



MILILANI/ WAIPIO/ MELEMANU NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 25

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>

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007 MILILANI RECREATION CENTER III

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Poirier called the meeting to order 7:35 at p.m. with a quorum was present, and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence in memory of the Virginia Tech tragedy and Board member MaryAnne Selander who passed away last week observed at this time.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Poirier, Carole Siegel, Ann Freed, Pua Iuli, Alvin Wong, Jessie Weinberger, Keith Hamada, David Bremer, Mary B. Segura, Hallah Nilsen, Bill Bass, Charlie Remington, Karen Loomis, Lulani Arquette.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Medeiros, Elizabeth Andrews, Douglas Thomas, Susan Hough, Andrew Garrett, Josie Kaanehe, Noel Araki, William Brizee.

GUESTS: Lt. K. Nakamura (Honolulu Police Department, District 2 – Wahiawa), Ann Thornock (Representative Marilyn Lee's Office), Lori Kunioka (Councilmember Nestor Garcia's Office), Randall Suzuka and Gary Robert (Wahiawa General Hospital); Elizabeth Carson, Michelle Kidani (Mayor's Office/Neighborhood Commission Office), Chester Koga (R.M. Towill Corporation), Andy Lindberg (The Shack), Major C. Hughes and Colonel Tim Ryan (25th ID, Army Schofield Barracks), Acting Captain Neal Detwiler, Firefighter C. Shim, firefighter 1 Kim and Firefighter 1 Nakagawa (Honolulu Fire Department-Mililani); Brendan Burchfiel, Michelle Ogata and Tammy Kohrer (Wahiawa General Hospital Birthing Unit); Owen McCabe (Department of Health/Governor's Office), Lani Lapilio, Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Danielle Bass (Representative Bryan Yamane's Office, Nola Frank (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2007: Chair Poirier asked if there were any corrections/additions to the minutes: **Without objections the regular meeting minutes of March 28, 2007 were approved as circulated.**

COMMUNITY FORUM:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter 1 Kim reported March statistics included 2 structures, 1 brush, 0 rubbish, 0 vehicle fires, 41 medical, 4 search/rescue, 8 miscellaneous response calls and 1 major incident with 5 companies responding. Fire Safety Tip – Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen for a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A10BC) in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) Remington asked what caused the Mililani Mauka townhouse fire because he heard it was started from a barbeque grill. Captain Detwiler replied the possible cause was a charcoal grill that was stored under the stairway of the complex. 2) Weinberger asked the best way to dispose of an expired fire extinguisher. Captain Detwiler answered make sure to expel all the contents before putting the extinguisher in the trash. Chair Poirier thanked Captain Detwiler, Firefighters 1 Shim, Kim and Nakagawa for attending the meeting.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. S. Nishihara, substituting for Lt. Nishihara reported statistics for March included 49 burglaries, 18 unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle, 7 auto thefts, 42 thefts, and 5 graffiti crimes. An incident occurred on March 23 at 7:42 p.m. where an explosive device (similar to the one that exploded on the U.H. campus) went off at the Mililani Town Center parking lot; there were no injuries and two cars were damaged. A bottle containing liquid was found. Chair Poirier thanked Lt. Nakamura for attending the meeting.



Military – Major Hughes reported gates are secured at Schofield. Deployment for the 70,000 soldiers in Iraq has been extended for ninety-days (October). Col. Tim Ryan (a Mililani resident) was introduced.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) Freed commented due to some command efforts, volumes of boom boxes in cars has subsided some in community areas and on base. Chair Poirier thanked Major Hughes and Col. Ryan for attending the meeting.

Oahu Arts Center – Charlie Remington had no report.

Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project – Pat Lee reported the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase was completed earlier this month. The report will be submitted to appropriate federal transportation officials. The next step is the EIS draft preparation, with public meeting to be held this summer followed by the final EIS. Chair Poirier thanked Pat Lee for attending the meeting.

Other Community Concern:

The Shack – Andy Lindberg reported cameras have been installed at the Shack and are in operation. He would like to get together with a community task force to help with the graffiti problem.

Questions, comments, concerns: Chair Poirier asked what occurred at the Shack on April 15. Lindberg replied a slight altercation happened in the pool room. He had left the premises about half an hour before the incident. Six Shack security people were on duty that day. The fight escalated outside to the parking lot, HPD was called and responded quickly. The fight continued in the parking lot to nearby Ross's Store; one female was arrested. Lindberg said he called Collier and Alexander and Baldwin (owners of the complex) requesting that an off duty police officer be hired for the parking lot area and offered to pay for the officer. Lindberg mentioned that the complex owners were asked to just facilitate the security in the parking area. Collier agreed to at least facilitate and possibly share the cost of hire a special duty officer. A Board member commented that 100 people were involved in the fight. Chair Poirier thanked Andy Lindberg for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Proposed Imaging Center in Mililani Mauka – No representative was present.

Proposed Sandwich Isle Communication Network Operations Center – Project Manager for R.M. Towill, Chester Koga presented the following: Sandwich Isle Communications Network is asking Board support for a zone change from agriculture to semi industrial use. Sandwich Isle owner has acquired 163 acres on the Kamehameha Highway corner of Laulani Street near the National Guard site. Plans are to move all Sandwich Isle operations to this particular location. Starting with moving the operations first, the 39,000 square foot project will consist of three separate buildings to include an operations center. However, problems have arisen with permits for agriculture land. Sandwich Isle is a private telecommunications company licensed by the Federal Public Utilities Communication PUC) and the Hawaii PUC to provide communications to people residing on Hawaiian Homelands properties (rural utilities grant). The reason for this relocation is because the lenders have asked that the entire company move to this location. Current permits allow for only maintenance workers and electronic workers are allowed on the property. The current Conditional User Permit (CUP) does not allow administration or customer service staff to move to the site. Koga reiterated the request for all changes from AG to semi industrial, designated the same as the Mililani Tech Park. All concerns and suggestions would be incorporated in the documents of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). He added that the property, although zoned Ag is not active agriculturally. Traffic improvements have been made and an entry area completed. Staff operations are 24/7. Support of the City Council will be sought and further discussion with the Department of Planning and Permitting.

Questions, comments, concerns:

1. Bremer commented regarding the Mililani Tech Park area, the land is already available for business use and expressed concern that too much agriculture land is being lost when other lands have been set aside for other uses. Koga replied that his client has already purchased the property. Land use change is required because Sandwich Isle wants to consolidate the entire business operations to one location.

2. Luli mentioned that the Department of Hawaiian Homes offered Sandwich Isles land in Kapolei, which was rejected. Koga did not know. Luli asked the cost per home for installation of this system and noted she heard it would cost \$278,000 per household to install.
3. Bass stated he previously supported Sandwich Isle Telecommunications until mention of the Tech Park, which is across from the property needing a zone change, and questioned why now. Koga responded to consolidate operations to one location. Bass asked if the 100 acres at the Tech Park is associated with this parcel. Koga explained that the 100 acres was from a 2001 proposal. Today, the company is only concerned with the 15 acres.
4. Nilsen wanted to know the impact to the military in the area such as aircrafts flying. Koga answered there would be no impact to Wheeler. Nilsen asked if shifts would be staggered to off peak times. The response was it could be included in the documents as a preference. The structures would be no greater than two stories high for the property located near the H-2. Regarding the National Guard, current discussion is ongoing and the company is looking at setting aside five acres on the Wahiawa side for National Guard training. A current entrance gate has been beneficial to the guard. Koga added the entire Sandwich Isle facility would be secured and fenced in. Nilsen questioned where the equipment currently is stored. Koga replied the equipment is stored at remote sites around the island. The new site would have no towers or antennas, all technology will be underground.
5. Freed expressed concern regarding sustainable growth and stated Hawaii needs to retain AG lands. Her concern was if a permitted is granted that justifies getting another permit.
6. Arquette supports the mission of trying to improve communications on Hawaiian Homelands, but expressed concern regarding the rezoning. She supports the 15 acres, but not the previous 100 acre proposal.
7. Luli called attention to the High Tech Subdivision (2001) that was withdrawn. She questioned where the trust is and does not know when changes will occur. Koga reiterated that Sandwich Isle is only looking at the 15-acres. There are no plans to create an industrial park.
8. Chair Poirier asked Koga if he is planning to go before the Land Use Commission. Koga replied that initially they will go either to the City Planning Commission or the Land Use Commission.
9. Luli wanted to know what islands has the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) installed this technology. The response was that nearly all areas statewide are connected. Luli said that the contract is with DHHL, and asked if it is up to the individuals to sign up for the program or not? Koga replied the infrastructure is available.
10. Chair Poirier stated that the Board's problem is that the proposed project is outside the urban growth boundary. In terms of Central Oahu development projects, the Board has only recommended approval of the Pacific Health Center at Koa Ridge, and is sensitive to the impact of all future developments in Central Oahu. He noted that no Board action would be taken this evening and asked Koga to return to another Board meeting with specifics.

Proposed Elimination of Maternity Services at Wahiawa General Hospital – Michelle Ogata, of the Wahiawa General Hospital's Birthing Unit noted that the CEO and Board of Directors for Wahiawa General Hospital have voted suspend Obstetrics Services (Birthing Unit) on May 31, 2007. Grant money and aid received by the hospital will be used for other services. There is an average of 20-25 births per month at the hospital. This is the last hospital in Central O'ahu closing its Obstetrics Department. Obstetrics at Kahuku and St. Francis hospitals have been closed. Closing the department is right for the budget, but not for the safety of the community. Ogata asked for Board support of Representative Lee's resolution. A petition was circulated to keep the Obstetrics Department opened for interested persons to sign.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) in response to Luli, it was noted that three or four pre-termed babies were delivered a couple of weeks ago. The babies were stabilized and transferred to Kapiolani Hospital. Luli asked what would have happened if there was no Obstetric Services. The answer was that the babies would have probably died. 2) Don Oldam, CEO for Wahiawa General Hospital noted that the emergency room is required to take obstetric patients. However, emergency staff has less expertise than the obstetric nurses. Oldam stated it was a difficult decision for the hospital board to decide. Births at Wahiawa General averages 250 to 300 per

year, which is considered low. Two new obstetric physicians were recruited, but there was no increase in deliveries. He was not sure what percent of deliveries are from Mililani, the overall impact to the community or transit time to town. There are other struggles at the hospital and obstetrics is one of them. 3) Dr. Randall Suzuka (family physician) said that he is the Chair of Wahiawa General's Board of Directors. The Board voted to accept the business plan which included the closure of the Obstetrics Department at Wahiawa. Income is not fixed for hospitals. Radiology and outpatient surgery makes money for the hospital. Hospitals lose money doing core business. Suzuka stated that personally he hated to shut down the Obstetrics Department. 4) In reply to Luli, the business plan was developed by the administration. 5) Weinberger commented that per information in the newspapers indicated Wahiawa General would be concentrating on long-term and geriatric services. 6) Freed expressed empathy for Doctors and hospitals and understands that Wahiawa General's dilemma and we as a community must look at the entire health system. Her opinion is that health care should not have profit because it is a service, not a business. She stated don't blame the hospitals, blame the state. 7) Nilsen asked if the funding were available would the Obstetrics Department remain open. The answer was yes. Chair Poirier thanked Michelle Ogata, Tammy K. and Administration from Wahiawa General Hospital for attending the meeting.

REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Representative: Michelle Kidani noted that Mayor Hannemann sends his Aloha. A letter of condolence from the Mayor for MaryAnne Selander was read.

1. Follow up: a) Regarding graffiti on the pilings along H-2 overpass near Wikao and Waikalani Drive property belongs to the State Department of Transportation (DOT). B) Regarding a large panel truck with no license plates with an abandoned notice and ticket on it on Waianuhea Place, on March 30th at 1:30 a Motor Vehicle Control Inspector reported that there was no vehicle fitting the large panel truck description at or in the vicinity of the address provided. He recommended that Board members remember to submit an abandoned vehicle report on the intranet at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/cdsdavcomplaints/> or call 733-2530 rather than waiting for a neighborhood meeting. c) Regarding Mililani Terrace residents concerned with loitering, drinking and graffiti problems after hours at Maukaunala Community Park, since there are seven signs already installed throughout the park, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will install one more near the parking lot entrance; a request to relocate or remove the tables was submitted; a request to repair the chain link fence was made; it is not feasible to install a chain to lock the parking lot as DPR has no staff to lock it; a request will be made in the CIP 2009 budget for security lights in the parking lot; the restrooms are always open to the public.
2. A recycling guide and information on sewage facts were circulated for interested persons to review. Wahiawa Neighborhood Board No. 26 is having a special recycling meeting on May 2, 2007. On May 15, 2007 a meeting is scheduled at Kapolei Middle School.
3. Neighborhood Board Election results will be announced on Tuesday May 1st and available on the website.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) Bremer commented he attended a recycling planning meeting and good input was given by both sides. The City came up with an excellent plan. He stated that the Honolulu Star Bulletin gave a biased review of the meeting. Chair Poirier said that the Board would consider a proposed resolution next month to consider Mililani for the pilot project. Kidani suggested sending a letter to the Mayor. 2) Luli reported a trashed chain link fence in need of repair across the Gaspro tanks up to Makana Hale, who owns the property and who is responsible for the repairs. 3) Chair Poirier requested cleaning of the tennis courts at Waena Park and added that the District Park has a cleaning machine.

Councilmember Nestor Garcia – Lori Kunioka apologized for the Councilmember not being in attendance this evening, circulated written report, which included highlights of the City's FY08 budget, and was available for questions.

Governor's Representative – Owen McCabe substituting for Lillian Koller reported that the Governor's Weekly Update and the Hawaii Family Emergency Guide were available for interested persons to review.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) Bremer asked what is the State's reasoning regarding random drug screening? He sees no good reason for the teachers' to go through the procedure because of a few issues this

year, and the proposal was thought out poorly. McCabe did not know the answer. Feedback from concerned parents and public workers was received by the Governor. Follow up will be done on the reasons behind the proposal. 2) Chair Poirier mentioned that this Board has been trying to meet with the Governor for months, but was told they must first meet with the Department of Transportation. Henry Oliva is assisting in arranging a meeting date. Since Lillian Koller is the Board's Governor's representative, Chair Poirier asked if she could join the Board at the meeting when it is scheduled. The request will be forwarded to Koller. Chair Poirier thanked Owen McCabe for attending the meeting.

Senator Ron Menor – No representative was present.

Representative Marilyn Lee – Ann Thornock apologized for the Representative not being in attendance this evening due to a Finance Meeting. She reported the House and Senate have agreed on the legislative budget. Incorporated in the newsletter are the Capital Improvement Project proposals (FY2008) – Mililani High School drop off area, turn around and guest parking Mililani High school electrical upgrades, Mililani Middle School covered play court, Mililani Waena Elementary School partitions in open-pod classrooms, and Mililani Public Library parking lot expansion. A handout was circulated relative to concerns about Wahiawa General Hospital for interested persons to review. A call was made to Alexander and Baldwin regarding the fight at the Shack who informed Representative Lee that approximately 100 people were involved in the fracas and follow up with the Liquor Commission will be done. All bills must be referred to the Conference Committee by April 27, 2007.

Questions, comments, concerns: 1) Funding was requested for Wahiawa General Hospital. 2) The surplus budget will be used as a program budget. Chair Poirier thanked Ann Thornock for attending the meeting.

Representative Ryan Yamane – Danielle Bass apologized for the Representative not being in attendance this evening due to a meeting. HB 567, relating to a motor sports facility, introduced by Representative Yamane is currently under review in conference hearings. The bill seeks to study the costs of developing a motor-sports facility on O'ahu. HB 149 relating to disaster relief (co-introduced by Representative Yamane) creates a tax credit for victims of the October 15, 2006 earthquakes, is also in conference. The House and Senate recently passed HB 345, establishing a new holiday in observance of peace was signed by the Governor. This new holiday will be observed on September 21, not a state holiday but a day of awareness and observation. Correspondence was received from OMPO identifying two projects for Mililani. Both of these proposed projects are eligible for funding by the Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement Program guidelines. The projects include Meheula Parkway Bicycle Lane on the both sides of the parkway, which includes a bike lane symbols and signage. The other is the creation of a Kipapa Gulch Bikeway that will include a shared-use bicycle and pedestrian path through Kipapa Gulch. Update on the Mililani Wastewater Treatment facility – the Department of Planning and Permitting included the latest revisions of the Central O'ahu Mililani Wastewater Preliminary Treatment Facility Head-works Upgrade. The new project location would be on the southern boundary of Mililani near the Kamehameha Highway Bridge across Kipapa Gulch and will not affect residences. Relative to the Finance Budget, Mililani was supported quite well, \$1.5 million for a Mililani EMS unit, which is tentative. The Kipapa Drive traffic-calming has been modified. Chair Poirier thanked Danielle Bass for attending the meeting.

COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS:

Publicity/Public Relations – Freed reported that Chair Poirier and Nilsen had a meeting and discussed ideas for the Honolulu Advertiser's Board website. She suggested pictures and stories to give the site more appeal and asked for input from Board members. She will contact James Gonser of the Honolulu Advertiser with asking to do Board surveys for the blogs. Nilsen suggested breaking down the website by subdistricts. Freed was thanked for her report.

Chair's Report – Chair Poirier thanked Susan Hough for doing a good job with the recognition awards. Today a letter requesting a formal meeting was sent to Governor Lingle.

There were no committees or other reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution Urging the Continued Fiscal Viability and Provision of Maternity Services at Wahiawa General Hospital: Bremer moved, seconded by Freed urging the continued viability and provisions of maternity services at Wahiawa General Hospital. The motion carried unanimously 14-0-0; Aye –

Remington, Loomis, Bass, Arquette, Nilsen, Hamada Segura, Bremer Weinberger, Siegel, Iuli. Wong Freed, Poirier.

Resolution Regarding Problems at Maukaunulau Community Park (16-acre Park) – Deferred.

Motion Requesting that the Evening Closing Hours of Maukaunulau Community Park (16-acre Park) be changed from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.: Remington moved, seconded by Hamada requesting that the evening closing hours of Maukaunulau Community Park be changed from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. **The motion carried 12-1-1; Aye –** Poirier, Freed, Iuli, Wong, Siegel, Bremer, Segura, Hamada, Nilsen, Bass, Remington; **Nay –** Weinberger; **Abstention –** Arquette

Proposed Imaging Center in Mililani Mauka – Bremer moved, seconded by Weinberger in support of the proposed Diagnostic Imaging Center.

Discussion followed: 1) Wahiawa General Hospital has no MRI machine. Suzuki said they now lease a high scale ultra sound machine. Seventy percent of the hospital's business is out patients and radiology. 2) Hamada mentioned to his understanding the new machine has been postponed until later. 3) Chair Poirier explained that at the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board meeting a Certificate of Need was presented, which means no permits are required. The center would be located next to Tesoro gas station. 4) In response to Arquette, Suzuki answered there is a chance the hospital will get an MRI. 5) Freed added that all must be fair not just money, money, money. Suzuki replied the hospital is free standing and will have an impact, and they are trying to service the community. 6) Bremer asked if the certificate of need protects duplication of services. The response was they are looking at the impact of current providers. This year the CEO of SHIPTA (State Health Planning & Development Agency) voted down the building of new hospitals that would provide core services. 8) Freed asked if another hospital is build near by would they get \$2 million yearly in federal funds. 9) A comment was made that it is better for the community that the radiology department is upgraded. 10) Iuli noted that imaging and same day surgery makes money. 11) Freed added rural hospitals take care of the marginal and asked the hospital be saved for our state. **Bremer withdrew the motion and Weinberger agreed.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Board meeting will be at Mililani Recreation Center III, on May 23, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Submitted by, Nola J. Frank,
Neighborhood Commission Office Staff

Reviewed by,
Dick Poirier, Chair