



KALIHI – PALAMA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 15

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-draft WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008 KAPALAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bernie Young called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum of 13 was present of this 19 member Board. A vote of 10 is required for the Board to take action.

MEMBERS PRESENT – John Dell, Ken Harding, Donald Guerrero, Roland Louie, Jesusa Rone, Rodolfo Ibay, Florendo Juan, Fetu Kolio, Calvin Konno, Alyn Vasquez, David Yaw, Shane Yaw, and Bernadette Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT – Cardy Fang and Jennifer Waihe'e.

VACANCIES – Four vacancies in Sub-District 3: One is Sub-District 1:

GUESTS: Kurt Kawafuchi (Governor Lingle's Representative), Representative Karl Rhoads' office, Representative Joey Manahan, Dennis Galolo (Councilmember Romy Cachola's office), Capt. Jarin Wong (Honolulu Fire Department-HPD), Sgt. C. Piros (Honolulu Police Department-HPD), Ross Tsukenjo (Senator Kim's office), Barry Usagawa (Board of Water Supply-BWS), Tommy Johnson (State Department of Public Safety), Darryl Tamanaha, Bob Navai, Eleanor Pua Kolio, Lorraine Robinson (TJ Mahoney & Associates), Mary Chanel-Benjamin (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff-NCO).

VOTE TO FILL THE VACANCIES – Chair Young asked the public if anyone was interested in filling Board vacancies. D. Guerrero said he would like to fill the sub-district one vacancy. He stated he lived at 1015 N. School Street and was retired. D. Yaw asked D. Guerrero what he would bring to the Board as a member. D. Guerrero stated he was active in community affairs especially with the senior citizen community. **Dell moved and D. Yaw seconded to nominate D. Guerrero for the sub-district 1 vacancy.** The motion was **ADOPTED** by unanimous consent. (13-0-0; Dell, Kolio, Louie, Waihee, Young, Vasquez, Ibay, Konno, Rone, D. Yaw, S. Yaw, F. Juan, Harding) No one came forward for sub-district 3 vacancies. A short recess was called by Chair Young in order for the NA to administer the Oath of Office to new member D. Guerrero. Meeting was called back to order by Chair Young.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD):

Honolulu District 1 – District 1 was not present; no report was available.

Kalihi District 5 – Sgt. C. Piros reported total statistics for last month included: 1) 225 arguments, 35 assaults, 37 burglaries, 4 narcotic/drugs arrests, 15 DUI, 17 family offenses, 14 motor vehicle thefts, 219 MVC, 38 property damage, 6 robberies, 68 thefts and 29 UEMV. 2) There were 5 pedestrian collisions; 4 pedestrians were hit while still in the cross walk. HPD urged the public to drive safely and look out for pedestrians. HPD also encouraged wearing bright reflective clothing if intending to walk in public areas. 3) A Weed & Seed five month investigation resulted in the arrests of several people in the district thanks to the help of citizens and the Mayor's office. Those arrested will serve jail time and be placed on geographical restriction.

Questions and concerns:

- Vasquez wanted to clarify that she did not intend to complain regarding HPD's response time to a citizen's concern recorded in the Board minutes. She said Officer Mata contacted her to confirm the report. NA, Mary Chanel-Benjamin told Vasquez the report was not from the April meeting minutes but from the March minutes. Vasquez brought up this original concern during citizens' concern after HPD left the March meeting; therefore, this information was included on the Mayor's concern report and remained unanswered due to the lack of a Mayor's representative attendance at the Board meetings.
- Chair Young said the proposed Awa Street Park closure would have to be placed on the next agenda.
- Juan commended HPD presence at Kalakaua Park; it's been graffiti free for almost one month.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Wong reported: 1) Station No. 6 had 2 structure fires, 1 rubbish fire, 2 vehicle fires and 13 miscellaneous calls. Station No. 31 had 1 structure fire, 2 rubbish fires, 1 boat fire, 31 medical



response and 1 search and rescue. Station 32 had 3 rubbish fires, 74 medical emergencies and 4 miscellaneous calls. 2) Fire Safety Tip; The risk of wild land fires increases as summer approaches. Make a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing vegetation and clutter around all structures. Have an emergency preparedness plan ready in case of emergency evacuation. Consider the need for fire department access.

Questions and concerns:

- Dell asked if EMS as first responders were covered by HFD budget. HFD said he believed they were on a separate budget however he will report his findings at the next meeting.
- D. Galolo said the boat destroyed by the fire was in need of removal. Representative Manahan said jurisdiction had to be established first; Rene Mansho with Hawaii Recycles has agreed to remove the damaged boat.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – B. Usagawa reported: 1) three main water breaks in the district; the usual areas near Kamehameha Shopping Center has been recently hit with main breaks. 2) June 1 through 7 is BWS “detect a leak” week; BWS distributed dye tablets for toilet tanks. 3) Dramatic increases in fuel prices are making it necessary to implement a modest adjustment to your water bill. July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, a new power cost adjustment line will appear on water bills; an average of \$1.22 a month.

Questions and concerns:

- D. Yaw was curious to know if Oahu was under a water conservation watch; numerous television advertisements regarding conserving water were currently on the air. BWS said supply was plentiful; however, water conservation is always welcomed. B. Usagawa also added that only underground water was 100% filtered for drinking; 65% chlorinated with less additives. Surface water was recycled for watering large golf courses. He went on to say that by the year 2020 through 2025 BWS may experience water demands to grow to about 185-mile per day in usage. The Ewa district water demand is increasing while the downtown district is declining and has balanced the demand out so far. He also added that no new pipelines are needed for the demand in the Ewa and Waipahu districts.
- Harding said BWS’s building on Beretania Street was in need of new paint. B. Usagawa said he will pass this information on to BWS management.
- Guerrero asked if BWS offered any tours of the water treatment plants. B. Usagawa said to call 748-5000 to schedule a tour; facilities at Kalihi Park Station, Honolulu Recycle and the Halawa Xeriscape are available for tours.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS: There were no residents’ concerns.

Mayor Mufi Hanneman’s representative – No representative available; no report available.

AGENDA RESIDENTS' CONCERNS –

A. Concerned Citizens of Honolulu, second wastewater treatment at Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant: Chair Young said after having clarification and testimonies from several citizens regarding the second wastewater treatment, the Board was asked to rescind a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dated March 28, 2008 in opposition of a 301-H waiver excluding Hawaii from the second wastewater treatment at the Sand Island Treatment Plant. Dell said the City will soon be in violation of a federal mandate of the secondary wastewater treatment and citizens should educate themselves with what is being released into the ocean; reclaiming the waters. D. Yaw reiterated how this decision will affect future generations and asked the Board to support the second wastewater treatment regardless of how much the cost may be. **Vasquez moved and Dell seconded to support the U.S. EPA’s request for second wastewater treatment at the Sand Island Treatment Plant.** The motion was **ADOPTED** with an 11-1-1 vote; Ayes: Dell, Guerrero, Harding, Kolio, Louie, Young, Vasquez, Konno, Rone, D. Yaw, S. Yaw; No: Juan; Abstain; Ibay. D. Yaw said in this case the Board needed to rescind the letter to U.S EPA dated March 28, 2008. **D. Yaw moved and Dell seconded for the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15 to rescind the letter to U.S. EPA dated March 28, 2008.** The motion was **ADOPTED** with a 12-1-0 vote; Ayes: Dell, Guerrero, Harding, Kolio, Louie, Young, Vasquez, Konno, Rone, Ibay, D. Yaw, and S. Yaw. No; Juan.

B. Institute for Human Services (IHS), Connie Mitchell: Several Board members suggested the item should be allowed on the next agenda since no one is here from IHS. Louie said IHS was not a State Department as stated on the agenda. Chair Young said it was an error and it was noted that IHS is a non-profit agency not affiliated with any state or city departments.

C. Department of Public Safety (PSD), proposed temporary housing and program structure at State Correctional Centers and Facilities; T. Johnson and N. Espinda reported that Hawaii's prison and jail inmate population has grown well beyond the system's capacity. In an effort to address these issues, the PSD is proposing to provide temporary housing and program space at its facilities on the islands of Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Oahu. The purpose is to provide additional lower-custody level bed space and program space in order to provide the appropriate level of services to inmates and to move inmates more quickly and efficiently through the sequential phasing process without jeopardizing public safety. At the PSD facilities, temporary housing and program structures would be acquired and stored within a temporary storage unit at each site until funds are provided to erect permanent structures. Use of the program structures would increase the available space for programs and enable PSD to reduce the number of inmates waiting to participate in substance abuse treatment and other reintegration programs. The proposal is subject to the requirement of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 343, which provided for preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) to document the potential impacts associated with the proposed action. Through a combination of mailing, meetings with public officials, and community meetings, PSD is reaching out to stakeholders on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Oahu to identify issues and concerns. Comments received during this process will be considered during the decision making process. Project timeline are as follows: March/April 2008; draft EAs for each of the PSD facilities were initiated. May 2008; draft EAs for the PSD actions were released to the public and announced by the State. The public comment period will last from May 8 to June 8, 2008, after which time the public comments will be analyzed and incorporated into the Final EAs. June 2008; the public comment period will close and the final EAs will be released for public review and comment. July 2008; the 30-day public comment period on the Final EAs will end. October 2008; all temporary housing and programs structures to be acquired and stored on-site until funding is available for construction. He also said the State's fail facilities are operation at 121 percent of the total operational capacity; expanding inmate housing and program spaces is an important priority for Hawaii's community corrections system.

Questions and concerns:

- S. Yaw asked what type criminals will be housed in this facility. T. Johnson said no high offenders will be housed in the facility; Arizona or Halawa are used for such offenders. This facility will be mainly used for needed programs that provide counseling; vocational, anger management and acquiring a general education degree. Federal funding is currently available; however, time will come when PSD will be soliciting public funds from the legislature.
- Dell asked who owned the land now being proposed. T. Johnson said the State was the land owner; the Oahu land was owned by Foremost and has been vacant since 1987.

D. Kapuna I Apartments, residents' complaints regarding lanai, Guerrero reported: Guerrero read a letter which he sent to the Kapuna I Apartments' resident manager stating that he and some residents are circulating a petition to delay the implementation of House Rule #3 which is scheduled to take effect on June 1, 2008. Guerrero and some residents have received an unsigned note from Contract Management Services and Kapuna Management ordering all personal items on the front lanai of each apartment to be removed by June 2. Guerrero said the past 30 some residents have used the lanais for plants and to place punishment on the whole building and some elders which cannot leave their apartments seemed unfair. He also went on to say that some residents do not speak English; therefore, the notice should also have been distributed in the translated language of some residents.

E. Bicycle Safety, Natalie Iwase reported: She said the island wide master plan for the bicycle safety resolution will be in review by council in August or September. She is here to ask the Board's support in this resolution; about 25 Boards have already adopted the bicycle safety resolution. She has been a bike rider for 15 years and lived in Hawaii Kai and is happy to report this resolution will cover the whole island of Oahu. She said would like to bring more awareness of cyclists on the road and give more rights to them as far as the law is concerned. There will be workshops offered as well as a website; oahubikeplan.org.

Questions and concerns:

- Chair Young said she did not approve the copy of the bicycle safety resolution which was circulated with indication it was initiated by the Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board No. 15. She appreciated N. Iwase's concerns for bicycle safety however, she found the Kalihi district to have no room on School Street for a bicycle lane; several streets in Kalihi are in dire need of repairs instead. She felt School Street was a very dangerous street to ride a bike with so much commercial traffic; this would just congest the streets more unlike Hawaii Kai.
- D. Yaw encouraged N. Iwase to pursue the resolution; however, he also agreed that during traffic hours the streets in the district are too dangerous.

- S. Yaw said he does support the resolution; however, it is a well known fact in the district that bicycles are used as vehicles to deal drugs and not for work transportation.
- Dell said he thought the resolution was strictly directed only to the city street ordinance and left out the state. He said the resolution was not conducive to the district and the city and state should look at ways to correct both the resolution and the streets.
- **Louie moved and D. Yaw seconded to table the resolution issue since more time is needed.** The motion was **ADOPTED** by unanimous consent: 13-0-0; Dell, Guerrero, Kolio, Louie, Young, Vasquez, Ibay, Konno, Rone, D. Yaw, S. Yaw, Juan, and Harding.

APPROVAL/CORRECTION/ADDITIONAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES –

April 16, 2008 regular meeting minutes were approved and accepted as circulated.

Treasurer's Report – D. Yaw reported April 2008 statement; total appropriated balance was \$3,152.56. The operating account balance was \$1,106.56. The publicity account balance was \$1,926.00. The refreshments account balance is \$120.00. Expenses for March were \$26.37 for printing and postage only.

OLD AGENDA BUSINESS:

A. Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT) elevators – Representative Manahan reported that all elevators in Building A were in working order. In building B elevator No. 6 was working, No. 4 is not in order and No. 5 is in need of some repairs. The project is currently seeking a contractor to resolve the problem. C. Taniguchi has reported the elevators should be remodeled by the year 2010.

Questions and concerns:

- Harding said elevator No. 6 is a freight elevator and the process has been long and dreadful for the KPT residence and without any accountability from officials. Representative Manahan said there were different issues needing to be dealt with at KPT as well as educating residents on safety issues.
- Vasquez said KPT management also should be held accountable for the elevator problems. Representative Manahan agreed.

B. Puahala Homes update – D. Yaw reported HPHA Board voted against rescinding their motion to place transitional families in Puahala Homes; five voted against while one supported to rescind decision. He also reported alleged political monopoly move that seems to be affecting single men versus families being placed into other public housing facilities.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor Linda Lingle's representative – K. Kawafuchi reported: 1) Tax relief for struggling families has not been approved. 2) Recent negative news stories on Hawaii's slow economy seem to be a myth; recent report showed our economy increased and Hawaii may be ahead as projections. 3) The state is working on cutting expenses and hopes to capture some investments to help the economy.

Questions and concerns:

- D. Yaw asked what the state is doing to relieve the export and import businesses. K. Kawafuchi said since the secured lender pulled the plug on the Aloha cargo service, the state is looking at other options at the moment.
- Dell asked if Golden Week in Waikiki was going to be successful this year. K. Kawafuchi said he was not sure of the outcome.

Representative Joey Manahan – Representative Manahan reported: 1) not much grants in aid were awarded; capital improvement projects (CIP) were awarded most of the funding. 2) Visitors from Japan and Canada seem to be cautious about traveling to Hawaii in the next few months.

Questions and concerns:

- Chair Young asked what the state is doing about the recent crimes against tourists on Oahu. Representative Manahan said Waikiki HPD has added "foot patrol" and doing everything they can to cover Waikiki.
- Harding asked why some officials flew on the Hawaiian Airlines inaugural flight to the Philippines during session. Representative Manahan said no state funding was used for his travel since he was invited by

Hawaiian Airlines and as Vice Chair of the House Committee on Tourism; Representative Manahan said he was privileged to accept the offer. He went on to say Filipinos working and living abroad are responsible for two thirds of the Philippines' gross national product (GNP) through \$20 billion in money remittances sent to the Philippines annually; Hawaii has the second largest Filipino Community, behind California. He also said about 177,000 people traveled annually to the Philippines from Hawaii at an average cost of \$1,000 for airfare per person, combined with their Hawaii/Philippines remittances; the Hawaii Filipino community spent close to \$1 billion dollars a year on goods and services pertaining to their homeland.

- Harding added; he thought the timing was not good judgment since the KPT elevator problem was still evident. Representative Manahan reassured that he tended to official business while in the Philippines and was also happy to report it was a very efficient journey.

Representative Karl Rhoads – Representative Rhoads reported: 1) HB2515 providing \$26 million in general obligation bonds to complete the acquisition of a portion of Kukui Gardens to keep it affordable was included in the State's Budget. 2) SB2141 which prohibits the consumption of liquor on any public sidewalk or common area within a public housing project has passed. 3) HB3002 makes a third and all subsequent conviction for offering or agreeing to pay for sex a misdemeanor. Although this measure passed, it was amended in conference to the charge of a misdemeanor. 4) HB2263 allowed the director of the State Department of Transportation to adopt rules that regulate harbor noise. This bill passed but was vetoed by the Governor on April 29. 5) In June 2007 a letter to Mayor Hannemann regarding complaints of drug dealing and public drinking activity occurring at a small parcel of City-owned land located between 215 N. King Street and Nuuanu Stream. The City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) indicated restoration of this land is being planned and a fence would not be appropriate.

Questions and concerns:

- Louie said a drainage problem at King Street and Iwilei Road continues to flood when the tide rises.
- Juan said RMY Construction will undergo installation of new 16 and 12 inch pipelines at Pua and Peterson Lanes as well as Banyan and Liliha Streets will commence soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization / Citizens Advisory Committee (OMPO/CAC); (The sub-committee on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) was formed to advise the CAC on PPP) – S. Yaw reported there were sub-committee nominations; OMPO membership closed excluding Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood No. 15 being no response was received. He also requested for OMPO to seek Kalihi-Palama small businesses and voters' participants.

Questions and concerns:

- Chair Young said she never received any OMPO registration application.

MWH Security Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) – Vasquez and Kolio reported: a scheduled meeting with C. Taniguchi is tomorrow at noon. A report will be available at the next Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW AGENDA BUSINESS – There were no announcements.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Chanel-Benjamin, NA

Reviewed by Chair Bernadette Young