KALIHI VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 16

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: http://www.honolulu.gov

DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2006
KALIHI REGIONAL DISTRICT PARK

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wilton Ching, Lance Bateman, Bill Woods, Jory Watland, Anthony De Campo, Kanoa Bristol, Chester Koga and Merry Balatico.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Mitchell (excused)

GUESTS: Captain Ron Bowers (Honolulu Fire Department); Pascual Dabis; Sgt. Michael Clark (Honolulu Fire Department); Noel Ono (Mayor's Office);Gary Gill (Kakua Kalihi Valley); Craig Franklin; Roxanne Fo; James Rodrigues; Dennis Galolo (Romy Cachola's Office); Alfred Canopin Jr. (Councilmember Rod Tam's staff); Lisa Ginoza (Governor Lingle's Office); Terry Visperas; John Mizuno; and Joey Manahan (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) Captain Ron Bowers reported the following:

1. Statistics on Kalihi Station activity for July 2006 responded to three structure fires, 2 brush fires, 6 rubbish fires, 39 medicals and 5 miscellaneous calls.

2. Fire Safety Tip: Take time to childproof your home especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check your kitchen for potentially dangerous situations ie: electrical shock, accidental falls or poisons from medications, cleaning fluids and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of reach of children.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Sgt. Clark from Kalihi Police station reported the following totals for the prior month:

75 arguments; 8 assaults; 3 burglaries; 5 drugs and narcotics; 7 family offenses, 3 harassments; 99 miscellaneous service calls; 5 motor vehicle thefts; 0 murders; 40 motor vehicle collisions including the freeway; 5 motor vehicle thefts; 0 murders; 40 motor vehicle collisions including on the freeway; 79 visitor complaints; 165 parking citations 165; property damage 12; 3 properties; 0 sex offenses; 35 suspicious circumstances; 12 thefts; 8 car break ins, 28 vehicles towed.

Questions, answers and comments:

1. Is there a chance in the future of having a way to compare neighborhoods regarding crime rates on Oahu yearly? Sgt. Clark reminded the questioner that maybe he could do that for districts – there are eight of them. Kalihi is a very big area with lots of residences so it would be a big job to do.

2. De Campo reported that for a while cars were being picked up cars but there are now three abandoned cars on Numana and Kamanaiki. He would like signs posted so this wouldn't happen anymore as it looks like a junk yard. Sgt. Clark replied that recently the City and County passed an ordinance allowing for towing vehicles for expired vehicle tags, expired safety inspections and other things but they didn't provide enough space for depositing them. The tow companies, especially Ace that covers their area, was taking all the cars the police were ticketing, which was cleaning up the streets. Unfortunately they ran out of room. Their contract does not require them to take those vehicles even though the cars were cited and the law is now on the books. As a result, the contract with the towing company must be renotiated, and hopefully more room for storage will be provided.

3. Chair Woods asked a question for the drugs and narcotics section – there were five cases in Beat 558. Sgt. Clark replied that Beat 558 includes the station in this area, which goes from Likelike Highway ewa all the way to the end of School Street and all the way up the mountain including Likelike Highway on the ewa side. They were all one incident – a raid. Woods responded "that's a good thing because I notice (from your chart) that everything else is zeros for the whole district."

Thanked HPD for their report.

RESIDENTS' AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS: Chair Woods explained that anyone can bring up a concern they want to bring before the board. If it is not on the agenda the Board may not be able to take any action on it but if it is important it will be put on the agenda for next month's meeting. Public notice must be given if we are going to take action. If it is on the agenda we could possibly review and take action.

1. Koga had a concern for the City representative. He got a call from a resident in Upper Kalihi Valley by St. Anthony's or further up. This resident was advised by the City that that portion of Kalihi Street was privately owned which he wasn't aware of. The issue is that close to the stream there are lots of eucalyptus trees growing on the diamond head side of Kalihi Street. The resident is concerned about who the trees belong to because in a storm last winter a portion of a tree fell down into her yard, and she is asking if there is any maintenance the City can perform on trees next to a private road.

   Koga responded sympathetically after hearing that she called four different offices and then the last one told her that the road doesn't belong to the City so it's not our problem. Koga didn't think that was a good response. Koga didn't have the address of this resident with him but Noel said he would follow up on the issue.

Bristol reported his concern that trees are falling down and blocking streams as happened in Manoa. He tried to locate someone in the City department to try to take care of something like that, or if it is private property at least put pressure on the owners to take care of it relatively quickly before it could become a major problem.

Kalihi resident Roxanne Fo lives on the 2900 block of Nihi Street. This is her first time at a Neighborhood Board meeting to report that her street has deep potholes. Also, where they have patched on Kalihi Street is horrible – maybe due to the heat or shortage of asphalt but she feels she is being neglected. On Kalihi Street on Makuakani at the stop light before the gate at Kamehameha School in the far right hand lane there is a big hole which hasn't been fixed in months.

Chair Woods added that down Kalihi Street from Kamehameha Schools there are lots of holes coming down the curve on all four lanes. Numana Road is also very torn up from construction that is being done around there. It was significantly patched about a year and a half ago but there are major holes especially between Valley View Drive and the stream - holes are more than 8 inches deep in several places, a foot wide and two feet long. Chair Woods reported he has been calling the City to report street repairs needed on a weekly basis for the last month as he has driven through the district.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Bristol reported a Year End Report with current expenditures of $1,032.61 leaving a balance of $ 0.00. The refreshment account balance is $120.00

Chair Woods said the Board finished the year with no negative balance and went on to explain that the Neighborhood Commission Office gives each Board their funds in three accounts. Kalihi elected to use their publicity account and any additional funds to cover Olelo videotaping. He realized that hundreds of people in Kalihi Valley stay up to watch it on Olelo every Monday night even though it's late – at 10:00 pm. The taping exceeds the budget so they take unused money from the operations budget, for taking and distribution of minutes, agendas, etc. to make up the difference. Chair Woods was grateful to the Neighborhood Commission for their flexibility so Kalihi's videotaping costs are covered. Video-casting is very useful to many residents who can't make it to meetings and do personal follow up and make calls to County and State agencies as a result of information gained from the meetings. The video-broadcasting also results in residents contacting members of the Board to convey area issues and concerns.

BUSINESS AND REPORTS

KALIHI VALLEY NATURE PARK

Chair Woods turned over this part of the meeting to Vice Chair Koga because Woods is on the Advisory Committee for the Nature Park. Koga introduced Gary Gill who works for Kokua Kalihi Valley, a non-profit organization which has been in operation since 1972. Gary has been on staff for almost two years. The Nature Park is his responsibility. He handed out a map showing its entire 100 acres and an enlarged map showing camp ground sites.

Over 50 years ago this land was set aside for the creation of a public park by the City. It was subsequently traded to the State and placed in the DLNR with intent of becoming a state park. Kokua Kalihi Valley Health Center developed a proposal and secured a 20 year lease to establish a community-based public park on these lands. This area is from the top of Kalihi St. at Kamanaiki Ridge past the Zendo and opposite the Samoan churches across the wooden bridge to the Board of Water Supply gate. KKV has restored an old house on the property for a caretaker and as an education center, designed hiking trails, are opening up an acreage for community gardens and are in the middle of preserving archeological sites. They have received an award to do reforestation to the area of native trees and remove the exotics that are taking over the area.

The campground area, which used to be a plant nursery, is in the conservation district of the State so to develop the area KKV must get a Conservation District Use Permit. Gill described the campground area shown on a map that they are proposing. Currently their proposal is before the Department of Land and Natural Resources and their board needs to take action and approve the proposal by December of this year.

The following are areas on the distributed map: rusty warehouses with tin roof structures to be retained as part of the nature camp; a bunkhouse to be restored for youth groups or people who will be working in the area for reforestation; a tea house which is not salvageable; archery range and area to plan nature activities; composting toilets – no water or power in that area; tent camping in yurts on wooden platforms; a nature camp to be accessed only by foot, no driving in the park; and picnic shelters.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Craig Franklin asked what fees or charges would there be for using the park? Gill reported that they don't have a State budget to fall back on. He thinks they will have a sliding scale with a maximum of $20.00 per night for kamaina and $40.00 per night for non-Hawaii residents; that's an upper threshold. They are looking for ways to generate funds for maintenance and operation of the park. The fees will have the standard State Park fees but the fee structure will be higher that what you pay for in a State Park.

   Koga asked about traffic and parking concerns – is there a limit of how many people will be in the park at one time? Gill replied:

   1. Our master plan is available on our website where we have a traffic study and load study on the park. We are encouraging carpooling and the wooden bridge is kind of the "chokehold "on the park because a bus can't get across it. We are planning 50 parking spaces for local use for 50 or less people in the park at a time.

2. Koga asked about water supply and provisions for fire control for older wooden buildings? Gary said Board of Water Supply does extend to the house and there are two water meters on the property, rain catchments and an old reservoir for emergencies in case of a fire.

3. What will the hours of the park be and security? Gill explained they currently have a resident caretaker and that has greatly improved security, and they have two gates. The campground itself will have to have a different security system because it is a far distance away from the resident caretaker. They'll probably have to have a camp post overnight with a radio and communication to monitor camp activities. They haven't figured it all yet but with video power and audio power and new technology will provide security. The hours of operation have yet to be determined; generally speaking the park will close at sunset except for those in the campground area. They wouldn't expect people to be coming and going after sunset.

4. Twenty years seems like a short time for a lease – could you have gotten a longer one? What happens after 20 years? Gill replied that this is the longest lease anyone has ever gotten from the Parks Department. Most leases for facilities are for a year or less; they want to see if you're going to be dependable in managing a park. Gill said they needed to raise money to develop the Park so they

needed more than one year and it wasn't a Park, it was a jungle – nothing was working on it. Because Kokua Kalihi Valley took the responsibility to make something happen they allowed us to go that long. After 20 years we have to renegotiate. This lease began in November of last year so we have until 2025.

Woods Moved and it was seconded that the Board support Kokua Kalihi Valley in their endeavors to get a Conservation District Use Permit from the DLNR.

Question, answers and comments:

1. Is there an emergency landing place for a helicopter? Gill replied that the entire campground is flat for emergency and there is a roadway there. The only problem that would prevent them from doing that now is the tree overgrowth which will be cleared.

2. Chair Woods said the Neighborhood Board developed a master plan about 13 years ago and a major concern was that they wanted to develop more public park land in the district as Kalihi Valley has the least amount of park acreage per population. Woods was particularly excited about the creativity and hard work that has gone into this novel approach to developing a park.

3. Bristol reported the City should not get credit for KKV's development because it hasn't done anything – the development was all done privately.

4. The Motion was carried unanimously.

SUNSET IN KALIHI FEEDBACK - Bateman said it was a good event but it doesn't need to start so early in the day. Public participation started in the afternoon. It was well done and he enjoyed the good music and activities.

Chris from KVIBE agrees with Bateman to begin later because people go to church in the morning and then out to lunch.

Chair said the event turned out very nicely and it's an asset for the community to have this.

Koga referred to Ron Jones' presentation last month and wanted to reinforce that by thanking the Kalihi Business Association. He thinks the Neighborhood Board should send them a thank you note for their efforts because they worked hard to get things done for the event and hopefully they will continue to be involved because it needs community support as well as encouragement from the City.

Chair Woods asked for a consensus that the Board send a thank you note and appreciation to the City and the Kalihi councilmember and the Kalihi Business Association for putting on Sunset in Kalihi and major corporate sponsors. With no objection it was decided the letters will be written.

CANDIDATE FORUM - Chair Woods relinquished the chair to Vice-Chair Koga and discussion followed:

Koga asked if they want to have a candidate forum. Bristol suggested it be during a regular meeting. Bateman said it would be a good idea in August if it aired on Olelo for the public. Terry Visperas asked if Olelo could host a candidate forum which they have done before. Bristol asked how many people came for the mayoral debate at a regular meeting? Koga suggested a vote be taken on whether to have a Candidates Forum in August or September and see what kind of support they have for either.

Bateman moved to have a Candidate's Forum the second Wednesday, August 9th at their regular location and the Motion carried unanimously. Vice Chair will handle volunteers and final forum.

Koga returned the Chair to Woods.

KALIHI VALLEY TASK FORCE - Gary Gill presented "Six Ways to Make Kalihi Safer, Healthier and More Convenient" that can be discussed at a future meeting which includes the following:

1. Nature Park - asking for Board to urge City and State to support the park with funding and resources and to help volunteer. This is a great place to exercise - hike, garden, work in a taro loi or camp out.

2. Reconstruction of Kalihi Street – asking that after the City finishes the water and sewer work it may be possible for them to use their funds, which are appropriated every year, to reconstruct Kalihi where there are no sidewalks so people don't walk in the middle of the street. This will reduce the safety hazards. On the mauka side where large trees are growing into the road, the City could widen the road and take out the trees not only to make it safer for people walking but also those driving. Now it's not safe for anyone.

3. An extension of the Kupehau Slope Park Promenade - Under the previous administration the park was developed with concrete sidewalk and park benches installed going for about 100 feet and dead ends into the bushes – it is very underutilized. In his opinion this is because it is very hard to get there with the only access on one dead end cul-de-sac, but there is a wonderful opportunity for a streamside promenade. If that were extended further mauka than it is now to Numana Road across the bridge up Numana Road and down Kalihi Street to the Makuahine you would have a nice circle going around the natural stream. The obvious problem is that two new houses have gone up and it's private property so some kind of the public access easement would have to be constructed to connect the existing promenade to Numana Road.
   Gill felt that's a small thing compared to overcome with the help of the community – and could be a cheap solution.

4. Safe biking to schools – Placing safe biking facilities on school campuses. At KVIBE they have been working with some school campuses that don't want bike racks for various reasons. This is a good community where schools are so close to where people live that it does not make sense to have parents pack their kids into a mini van for a few blocks to get them to school. Gill proposed the Board work with KVIBE to develop a public-private partnership to purchase bike racks for schools. It wouldn't be very expensive and he thinks they could find private grant funds to support schools in this way and community initiative.

5. Bike Lane Development in Kalihi – Kalihi has two bike paths, one on Houghtailing going from somewhere to a dead end and the one on Middle Street ends at the freeway off ramp. The State Bike Plan calls for bicycle paths to be on King Street, School Street and up Kamehameha IV Road to where we are now. We need an advocacy base group of people to urge that this proposal be carried out.

6. Even though this is part of the Master Plan, if you don't ask for it you don't know when you'll get it. Therefore, as part of the KVIBE activities, Gill would like the Board to advocate for the bike lane development.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Rodrigues noted that there was not enough money apportioned for Nihi Street to do the whole street (which is very long). The reason was the money was given in two parcels so they did the work in two phases – from the church up cost $2 million and they couldn't get enough to finish the project. Half was from the State and half from the County that came separately.

2. The resident replied to Rodrigues that that kind of behavior is the City and State not caring about the safety of the citizens.

3. Chair Woods reported he was part of a task force which went from the upper end of Kalihi Street to Kalihi Uka Elementary School to see where there could be a footpath on one side of the road, possibly making adjustments in the road to have parking on the other side where it is not legal currently on either side. Hopefully our City councilmembers and the Mayor will see fit to conduct planning for an acceptable design and provide the appropriate funding.

4. Chair Woods thanked Gill for his ideas and will bring them up for review and some kind of action at our next Board meeting. He wanted to thank Gary for the last two years for all of his hard work on programs at KKV and the Nature Park in particular, which is a visible sign and constructive addition to our community and to thank Gill and give him a send off because he is leaving for Japan shortly for 10 months. Mahalo for helping our Valley and for the 20 years we worked together in Pauoa Valley.

CANDIDATE FORUM - Chair Woods turned the meeting over to Koga as he needed to add something to the Motion for having a Candidate's forum. **Bristol Moved and Bateman seconded to authorize Kalihi Valley Board funds for the special meeting and videotaping for the same meeting. The vote was unanimous.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Koga moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2006, Balatico seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes as published was unanimous.

UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

LIKELIKE HIGHWAY ROAD SINKING AND SEPARATION – Repairs for the Likelike Highway are to start in September because of rain that occurred during that time.

KALIHI STREET S – CURVE – Chair Woods reported there were plans drawn up for the S Curve seven or eight years ago with three drawings, three engineering designs that were presented here. We supported the least costly one and were told that our request would be put into the capital budget expecting either the Mayor then or now, or the City Council members would spearhead this project but it was never budgeted. We have never been able to obtain a subsequent meeting about the plans or what happened to them to help correct the S Curve. In the last year we have asked to see the plans again but haven't been able to see the plans or have a meeting about them, What has brought this to a higher priority is that the land has been put up for the sale and has been changed drastically – the elevation has gone up 15-20 feet in some places and it is so narrow in some places that particularly large vehicles can't pass each other – one vehicle has to back up. Woods was told two weeks ago the land is set for closing on a sale in October. He wants to encourage the Council members and the administration to check into this and see if they can't salvage a little piece of this corner either by eminent domain or voluntarily for safety reasons. Otherwise we're going to have to buy it "somewhere down the pike". If development starts or it's sold at a higher price we're going to have to pay more for that same piece of land. This has been a legitimate concern over many, many years and the timing is very important. The Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission Office took on arranging the meeting last February with the task then taken over by the replacement ES, but no meeting has been authorized by the administration or department.

Concerns, answers and comments:

1. Dabis reported regarding the "line of sight" on the S Curve, he observed that there was work being done with a tractor at the sight.

2. Bristol reported that he was at the site of the S Curve and it seemed they were leveling the area.

3. Chair Woods acknowledged the Board's continued support for improvement as planned for the S-curve improvement.

4. Bistrol says S-curve slows people down. If it straightened out too much speeding may occur.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE, Noel Ono reported the following:

1. He has nothing to report in regard to the S curve but the issue is still pending.

2. At the last meeting, the Board raised the question on the status of work on the status Kamehameha IV Road and School Street area. The work was supposed to be completed in March, however the temporary steel plates remain in the road and the road remains unpaved. The response received was that the project delay is from conflicts of existing utilities not shown or shown in the wrong place on the plans. Contractors installing the 36" mains cannot proceed because the valve will not fit as called for on the plans. Therefore, the valve has been ordered with an estimated delivery of July, 2006. Upon delivery, the valve will be installed, the 36" main on Kamehameha IV Road will be completed, the steel plate removed and the trench repaved.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Bristol has a concern about the stability of the sewage lines that run down through the Kalihi Stream. A lot of the lines are connected by exposed cast iron and whenever there's a hard rain you see more chunks of cast iron in the stream. Is there anything that might be done to locate those breaks and remedy that problem all the way up the stream? The Mayor's representative said he doesn't know about this kind of situation but will bring the question to the appropriate department and get a response hopefully by the next meeting.

Ono reported capital improvement projects for area include:

1. Recreation District II yard improvements for Staff Park facilities:
2. Kalihi Valley District Park – Yard improvements for staff park facilities and parking lot resurfacing
3. Design electronic traffic signal improvements at various Kalihi intersections
4. Sewer projects in Kalihi Valley
5. Sand Island
    a. Sand Island Miscellaneous Sewer Rehab – 2007 – 2012 – rehab pipelines and manholes in Sand Island Basin identified with structural defects and corrosion.
    b. Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plan Construction Soil Management - manage 90,000 cubic yards of excavated soil stockpiled at the plan and on neighboring State lands.
    c. Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion, Primary Treatment –upgrade, refurbish and expand all treatment units at plant which aren't already included in the WWTP Unit 1, Phase 2A (Headworks) project to bring overall capacity from 82 to 90 mgd average daily flow.
    d. Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Septage Handling Facility – construct facilities to handle septage within existing Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant site.
    e. Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, Unit 1, Phase 2A (Headworks) – Construct chemical treatment facilities, new pretreatment facilities (headworks), two primary setting tanks and associated piping, odor control electrical improvements and appurtenances at the existing San Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.
    f. Sand Island WWTP Disinfection Facility and Effluent Pump Station – Construct UV disinfection facilities and new effluent pump station at existing Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

7. School and Kokea Street – bus improvements
8. Middle Street – planning and design of relocated transit center

Comments, answers and concerns:

Rodrigues thanked the City for putting up the sign at Nihi and Merkle Streets which was falling down. The sign on Nobrega Street at Kalihi is still missing – it's a one way.

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM'S OFFICE – Al Canopin said he had no report but was glad to take questions. There were no questions.

COUNCILMEMBER ROMY CACHOLA'S OFFICE –Galolo reported that Kalihi Street below King Street is being worked on including pipe connections with an estimated completion time of September, 2006 and when it is all done they will pave the ewa side.

Comments, answers and concerns:

1. Whenever they repave just one side of Kalihi Street you end up driving at an angle; could they pave the whole road? Chair Woods explained this happens because it is a City project and subcontractors are obligated to the City to repair it, meeting their standards, however, the street cannot be done in total because it is a State road and to do the whole thing is a State activity.

2. This is a little out of our area, but Kalihi Street below School Street has been repaired so badly that people were avoiding it and we're wondering if the City or the State accepted the job as it had been done? We noticed they went back to do a little more repair but still the problem exists. Resident did note that Chair Woods had a valid point about City and State ownership of streets and its affect on work being done.

GOVERNOR'S REPRESENTATIVE – Lisa Ginoza from Governor's Office reported the following:

1. There are currently 57 units at Kuhio Park Terrace ready for occupancy
2. There are currently 22 vacancies at Kalihi valley Homes; 10 are ready for occupancy.
3. In response to the question about what takes so long to fill vacancies there are a combination of things: background checks, income verifications and allowing people to select the unit they want, which might not be the one available, delays the process.
4. In the Governor's Update it explained that there is now a team leader, appointed by the Governor, being assigned to an applicant and hopefully that creates a better turn around time.

Questions, answers and concerns:

Bristol asked if the slow down in the housing market and the stabilizing of prices might provide a little bit of help with the need for senior housing. Ginoza said she really can't answer that but it's a fact of life in Hawaii that housing costs are high for the foreseeable future so we need to take some immediate action to address this serious problem and take advantage of any vacancies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. There will be Candidate's Forum held on Wednesday, August 9th that will be created and facilitated by Vice-Chair Chester Koga.
2. The next regular Business Meeting will be held on September 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.
2. July 20th is the Kalihi Boosters meeting at 6:30 p.m. Senator Akaka's office will be providing a sheet cake and cold drinks.

Chair Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

This draft minutes are provided for publication for review by the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board at its next regular meeting. Initial draft was created by Bonnie Trustin, Neighborhood Commission Office and then reviewed and finalized for publication by Neighborhood Board Chair, William E. Woods.