



## WAHIAWA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 26

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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006  
WAHIAWA RECREATION CENTER

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ben Acohido called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ben Acohido, Sheri Bentley, Jeanne Ishikawa, Burt Iwata, Robert Kent, Silvia Koch, Mary Jane Lee, Kathy Masunaga, Jyun Yamamoto.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kathy Masunaga.

**GUESTS:** Eugene Lee (Mayor's Representative), Brandon Mitsuda (Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz's office), Zeny Muyot (Congressman Ed Case's office), Lawrence Lau (Governor's Representative), Gerald Ellamar (Representative Marcus Oshiro's office), Patty Dukes (EMS), Capt. Richard Ochoa and Fire Fighter Lyman (HFD), Capt. Ed Nishi, Lt. Russell Perkins and Lt. Douglas Beerman (HPD), Geri Tramontano (Wahiawa Satellite City Hall), Lt. Col. H. Killian (U.S. Army), Commander Robert Goodwin and CW Clifton Jenkins (NCTAMS PAC), Jack Kampfer (WCBA), Rev. Jack D. Smith (WCBA/Church of Nazarene), Pam Mills-Packo (RMS), Trisha Mozo (Kokua Ohana), Ellen Hyer, Raymond Marks, Jr., Daniel Monroy, Nestor Muyot, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 21, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The Board approved the minutes as submitted.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chair Acohido read the Financial Statement for the month of August. The Operating Account expenses were \$34.27, leaving a balance of \$1,454.59. The Publicity Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$2,110.00. The Refreshment Account did not incur any expenses, leaving the balance at \$120.00. The report was accepted subject to audit.

### FIRST RESPONDERS – Reports and Concerns:

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) –** Fire Fighter Lyman reported: 1) For the month of August, the Wahiawa Fire Station responded to 15 fires and 64 medical emergencies. 2) Fire Prevention Week will be held October 8-14, 2006. This year's theme is "Prevent cooking fires – watch what you heat". There will be displays at all fire stations, and various schools and shopping centers. The Fire Fighters' Safety Guide will be distributed to all grade school students in October. 3) HFD would like to remind the public that emergency vehicles are exempt of City traffic codes when in route to a scene. The warning signals should be used by the fire truck drives in order to warn the public as well as provide for the safety of the firefighters.

(Iwata arrived at 7:02 p.m.)

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD) –** Lt. Douglas Beerman reported: 1) For the month of August, there were 4 burglaries, 10 thefts from vehicles, and 36 thefts. 2) Recently, there have been copper thefts in Wahiawa. If anyone has any information, please call 911. 3) Officers have been enforcing speeding and seat belt violations.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) In response to Mary Jane Lee, Lt. Beerman stated recycle businesses pay three dollars per pound for copper. These businesses are not reporting the recyclers to police. Lee then asked if pawnshops report pawned items to police. Lt. Beerman answered investigators have been going to pawnshops, but has not recovered any stolen items.
- 2) Koch inquired about a car accident on California Avenue two weeks ago. Lt. Beerman had no information.
- 3) A resident asked the location of the vehicle thefts. Lt. Beerman will follow-up.



**Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** – Patty Dukes reported: 1) For the month of August, Wahiawa EMS responded to a total of 398 calls (255 in Wahiawa and 143 in Mililani). 2) The National Guard will continue provide helicopter assistance, seven days per week, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., until September 30, 2006. They have been averaging six calls per week.

In response to Kent, Dukes stated the U.S. Coast Guard will pull people off of waters, but not from land.

**U.S. Army – Schofield Barracks** – Lt. Col. H. Killian reported: 1) Transfer of command was held on September 13, 2006 in the Middle East. Schofield is now in command. Just recently two of their soldiers have been killed and six have been wounded. Also, there was a car bombing. Their training has saved lives. 2) He displayed maps of their 900-acre site. In addition, he stated since 1909 the Army has discovered and cleared three million pounds of unexploded ordinance on the site. And last year, they discovered non-lethal chemical munitions. The Army also pinpointed a lot of cultural sites, including a significant heiau. Each time they find a cultural site, they build a 100-foot buffer fence around it. The Army is working with cultural monitors. The Army has five weeks to survey the area (it will be fourth time they will be conducting a survey). Concerns include incompatible land use. Opponents want to stop the project (i.e. live-fire).

There was lengthy discussion on this issue. Lt. Killian answered the following 1) If protestors block the Army's construction equipment, the Army will be non-confrontational. They will work with HPD. Every Thursday, the Army holds a meeting with various native Hawaiian organizations. OHA is aware of the project. 2) The Native Hawaiian Rights Council has petitioned to sue the Army. The Army has invited the Council and OHA to walk the grounds of the project. 3) It's the only place for live-fire on O'ahu. Live-fire will take place in the lower elevation areas. The Army will build a berm on top of the heiau to protect the site. There still may be some damage to the area. The Army may take a time-out to prevent further erosion. 4) The Army will address the concern regarding soil erosion with their environmental people. 5) The Army hasn't done live-fire at Makua for two years. 6) The Army discovered iwi kupuna (bones), but test results indicated it was not human.

Chair Acohido thanked Lt. Col. Killan for the presentation on this culturally sensitive issue. Yamamoto said he grew up in Wahiawa when the Army was not concerned about being culturally sensitive. The Army has made a 180-degree turn. He thanked the Army for changing their stance. It's not 100 percent, but it is better than it was in the past.

**U.S. Navy – NCTAMS PAC** – Commander Robert Goodwin reported: 1) Captain Jim Donovan sends his regrets. 2) NCTAMS PAC is again the recipient of Navy's Retention Honor Roll for the second consecutive time this year. 3) On September 15, NCTAMS PAC held a "Pinning" ceremony for 10 new Chief Petty Officers from NCTAMS PAC, DISA and the Naval Magazine. 4) In November, NCTAMS PAC will be sponsoring the 17th Annual "Operation Aloha" on the North Shore. Operation Aloha is a project in which they provide and serve a holiday meal to the less fortunate members of the North Shore on Thanksgiving Day. The event will be held at the Waialua Community Center in Haleiwa.

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:** Chair Acohido explained that the Board must adhere to strict rules of the Sunshine Law. The Board is not able to act on any item not on the agenda, but it can be placed on next month's agenda for action.

**Questionable Training Course** – Pam Mills-Packo asked Larry Lau, Governor's representative, to have the University of Hawai'i postpone a partnership-training course until the training materials are reviewed. Taxpayer's money is being wasted on this course. The course fails to address Hawai'i's soil, clay, water, etc.

**Crosswalk Concerns** – Resident Ellen Hyer had concerns about the mid-block crosswalk fronting Bank of Hawai'i on California Avenue. It's a safety issue for pedestrians. She suggested a blinking light. Chair Acohido referred this item to Brandon Mitsuda of Council Chair Dela Cruz's office.

**Gratitude** – Mary Jane Lee thanked HPD for their quick response in addressing speeding on California Avenue near the Wahiawa Botanical Garden. After the last Board meeting, HPD responded the very next day.

Chair Acohido called for a recess at 7:48 p.m. Orders resumed at 7:50 p.m.

**Bentley moved and Iwata seconded to take the agenda out of order. The motion carried unanimously.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Chair Acohido circulated the Board's correspondence. One correspondence of note relates to Permitted Interactive Groups (PIG). The Sunshine Law applies to all Neighborhood Boards. OIP (Office of Informational Practices) wrote a legal opinion. All discussions will be held in the open and at public meetings. Board members may not discuss any issue outside of the Board meeting that may come before the Board.

The agenda resumed regular order.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Chair Acohido reported: 1) Army's Investigation of Traffic Tie-up on H-1 Freeway – The Army is taking appropriate action to repair the pedestrian bridge in Aiea that was damaged by one of its drivers. The issue is being handled by Army Headquarters. 2) Complaints of Dust from East Range Training Area caused by Military Vehicles – residents of upper Wahiawa have complained about the dust. The Army is using the area for Stryker Brigade training. To mitigate the problem, the Army has been watering the road. They are considering building another road. 3) Community Forum on Hawaii's Future 2050 – this forum is by invitation. He will be part of the group and asked for three other volunteers. Ishikawa, Iwata and Yamamoto volunteered.

**Community Strengthening Program** – Jack Kampfer of WCBA, announced the Community Strengthening Program will be held on September 21, 2006, Leilehua High School Cafeteria, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The program is a neighborhood planning process that aims at development of economic revitalization strategies for Wahiawa. Once the plan is completed, it will be submitted to the City for review and approval of a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area designation. Approval will not guarantee government funding, but it will identify our needs to the City and position Wahiawa to take advantage of private, city, state and federal funding opportunities.

Chair Acohido put out a challenge to the community. Wahiawa is the only town not to receive community grants. Seniors usually attend these meetings, but not the younger residents. He's asked for Board's support. **Kent moved and Ishikawa seconded that the Wahiawa Neighborhood Board No. 26 support the Community Strengthening Program. The motion carried unanimously.** Koch and Lee volunteered to represent the Board at these meetings. Chair Acohido encouraged the 2007-2009 Wahiawa Neighborhood Board to continue supporting the program.

**Leilehua High School Health Academy** – Students from the Leilehua High School Health Academy, which is in third year of existence, announced they will be holding a blood drive this Friday at Leilehua High School Library, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Only two percent of Hawai'i residents give blood. There is no substitute for blood. One pint of blood will save three lives. Giving blood only takes five to eight minutes. Before giving blood, eat enriched foods. After donating, don't lift anything heavy for 24 hours. (A round of applause was given at this time).

#### **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Wahiawa Community Business Association (WCBA)** – Kampfer reported: 1) The Art Fest scheduled for September 17, 2006 has been cancelled because there wasn't enough artists. 2) A speaker from the mainland will be discussing "Bridges out of Poverty" on October 14, 2006, Wahiawa Middle School Library, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Neighborhood Board is invited. 3) WCBA is trying to organize a community-wide Make-A-Difference day to be held on October 28, 2006. Lunch will be provided by First Baptist Church. It's part of the national Make-A-Difference Day. 4) The Veterans Day Parade, sponsored by the Wahiawa Lions will be held Friday, November 10, 2006. The Lions' Breakfast will be held on November 12.

**Mayor's Representative** – Eugene Lee reported: 1) Follow-up items: a) Since Capt. Ed Nishi spoke to the owner of Lone Star, all illegally parked vehicles have been cleared from the area. b) The City trees that grow within tree wells on Center and Lehua Streets, Hong Kong Orchid and Pittosporum trees, respectively, will be pruned the latter part of this month. 2) City's "Discover Recycling Fair" on September 21-23, 2006, Neal Blaisdell Arena. For more information, call the City's Recycling Office at 692-5410. 3) For the General Election, there will be 12 Charter Amendment proposals. Blank votes will no longer count as no votes. He asked that everyone look at Charter Amendment No. 11, which would extend the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) from 18 to 24 months. 4) He acknowledged Chair Acohido for being seated in the first row for the Philippines President visit to Punchbowl Cemetery. (A round of applause was given at this time).

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Acohido requested the status of the NOV against the property owner of 567 Avocado Street regarding the shipping container and storage shed. Lee will follow-up.
- 2) A resident said the railings at the Wahiawa Police Station needs repairing and the Wahiawa Police Station sign needs to be replaced. Lee will follow-up.

**Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz** – Brandon Mitsuda circulated Council Chair Dela Cruz’s monthly report and highlighted the following: 1) Council Chair Dela Cruz sends his regrets. 2) He distributed copies of Wikiwiki Voter Registration forms; Wikiwiki Absentee Application forms; and 2006 City Council Calendar. 3) He reported on RISR’s (Request for Investigation and Service Report) for Wahiawa and Whitmore. 4) If anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact him at 527-5710.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Acohido said the community is asking for temporary parking at the grass area at Wahiawa District Park. Mitsuda will follow-up.
- 2) Ishikawa mentioned residents of Glen Avenue were opposed to a traffic light; it was their least favorite choice.
- 3) Lee had concerns that the bus stop near the Wahiawa Botanical Garden. It has a bench, but no shelter and no crosswalk. Mitsuda will follow-up.
- 4) Kent reiterated his concern about a telephone pole situated in the middle the sidewalk near Church of Nazarene. Mitsuda will follow-up.
- 5) Iwata inquired if there is a set distance between bus stops. Mitsuda didn’t believe there are standards. DTS recently began a program to eliminate bus stops. Central O’ahu will be the last area they cover.

**Governor’s Representative** – Lawrence Lau circulated the “Governor’s Update” and follow-up concerns report and highlighted the following: 1) Follow-up items: a) The telephone number for Sandy Miyoshi, homeless program administrator for HPHA, is 832-5930; b) DOT says the “No Left Turn” sign on Kamehameha Highway into Avacado Street is appropriate in size and location and in compliance with national traffic engineering guidelines; c) The Albizzia trees at Waikakalau is not on DOT right of way; d) An arborist will look at the coconut trees at Kaala School to confirm it is safe. The trees are trimmed three times a year. It will trimmed again on October 1; e) The request to move the fence at Birthing Stones to Kamehameha Highway was sent to Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR); f) Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) has not received a report or claim that a girl was injured in the Wahiawa Civic Center parking lot; g) More specific are needed regarding the claim that the State is going to pay \$8 million related to the Turtle Bay Development.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Ishikawa indicated there are huge potholes near the Wahiawa Civic Center. Lau will follow-up.
- 2) Iwata asked when would the State repair the lights on the H-2 Freeway, which was caused by copper thefts. Lau will follow-up.
- 3) Chair Acohido said the rail lights along the H-2 Freeway, Wahiawa exit, hasn’t been repaired for two decades. Lau will follow-up.
- 4) Lee had concerns about motorists who block traffic at the gas station at Kilani Avenue and Kamehameha Highway. Eugene Lee said to call HPD’s Traffic Division.
- 5) Ishikawa inquired about the bacteria problem affecting Leilehua High School football players. Lau answered the concern was forwarded to the Department of Education (DOE). DOH has a disease investigation branch.

6) A resident mentioned the reservoir on Dole property has a very, very strong odor.

**Congressman Ed Case** – Zeny Muyot circulated Congressman Case's monthly newsletter and highlighted the following: 1) Regarding Yamamoto's concern about the Ku Tree Reservoir, U.S. Army Garrison has a responsibility to monitor the reservoir. The Army has funding-challenges. The reservoir is on the Army's project list, but it is below the project-funding list. 2) Congressman Case co-introduced national legislation to save farmland and boost agricultural-based renewable energy. 3) She also circulated Fiscal-Year 2007 Appropriations update. 4) Congressman Case's representative who attended last month's meeting was Darrell Villaruz.

**Senator Robert Bunda** – No report or representative was available.

**Representative Marcus Oshiro** – Gerard Ellamar reported: 1) Representative Oshiro sends his regrets. 2) Representative Oshiro spoke to DOH regarding the rotten egg smell near Kemoo Farms. 3) Representative Oshiro met with the Leilehua High School football coach and principal regarding funding for a new football field. Since July 1, 2006, \$2 million has been appropriated for the project.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS)** – No report or representative was available.

**Wahiawa Action Initiative (WAI)** – Iwata had no report.

**Wahiawa Satellite City Hall** – Geri Tramontano stated: 1) WSCH issues disabled parking placards. The price has increased from \$10 to \$12. 2) She encouraged everyone to vote in the primary election. Absentee voting is available at various locations (i.e. Honolulu Hale, Windward Mall, Pearl Ridge Shopping Center, Kapalama).

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Appointment of Committee Chairs** – Chair Acohido tabled this item of business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Installation of 60-Foot Wireless Antenna** – Kelley Rodriguez of WFI, said they received a lot of complaints from their customers regarding inadequate wireless telephone coverage in Wahiawa. WFI is planning to erect a 90-foot light pole at Wahiawa District Park. Their antenna will be attached to the pole. The pole will be no higher than the existing light poles and give more light to the community. There is space on the pole for additional carriers. Benefits to the community include \$1,200 per month earmarked for the park and a 10-ft. by 22-ft. room for storing equipment for the City. The antenna will have E-1 and E-9 capacity.

There was length discussion on this issue. Concerns and comments include: 1) Rodriguez answered the following: a) The pole will be made of metal and look like the existing poles; b) The emission from the antenna will be lower than FCC standards and far lower than the national standards; c) The project will begin in 30-45 days; d) The City will have control of the lights since it is on City property; e) T-Mobile has a tower off of California Avenue; f) He was only required to send out certified letters to adjacent property owners (i.e. City and State). 2) Lee said residents are concerned about the existing lights shining into their homes. Residents don't want the lights any stronger. 3) Ishikawa questioned building a storage room. Instead, she suggested using the money to fix the gym. 4) Koch suggested that WFI be good neighbors and notify surrounding residents. Chair Acohido agreed and asked Rodriguez to send out a blanket statement to area residents.

**Agenda for Next Regular Meeting** – Chair Acohido asked if any member has an agenda item to please contact him. Yamamoto requested two agenda items: Ku Tree Reservoir and Castle & Cooke.

**ADJOURNMENT:** By a consensus of the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted:

Steve J. Rodrigues,  
Neighborhood Assistant