



## WAIPAHU NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 22

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### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2012** **FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Rito Saniatan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Quorum was established with 17 members present.** Note – This 19-member Board requires 10 members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

**Board Members Present** – Maureen Andrade, Marty Burke, Cory Chun, Daniel De Gracia, Lorraine Duhaylonsod, Connie Herolaga, Braunsen Kalaikai, Peter Lee, Darryl Macha, David O’Neal, Richard Oshiro, Rito Saniatan, Blaine Tsugawa, and George Yakowenko.

**Board Members Absent** – Edmund Alfonso, Sy Cullen, Ilalo Parayno, Vai Sua, and Chuck Wheatley.

**Vacancies** – None.

**Guests** – Charles Zhan (Neighborhood Commission); Eleanor Naone; Gwen Alfonso; Deborah Scruton; Councilmember Breene Harimoto; Karen Scharfenstein (Councilmember Breene Harimoto’s Office staff); Abel Malczon, Vivian Malczon, Mike Otake, Glendere Otake, Marvon Kajikawa, Koa Keliikoa, Chris Awa, Katherine Awa, Larry Fujioka, Danny Rivera, Janie Hood, Robert Hood, and Carrie Baltizar (New Hope Leeward); Lorrie Kanno and Maile Kawamura (Weed and Seed); Officer Kaipō Paiva (Honolulu Police Department/Weed and Seed); Van Peterson (Servco Pacific); Rochelle Kalili and Gary Chun (Waipahu Elementary School); Danielle Bass (Representative Ryan Yamane’s Office staff); Colonel Chuck Pagonis (US Army); Rock Riggs (Senator Mike Gabbard’s Office staff); Bonnie Arakawa and Terrance Ware (City Department of Planning and Permitting); Pat Lee (Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project); Representative Henry Aquino; and Kazuaki McArthur (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Those present introduced themselves. Saniatan read the Board speaking rules.

**Board Member Alfonso:** Family members of Board member Alfonso informed the Board and community that he had recently passed away. Alfonso’s funeral services will be held on December 8, 2012, at Borthwick Mortuary. Saniatan called for a moment of silence for Alfonso and his family. Andrade presented the Alfonso’s family with his Board nameplate.

### **FIRST RESPONDERS:**

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – A representative was not present; a report was not made available.

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)** – Officer Paiva reported that a total of 6,165 total calls for service for District 3 during the month of October 2012. It was noted that theft cases usually go up during the holiday season. Residents were advised to place all items in the trunk or out of plain view when shopping, and to lock car and house doors before leaving.

**Weed and Seed** – Officer Paiva reported that Weed and Seed officers have been focusing efforts on mentoring high school students and giving presentations on cyber-bullying. It was noted that community members can request a presentation by HPD on a variety of topics by visiting the HPD website.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

**Taste of Waipahu:** Yakowenko praised Weed and Seed for putting together the recent Taste of Waipahu event. Paiva also recognized Andrade and other community members for putting together a successful event.



CITY REPORTS:

Mayor's Report – Cory Chun read the following memorandum from the record;

- Crosswalk at Waipahu Uka Neighborhood Park: The City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) recently completed an evaluation, which included site observations, pedestrian and vehicle counts, and a review of the area's traffic history, and found that marked crosswalks are not justified for the intersection of Hiapo Street and Manager's Drive at this time. The DTS evaluation found that the minimum traffic/pedestrian volume warrants required to install a marked crosswalk were not met. However, a work order was issued to install pedestrian warning signs along Manager's Drive to increase awareness of potential pedestrians crossing the area.
- In Pavement Lighted Crosswalks: DTS has not proposed illuminated crossings for Waipahu. Although we are still testing various treatments for unsignalized pedestrian crossings, DTS would be willing to work with the Waipahu community to identify a site in Waipahu for future installations. DTS spoke with Mr. Edmund Alfonso and informed him of the status of their evaluation of the in-roadway lights while looking at other measures to improve pedestrian safety and will keep him apprised.
- Video Monitoring Cameras: The City Department of Information and Technology (DIT) has not received any requests to install cameras in the Waipahu area at this time.
- Street Paving: Both Kipou Street and Hene Street were resurfaced as part of the Rehabilitation of Localized Streets, Phase 7B project; as both were identified as in need of resurfacing, per field inspection. The "Rehabilitation of Localized Streets, Phase 7B project was to resurface minor or residential roadways in the Waipahu area in need of resurfacing. Although there maybe other roadways in worse condition; by resurfacing these roadways now before further deterioration progressed, the roadways were resurfaced with a cost saving mill and fill resurfacing job; instead of waiting until these roadways got into worse condition that would require base reconstruction work, along with the mill and fill work. One of the City's priorities is to provide good roadways for the entire City and County of Honolulu; and are striving to resurface the roadways in poorer condition first, but the City also realizes that by maintaining roadways, such as Kipou and Hene Streets on a timely bases, the cost of resurfacing can be done at a cost 2 to 3-times the cost of a resurfacing work that will require base reconstruction work prior to the milling and resurfacing work.

Governor's Representative – A representative was not present; a report was not made available.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Keoni Mattos circulated a report and highlighted the following;

- New Billing System: BWS will be switching over to a new customer billing system in January 2013, which will allow BWS to provide better service to you by implementing customer care industry best practices. In conjunction with the launch of the new billing system, BWS is providing customers with more self-service and online-customer service options through its website. Online bill viewing, paperless billing and electronic customer service forms are now available. BWS is also moving to ward providing customers with the option to pay their water and sewer bills online at their convenience.
- Changes: With the new billing system, all customers will be issued a new account number. Also, water and sewer bills will be converted to a monthly billing cycle. The change should help customers align their water bill with other bills.
- Kahuwailani Street: Paving of Kahuwailani Street has been completed.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

1. Leak Repair: Andrade thanked BWS for a speedy response to a leak which occurred on the BWS side of her water meter.
2. Online Payment: Tsugawa asked and it was clarified that BWS is looking to implement an online bill payment system. Mattos noted that BWS currently takes check payments over the phone without a service charge; however, BWS has not decided if it will assess a service charge for online payments.

Councilmember Nestor Garcia – Councilmember Garcia circulated a newsletter and reported that the City would be looking into an unlined portion of the Kahu Tract Channel per the request of Kalaikai. Garcia announced that this evening would mark his last visit to the Waipahu Neighborhood Board as an elected official. Garcia noted that the recent reapportionment extends Councilmember Harimoto's district to cover a larger portion of Waipahu. Garcia noted that he had walked through Waipahu with Harimoto and explained major topics throughout the area. Garcia expressed confidence in Councilmembers Harimoto and Menor.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

1. Mahalo: Andrade presented Garcia a lei on behalf of the Board and a certificate on behalf of Representatives Aquino, Cullen, and Yamane. Saniatan, Oshiro, De Gracia, Burke, and Duhaylonsod also expressed their gratitude to Garcia for his 18 years of service to the community as a public servant.

Councilmember Breene Harimoto – Councilmember Harimoto circulated a newsletter and commended Garcia for his work as a City Council member. Harimoto reported that the new City Council districts will take effect on January 2, 2013. Community members were encouraged to get involved with the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning process. Harimoto also expressed the hope that the community could come together and accomplish much in the upcoming year.

Honolulu Rail Project – Pat Lee reported the following;

- Funding: The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will sign a full funding grant agreement with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to provide \$1.55 Billion for the Oahu rail project, according to a Congressional notification sent to the Congress from the FTA. The notification was sent to several committees, including the Senate Committee on Appropriations, which is chaired by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. By law, the FTA is required to notify Congress 30 days before it signs a full funding grant agreement. Immediately after signing the agreement, HART will receive \$200 million in New Starts funding from FY2012. The Honolulu City Council must approve the intergovernmental agreement between the City and the FTA through a resolution before the end of the year. This resolution, (Resolution 12-322) is scheduled for the Legislative Matters committee on November 29, 2012. If passed, it goes to the City Council on December 5, 2012 for final approval.
- Court Ruling: Federal Judge Wallace Tashima's ruling denied all but 3 of the original 57 claims by the plaintiffs. On all the major issues, HART had successfully shown that the project properly conducted the required analyses and environmental studies. The ruling underscores the fact that the majority of alternatives were given proper consideration, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), at-grade light rail and managed lanes, which are also called high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes. The judge ruled that BRT and managed lanes were properly rejected as reasonable alternatives to rail.
- Studies: The court held that the project's treatment of burials complied with federal law, but wants more above ground Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) identified along the route. The court will require further studies on a Beretania Tunnel alternative, as well as more study on rail's impact to the Mother Waldron Park on Halekauila Street. Mother Waldron Park is a historically significant property and also has historic buildings in the park. HART intends to undertake these additional studies concurrently with the Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS). Less than 10 of the 232 trenches remain to be dug for the AIS. These are in the City Center segment of the project (Middle Street to Ala Moana Center). Multiple crews are working. There will be some night and weekend work, and HART should complete the work by mid-December. Hopefully, construction can start up again by early summer.
- Material: Approximately 3,000 tons of steel track for the Honolulu rail transit system arrived on Oahu. The steel rail was manufactured in Pueblo, Colorado using sustainable practices, including a finished product produced in part from recycled steel. The steel was produced in the United States to comply with the federal "Buy America" mandate requiring all rail project materials be made in the U.S. since the project receives federal funding. A total of about 13,000 tons of rail and other track-related materials will be needed to complete the project at a total cost of \$77.4 million.
- Irrigation System: In anticipation of the rail project construction start up, the State Department of Transportation (HDOT) removed the backflow preventers and the sprinkler controllers and sprinklers heads, so that they could be salvaged and reused. Now that rail construction is temporarily on hold due to the State Supreme Court ruling on the AIS, it would not be practical to reinstall the sprinklers for the short

term. All trees that could be salvaged were salvaged and relocated to other State highway right of ways. HART has been coordinating with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Outdoor Circle on the tree relocations. HART is developing landscaping plans for the corridor and we will present that to the community after HDOT has had a chance to review them. These landscaping plans will be implemented and installed by the station construction contractors.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

1. Standardizing Rail Stations: Tsugawa applauded the HART director for standardizing all the rail stations. Oshiro raised concern that the efforts put in by community members to design the Waipahu rail station to their liking would be thrown out. Lee noted the standardizing of the stations will save money.
2. Names: Tsugawa asked and Lee clarified that all rail stations have already been assigned names.
3. Art: Burke noted that \$5-million has been allotted for art for the project. Concern was raised that an invitation has been made to the entire country to submit art. It was expressed that there are sufficient amounts of local artists who could provide art for the project. Concern was raised that more money would be going out of state. Lee noted that the project cannot restrict submissions to local artists only because the money for the art is federally funded.

Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park/Waipio Soccer Complex – Burke reported that the barrier project is nearing completion and noted that the Board meets every second Tuesday, every other month, at the aquatics center.

Waipahu Community Foundation – Burke reported that the next deadline for grant applications is December 7, 2012. Applications are available at the Waipahu High School administration building. Applicants must be a 501 (c)(3) organization with the intent to support the youth of the Waipahu area.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) – Kalaikai reported he missed the last OMPO meeting due to the responsibilities connected with the Hurricane Sandy natural disaster. Kalaikai reported he will give a report to the Board as the minutes of the meeting become available.

Military Services – Colonel Chuck Pagonis reported the following;

- Tree Lighting Ceremonies: The Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Schofield Barracks will be December 4, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., on General's Loop. Fort Shafter will hold its tree lighting ceremony on December 6, 2012, at Palm Circle. Guests and visitors wishing to attend either ceremony should enter through Lyman Gate (Schofield Barracks) and Buckner Gate (Fort Shafter) and be prepared to provide current identification, registration, insurance and safety check.
- United Service Organization (USO): USO is looking for volunteers. Call 422-1213 for more information.
- Deployments: About 2,600 members of the Combat Aviation Brigade are currently deployed to Afghanistan for a year. Residents are asked to keep soldiers in their thoughts and prayers; especially during the holiday season.

#### RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

1. Waipahu Elementary School Parking: Waipahu Elementary School interim principal Gary Chun reported that the school has received funding to construct a new 8-classroom building. However, due to construction of the building, a major part of the main parking lot will not be available for staff use. As such, residents were advised that parking and traffic around the school will be congested due to displaced staff trying to find parking.

#### BOARD BUSINESS:

Approval of November 24, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Duhaylonsod moved, and O'Neal seconded to approve the minutes as circulated. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, 14-0-0 (Aye: Andrade, Burke, Chun, De Gracia, Duhaylonsod, Herolaga, Kalaikai, Lee, Macha, O'Neal, Oshiro, Saniatan, Tsugawa, and Yakowenko).**

Treasurer's Report – Lee read the Treasurer's report and noted a previous balance of \$745.64, expenditures of \$34.08 for printing and postage, and a remaining balance of \$711.56. The report was filed.

Chair's Report – None.

Board Member Vai Sua Three (3) Absence/Consideration to Vacate Board Seat – Saniatan reported that Sua had submitted his letter of resignation prior to the meeting. Per Saniatan, Sua noted he would not be able to fully participate on the Board due to personal business opportunities.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

New Hope Leeward, Kunia Land Purchase and Land Development Plan – Abel Malczon reported that the New Hope Leeward congregation currently meets at the old Waipahu Safeway building. However, the congregation has outgrown its current location. It was noted that the lease for the current location is set to expire in early 2014. Malczon reported the church is looking to purchase and develop a property in Kunia and move the congregation there soon after. It was noted that the property is currently AG-1 zoned property and would need to get permission from the City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) to re-zone the property to AG-2. The church currently has plans to develop 48 acres of the 208 acre property. Development plans include a chapel, school (Preschool to 6th Grade), community garden, and amphitheater. Malczon reported the church is looking to work with the Agribusiness Corporation to farm the remainder of the property.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

1. Land Usage: Oshiro asked and it was clarified that the church will plan to develop 48 of the 208 acres of the property. Of the 48 acres, 5% will be used for the church building.
2. Traffic Impacts: Oshiro asked and it was noted that the church has hireD Austin, Tsutsumi & Associates to conduct a study on traffic impacts. A traffic plan will be submitted to DPP following the study. Malczon noted that traffic modifications are anticipated.
3. Community Associations: Saniatan asked and it was noted that other community associations have submitted letters of support following presentations. It was noted the project actually falls within the boundaries of the Mililani-Waipio Neighborhood Board.

**De Gracia moved, and Macha seconded to submit a letter in support of the New Hope Leeward development in Kunia. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED, 14-0-0 (Aye: Andrade, Burke, Chun, De Gracia, Duhaylonsod, Herolaga, Kalaikai, Lee, Macha, O'Neal, Oshiro, Saniatan, Tsugawa, and Yakowenko).**

Discussion followed;

Updates: Saniatan encouraged church representatives to return with updates as the project progresses.

Waipahu Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Neighborhood Plan – Terrance Ware introduced Waipahu's TOD Plan: "Celebrate Waipahu" and highlighted the following;

- Transit Station Development: Waipahu's TOD plan focuses on the areas around the two (2) rail transit stations located at Farrington Highway/Leoku Street and Farrington Highway/Mokuola Street. Plan highlights common to both areas include: Connected Greenway Network, Multi-Family Housing, New Mini-Parks and Open Spaces, Boulevard Treatment along Farrington Highway, and Parking Management/Park-n-Ride Facilities.
- Community Vision: The Waipahu TOD plan aims to accomplish and provide the following;
  - Maintain Waipahu's local character
  - Enhance the "Green Network"
  - Create a safe, pedestrian-first environment
  - Provide mixed-income housing
  - Inter-Modal transportation network
  - Create a mixed-use village-like setting in core areas

- Plan Highlights: Plan highlights include;
  - Intensifying development with up to 3,000 additional housing units by 2030
  - Creating a mixed-use “main street” along Leole Street connecting the transit station, the Pearl Harbor historic trail, and Pearl Harbor
  - Encouraging more pedestrian-oriented development along Farrington Highway
  - Restoring the drainage channel between Leokane and Leoleo Streets as a natural greenway path and linear park
  - Allowing higher building heights in exchange for community benefits (ie: day care facilities, public art, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification)
  
- Community Benefits: Community benefits include;
  - A network of green spaces connecting the two (2) transit stations
  - Affordable, workforce, and market priced housing options for small and large families, singles, and the elderly.
  - Maintenance of the existing quantity of affordable housing
  - New day care facilities for seniors and toddlers
  - Public art
  
- Next Steps: The Waipahu TOD plan is anticipated to go before the Planning Commission between December 2012 and January 2013; and before the City Council between January and February 2013. Community members are encouraged to give feedback at either of the public hearings.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

1. Servco Pacific: Van Peterson of Servco Pacific introduced himself and submitted letters to Board members regarding the TOD Plan. Peterson voiced his general support for the proposed plan.
  
2. Past Plans: Oshiro highlighted a portion of the handout indicating that the current TOD plan builds upon the recommendations of previous planning efforts. It was noted that the Waipahu Town Plan was completed in 1995. Oshiro further noted that the Waipahu Town Plan provided for the construction of the Filcom Center atop the former Waipahu Mill site. Support was expressed regarding plans to build upon elements of the Waipahu Town Plan and the Waipahu Livable Communities Plan.
  
3. Population Increase: Yakowenko raised concern that the TOD plan provides for an increase in population. Ware noted that the addition of the rail will attract people to Waipahu. Yakowenko also raised concern of high rises in Waipahu. Ware noted that height restrictions will vary depending on their proximity to the transit stations. Ware further noted that buildings would most likely be limited to 8-stories.
  
4. Servco Letter: Andrade asked and Ware confirmed that DPP has received and reviewed the letter from Servco Pacific. Andrade encouraged DPP to work with and support the community.
  
5. Board Responsibility: Garcia encouraged the Board to continue to oversee the TOD proceedings and to be aware of the impacts it will have on the community. Garcia noted that the community will change as a result of the rail.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Willie Espero – A representative was not present, a report was not made available.

Senator Mike Gabbard – Rock Riggs circulated a newsletter and reported that Senator Gabbard’s next “Listen Story” meeting will be on December 1, 2012, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., at Ewa Zippy’s.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed;

Ethanol: Burke reported that ethanol is expensive, imported, and is harder on vehicle engines. Burke asked what could be done to repeal the ethanol mandate and revert back to gasoline. Riggs noted that Senator Gabbard has looked into the use of bio-fuels.

Senator Michelle Kidani – A representative was not present; a newsletter was made available.

Senator Clarence Nishihara – A representative was not present; a newsletter was made available.

Representative Henry Aquino – Representative Aquino circulated a newsletter and reported that the next legislative session begins in January 2013. Community members were invited to contact the office to submit ideas for upcoming legislation. Councilmember Garcia was recognized for his 18 years of service to the community.

Representative Ty Cullen – A representative was not present; a report was not made available.

Representative Sharon Har – A representative was not present; a report was not made available.

Representative Ryan Yamane – A representative was not present; a newsletter was made available.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Next Meeting: The next Waipahu Neighborhood Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., at the Filipino Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Kazuaki McArthur, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by: Nola Frank, Neighborhood Commission Office staff; and Rito Saniatan, Chair