 1928.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. BWS's plan is to prepare for possible pipe breakage next winter using their program for repairing and replacing pipes.
2. Fong advised Oda the repairs are completed on the water main on Alewa Drive and asked when the repaving date for that area was projected. Follow-up will be done.

Councilmember Rod Tam – A written report was circulated.

Mayor's Report – Debbie Morikawa gave announcements from the Mayor as follows:

- A Month in Chinatown from now until February 7, Chinese New Year. For more information go to www.chinatownhi.com or call 948-2007.
- This Wednesday, January 16, there is a Job Quest Job Fair sponsored by Honolulu Worklinks held at the Blaisdell Center.
- On Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a hearing at Washington Middle School regarding EPA's decision to have a secondary treatment plant at Sand Island. The City feels the need for secondary treatment is unnecessary. All of the experts have confirmed that there has been no negative impact to the environment as a result of the outfall and forcing the city to do secondary treatment will be extremely costly to taxpayers. The Mayor feels the City should focus on the force mains and, if that is addressed, it can prevent incidences like what happened in Waikiki.
- Thursday, February 21, will be the Mayor's State of the City address.

Morikawa followed up on the questions at the last meeting:

- A letter of response was received from the Wayne Yoshioka, Director of the Department of Transportation, regarding safety concerns raised on Frog Lane by resident Mr. Shimazu. There was a petition attached to the letter but Chair Stubbs reported Mr. Shimazu decided not to pursue changes on Frog Lane agreeing that the change probably wasn't necessary.
- The Department of Planning and Permitting is not aware of any affordable housing project in the Kunawai area. They worked with a couple people one or two years ago on preliminary questions for a 201H project near the Palama Settlement. There was also vague mention of a project near the existing Maluhia (Hospital) for the elderly on Hala Drive, near Kunawai Lane. Nothing concrete has been submitted to them for review or response in the past year of which they are aware.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. When the scope of the Kunawai Project was discussed last year by Councilmember Tam, Kuo mentioned there could be some leaking around the pond on the makai side of the road and asked if there was money in the budget to fix it. Morikawa doubted there would be money in the project now if they are issuing a "Notice to Proceed" so soon. Kuo thinks the design over time has allowed water to sprout from unanticipated places. Morikawa will follow up.
2. Nitta advised that there is an unsafe crumbling stone wall at Pohaku and North School streets.
3. Fong reported the Department of Parks and Recreation rectified the problem of the rocks on the walking path in Na Pueo Park.
4. White reported two potholes on Judd Street and asked to have fixed were both repaired and a big tree that was knocked down in the cemetery which was attended to.

Governor's Representative – Henry Oliva was not able to stay until he could give his report; the Governor's report was circulated.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland – Senator Chun Oakland was not in attendance; a packet of information was distributed.

Moepono noted a brochure Senator Chun Oakland distributed, a Healthy Home Guide, recognized a healthy helper, Nurse Willa Donnelly.

Representative Corinne Ching – Colette Devou reported that in the Representative's report it is noted there will be trolley service for Liliha residents to ride to the capitol for the opening of the legislature this Wednesday, January 16th. Her packet of information included a list of issues Representative Ching endorses and she asked the public to rank them by their priority; she would appreciate comments and suggestions as feedback. There is also a survey asking for opinions and ranking issues in order of importance from residents. Use the number one to indicate the most important.

Devou asked for a spelling change on the agenda of Representative Ching's first name to "Corinne."

Representative Ching arrived and invited everyone to the opening of the Legislature from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She noted the "I Love Liliha" festival is held the last Saturday of August; this year it will be August 30th. For those who did not receive her calendar, please call her office to request one.

Representative John Mizuno – Representative Mizuno was not in attendance; no report was given.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Factor's Liliha Branch – Steven Teruya, President and Chief Operating Officer of their Liliha and Kuakini branches, announced they are in the midst of over an \$100,000 renovation at the Liliha Branch at Liliha and Kuakini Streets. He distributed an architect's rendering to the Board showing both the Liliha and Kuakini street elevations of the building's exteriors.

- Liliha Street will be widened for the length of the property to create a right hand turn lane onto Kuakini Street and Long's has to do the same things on their side of Liliha. Finance Factors will also upgrade the sidewalk for the length of their property.
- The building has 11 rental units and two commercial sites, one where Masu's used to operate and there is a new barber in the barber shop.
- Finance Factors is providing their 11 parking stalls to residents in the building on weekdays, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m., and on weekends.
- Teruya and Finance Factor's CEO, Russell Lau, met with Representative Ching to show her sketches of their design with a "retro look" to blend in with the Liliha community. Representative Ching's only suggestion was to incorporate the clock that was on the building which they will put above the entrance on the corner of the building.
- The entire 2,000 square foot area where Masu's was will be used for the Finance Factors Branch. Above that are three residences which they will restore to their original state. The Kuakini Street side of the building will be painted but most of the renovation will be on the Liliha Street side.
- They expect their exterior work will be completed in April and then the interior work can begin which is projected to take three to four months to complete.
- They project their eleven parking spaces will be a sufficient number for their clients. They expect to open for business in July or August. A new branch of the same size will open in Manoa around the same time.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Fong and Chair Stubbs thanked Finance Factors for preserving the integrity of the Liliha neighborhood preserving the existing building, and Russell Lau for taking an interest in his old neighborhood.
2. Their purchase of the entire lot with the Honda property, since it is built up and rented out, they see as a benefit to their business.
3. Kuo asked Finance Factors to consult with the engineer, when widening Liliha Street, to consider the safety of the many children and people who are visually impaired who cross at that intersection. Currently there are chimes at that crossing to assist residents. Teruya reported the consultant advised that the crossing time for pedestrians will be lengthened when the street is widened.
4. Looking at the architect's rendering, Kuo asked if the parapet was necessary since the nice clock would be there also. He did not like the parapet feature and he hopes it will not be vandalized giving them a constant maintenance problem. Teruya said most buildings have the t parapet with the bars; it was an intentional choice.
5. Kuo is concerned about the functionality of the intersection if Long's doesn't widen their side of Liliha Street. Teruya explained that their intent to widen the road is not to go across the street; it is only for a right hand turn lane so it wouldn't affect the whole intersection. Chair Stubbs advised that Long's construction was delayed because their initial design of a two story building had ADA requirements for an elevator so they redesigned it to be a one-story building.
6. Representative Ching appreciated that Finance Factors made the extra effort and did research so their building fit in with Liliha architecture.
7. Representative Ching responded to Kuo's comment about possible graffiti on the Finance Factors building noting that she repainted the Henry Ho Building, as the architect specified, to make it beautiful, which was previously graffiti riddled. Making something beautiful has kept graffiti artists away for nine months. She thinks the exterior clock and this proposed building will be beautiful and will also keep graffiti artists away.

Shopping Cart Resolution from McCully/Moiliili Neighborhood Board No. 8 – Fong wanted to examine the resolution more carefully before voting on it. Thompson gave his input on the resolution as a former employee of

the Hawaii Food Industry Association that represents the supermarkets and he noticed there were a few policies mentioned in the resolution that were already in place.

- In Section 4: If the owner authorizes the removal of a cart, they would have to have something in writing to authorize that.
- In Section 5: Removal of a shopping cart is prohibited by law; there is a City ordinance in place regarding this.
- In Section 8c: the redemption fee is penalizing the victim because the store is going to have to pay to get the carts back. Generally, most of the stores have crews to pick up carts when contacted by phone to do so. It is just unfortunate that so many carts are taken off supermarket lots. Some of the options stores have looked at are carts that lock when they get to the edge of their property so the cart cannot go beyond the parking lot. Some stores, because of the design of their lot, cannot take advantage of that idea.

Fong moved to table any action on the Shopping Cart Resolution seconded by Thompson. Discussion followed:

1. Fong asked if the police would remove the carts.
2. Thompson noted the police were given the job of picking up the carts in the past and putting them in their trunks, but they no longer want to do it. Thompson will call the president of the Food Industry Association asking grocery stores to make their phone numbers more easily visible for the public to call for shopping cart pick up. Thompson advised Councilmember Cachola has a shopping cart bill before the City Council.
3. A resident noted there are many abandoned carts at Akepo Lane and have not been removed. **The vote to table this resolution until the next meeting was adopted by unanimous consent, 9-0-0.**

Postage Stamp Resolution Honoring the Japanese American World War II Veterans – Fong explained this topic was seen in California newspapers a few months ago because many communities in that state wanted to recognize two Japanese American units; the 442nd Battalion and the military intelligence unit that served in WWII. Representative John Mizuno spearheaded an effort to get this resolution passed in Hawaii; an opportunity to recognize the Nisei, (second generation Japanese Americans), who dedicated their lives to defending our country when they were being ostracized and had to live in relocation camps. Being a Vietnam Veteran, Fong was very proud the military from Hawaii had recognition for their Nisei. In all the battles they fought, especially a famous rescue of 200 men from a Texas battalion, the 100th Battalion lost 400 of their Japanese American men in the effort. As a result they were awarded 15 Medal of Honors and many Presidential Unit Citations. The Japanese community in California and Hawaii are wholeheartedly in support of having a commemorative stamp to recognize the heroism and patriotism of these two famous battalions, many of whom are now passing away. The 100th Battalion is part of the 9th Reserve Support Command that is still active. The 100th Battalion completed a tour in Iraq and are scheduled to return there, now part of the 29th Infantry Brigade. Fong is also a member of the Military Officers Association of America, Aloha Chapter, that has adopted a similar resolution.

Fong moved the board adopt this Resolution seconded by Thompson. There were no objections to amending the resolution. Chair Stubbs asked for two amendments to the Resolution. In line one of the third to the last paragraph, change the word “incarceration” to “internment”. In the last paragraph add to the list of people it is sent to including the Governor and the Mayor. Thompson asked the Resolution also be sent to Senator Akaka who sits on a committee that is involved with the Post Office. He was involved in the Duke Kahanamoku stamp and the renaming of the Liliha Post Office to Senator Hiram Fong Post Office. When Thompson worked for Senator Akaka, one initiative was to recognize members of the 442nd and the 100th Battalions who did not receive the Medal of Honor because of the past racial hysteria going on during World War II because of their Japanese ethnicity. Research was done and those who should have received the Medal of Honor were given them.

The amendments were incorporated adding the following names at the end of the last paragraph starting with “Be Finally Resolved” that copies of this Resolution be sent to ... The Governor of the State of Hawaii, The Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Hawaii United State Congressional Delegation, State Representative John Mizuno, State Senator Les Ihara.

Moepono moved to adopt the amended resolution seconded by Thompson. The board adopted the amended resolution by unanimous consent, 9-0-0. Chair Stubbs called for a vote on the main motion as amended and it was adopted by unanimous consent, 9-0-0. (See attached).

Chair Stubbs changed the agenda order when Dennis Arakaki arrived to represent Senator Chun Oakland.

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland – Dennis Arakaki wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted he is a retired legislator and used to serve this board representing the Kapalama and Kamehameha Heights area. As Senator Chun Oakland's Community Representative, Senator Chun Oakland invited everyone to visit her office on the opening day of the legislature.

- Senator Chun Oakland's packet had a listing of the all the Committees. She chairs the Committee on Human Services and Public Housing, and serves on the Education Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee.
- The Legislative Bill Timetable shows the last day to submit bills is on January 23rd. March 12th is the last day to submit substantive concurrent resolutions and the day when the House completes their Supplemental Budget. April 10th is the day the bills that survived cross over to the other house and the Legislative Session ends May 1st.
- Senator Chun Oakland extends her office to the board regarding any bills, resolutions or community concerns they may have.

There were no questions or concerns for the Senator.

9. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS – There were no community organization reports.

10. BOARD BUSINESS

Transportation and Safety Committee Report – There was no report.

Establish and appoint Committee Chairs as needed – There was no establishment of Committee Chairs.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT – White reported the Board's beginning balance in December was \$2,999.00, there were expenses of \$29.92 which left a balance of \$2,727.20.

12. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Trustin
Neighborhood Assistant