



WAHIAWA-WHITMORE VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 26

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010 WAHIAWA RECREATION CENTER

OPENING CEREMONIES: Chair Ben Acohido welcomed everyone to the Board meeting and led everyone in the Pledge of Alliance.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ben Acohido called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. **with a quorum of six (6) present.** Note – this nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members for a quorum and to take official Board action.

At this time, there were no objections to Chair Acohido's request to change the order of business by moving agenda Item VIII. REPORTS up on the agenda as Item V.

Board Members Present: Ben Acohido, Joseph Francher, Jeanne Ishikawa, Mary Jane Lee, Robert Lormand, and Hugh Lowery.

Board Members Absent: Cindy Bauer, Dean Harvest, and Silvia Koch.

Vacancies: None

Guests: Michael Lyons (North Shore Neighborhood Board Chair); Thomas Young (Honolulu Board of Water Supply); Keanu Young (City Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz), Richard McCormack, Officer Wendy Abatay and Lt. Eric Brown (Honolulu Police Department); Major Andy Deeweese and SFC. Tom Mezt (U.S. Army), Capt. Richard Ochoa (Honolulu Fire Department); Alesia Au; James Myers; Don Glover (Whitmore Community Association); Mitchell Mizokami, Guillermo Cabacungan, and Brandon Goo, Mark Wong and Kirk Lagerquist (U. S. Navy); Sean Baxter (Phycal); Jan Respicio; Ron Menor; Leroy Chincio; Lt. Miguel Macias (NCTAMS PAC); Wilfredo Pormeoto; Lisa Hopkins; Jyun Yamamano; Jeff Overton; and Gloria Gaines (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

VACANT BOARD SEATS – None.

CITY MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Richard Ochoa reported statistics for January: There were 25 fire related incidents; 2 structural; 7 brush; 2 rubbish; and 1 auto fire; and 70 medically related emergency calls.

- Smoke Detectors – Capt. Ochoa reminded residents to install smoke alarms in the homes and practice a fire escape plan with household members.
- Walking Tour of Homeless Camp: Contact Capt. Ochoa if Board members are still interested in taking a walking tour of the homeless camp near Lake Wilson.

There were no questions for HFD.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. Eric Brown and Officer Wendy Abatay were available for questions.

- Statistics for January – In January there were 3 automobile thefts; 19 burglaries; 17 automobile break-ins; 2 graffiti; and 27 thefts.
- Free Security Inspection – HPD offers free security home inspection to keep homes safe and preventing burglary. Inspections are also available to businesses if the business is part of the Business Watch Program. For a free security home inspection, call HPD at 621-0785 ext. 269.



- Ohai Street Fair – The Ohai Street Fair held February 6 was a success. Abatay thanked the U.S. Navy for helping with the breakdown. Leading up to the fair was a community cleanup; throwing away rubbish and many bulky items.
- Graffiti Task Force – A Graffiti Task Force will be organized at the Whitmore Village community. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2010 at Whitmore Village.
- Volunteers for Community Traffic Awareness Program CTAP – Officer Abatay stated that more volunteers are needed from the Whitmore community to help with the sign waving. The sign waving effort lets motorists know that the community cares and wants to raise public awareness to all motorists to slow down on Whitmore Avenue.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Towing Business in Residential Zone – At the time of the investigation, HPD officers did not witness any illegal activity and no violations were cited. This is a daytime occurrence and will be reported to the day watch officers for investigation. A resident added that the same towing business owns a large trailer parked on the street which caused problems that led into altercations between neighbors. HPD asked that residents call 911 immediately, if witnessing any auto repair activity.
2. Request for HPD Patrol in Whitmore Village – A resident requested the HPD patrol and be visible to deter burglaries occurring in the Whitmore Village area. The residents were informed to call 911 immediately if noticing any suspicious activity and an officer will respond. Officer Abatay will work with the Whitmore Village community on the Neighborhood Watch Program and with CTAP.
3. Speeding Motorist on Whitmore Avenue – Regarding the drag racing occurring on Whitmore Avenue, community are urged to report active military motorists speeding on Whitmore Avenue to the commanding officer at 623-5385.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS): A representative was not available.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Report: A representative was not available.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Thomas Young distributed a report and highlighted the following:

- Resurfacing California Avenue – The BWS contract ended, equipment removed, and ready for the City's Department of Facility Maintenance to do the resurfacing of California Avenue.
- Residential Water Line Connections – Rather than disrupting California Avenue, the BWS will seek other alternatives when connecting future residential water lines.
- Schedule of Water Rate Increase – Young provided a schedule of the water rate increase. The next increase will be effective July 1, 2010. In addition to the bill charge of \$5.84, there will be a quantity charge for all water drawn for each 1,000 gallons effective July 1, 2010. For more information, log on to website at www.boardofwatersupply.com.
- Outdoor Water Conservation Tips – An estimated 50 percent of the water consumption of the average single-family home on Oahu is used outdoors, most of which is used for hydrating yards or gardens. There are two ways of conserving outdoor water:
 - Xeriscaping – Xeriscaping involves growing unthirsty plants, using mulch, and installing proper irrigation. A household can save 30 to 80 percent in water consumption a month.
 - Rainwater Catchment – The BWS promotes the use of rain barrels to collect rainwater to use for non-drinking activities such as landscape irrigation. The BWS hosts Rain Barrel Water Catchment workshops that teach people how to build, install and maintain rain barrels at home. For more information on xeriscaping and rain barrels, log on to website at www.boardofwatersupply.com.

- Workshops – Workshops are held each month at the Halawa Xeriscape Garden and are geared toward educating the community on outdoor water conservation. The upcoming scheduled workshops are:
 - March 20, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Visit with a “Plant Doctor” for plant care and gardening tips.
 - April 3, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Xeriscape egg decorating workshop with garden egg hunt.

To register for these classes, call Diane Moses (748-5363) or email tours@hbws.org

Councilmember Dela Cruz: Keanu Young distributed a report and highlighted the following:

- Spay and Neuter Program – The City Council has increased the fees for spaying and neutering female dogs and cats: Spaying a female dog increased from \$75.00 to \$150.00. For neutering a male dog, the fees increased from \$50.00 to \$125.00.
- Bill 6 – Designed to help apartment units within hotel, apartment, and resort, commercial or industrial qualify for residential tax rate assessment passed second reading.
- Bill 7 and 8 – Prohibiting tents and shopping carts in parks passed second reading.
- Bill 78 – Bulky item bill is moving forward but without the violation fee attached.
- Walking Paths for California Avenue – Advertising for bids for the project is anticipated between April and June 2010. Construction will follow after contract is awarded. Young will be meeting with the director of the City’s Department of Design and Construction (DDC).
- Traffic Light at California Avenue and Nanea Street – The City’s Department of Transportation Services (DTS) is currently advertising for a consultant to design the traffic light at California Avenue and Nanea Street.
- Request for a Cross Walk and Pedestrian Light – A request was sent to DTS to install a crosswalk with a pedestrian light on Kilani Avenue between Kilani Bakery and Mango Street.
- Request to Maintain Grass of Lot Next to Judy’s Florist – A request was also sent to the City’s Department Parks and Recreation (DPR) to maintain the grass at the municipal lot next to Judy’s Florist.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Governor Linda Lingle – No report.

Senator Robert Bunda – No report.

Representative Marcus Oshiro – No report.

Congressional Delegates – No report.

ARMED FORCES:

United States Navy – Lt. Macias provided the following report:

- Pineapple Run – Residents were encouraged to sign up for the Sunday, May 9, 2010 10K Pineapple Run at 7:00 a.m. For more information call 477-6434 or log on to Active.com to register.
- Drag Racing on Whitmore Avenue – The Navy is aware of motorists speeding on Whitmore Avenue. If anyone witnesses any military person drag racing on Whitmore Avenue, please call 653-5385.
- Route 72 Bus – The Route 72 Bus schedule was changed to 9:00 p.m. for the Navy NCTAM personnel and Whitmore Village residents. A bus rider survey will be done. If bus ridership does not increase, the route may be discontinued.

United States Army – Major Andy Deewees distributed the *U.S. Army Weekly* newspaper and highlighted the following:

- School Partnership Program – The Army participates in a partnership program with elementary, middle school, and high school students. Schools interested in military assisting with special programs please contact Major Deewees at 655-0096.
- Road Closure Reminders – Major Deewees distributed a notice of road closures: a) Wilikina Drive closure from March 1 to March 5, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and b) Kaukonahu Road closure from March 9 to March 12, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Francher read the January 2010 Treasurer's Report, highlighting a current expense of \$38.38 for printing and postage of agenda and minutes, leaving a closing balance of \$3,312.81. No expenses reflected in the publicity account. The report was filed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Acohido reported on the following:

- Wilikina Park Elderly Housing – Efforts gaining ownership of the housing project is ongoing. Acohido noted that the City owns the land which the Wilikina Park Elderly Housing sits on.
- May 8 Festival – Residents were invited to the Annual Pineapple Festival on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Wahiawa District Park.
- Schofield 25th Division – The Wahiawa-Whitmore Village Neighborhood Board No. 26 welcomed Schofield Barracks' 25th Division back home from Iraq.
- Legislative Session Government Affairs Committee – Acohido appointed Lormand as chair of the Legislative Session Government Affairs Committee.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Francher reported the following:

- Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Update – OMPO contracted with Omnitrak Group, Inc. to conduct surveys in preparation for the 2035 ORTP (Oahu Regional Transportation Plan). The July-October 2009 telephone survey contacted 601 respondents, of which only 57 respondents were from Central Oahu. Central Oahu has approximately 17% of the population on Oahu, but the survey only had 9% of the respondents from Central Oahu. Even so, in this survey of perceived transportation related issues, the Central-Mauka Road was noted as being one of the main projects for action. The H-1 corridor and Waianae Second Access were the two highest ranking issues. Between February and April, Omnitrak will be conducting another, follow-up survey more closely related to the 2035 ORTP proposed projects.
- Transit Center Funding – The State has not released monies to build the transit center. However, the City will proceed with a scaled down version of the transit center.
- California Avenue Bus Stop Pads – Francher was informed that concrete pads are planned for the bus stops on California Avenue during the resurfacing of the road.

At this time, the Dam/Waterway Report was taken out of order and will be heard later.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Wahiawa Community Base Development Organization – (See Chair's Report)

Wahiawa Business Community Association – No report.

Whitmore Village Community Organization – Don Glover reported that safety is the main concern for the Whitmore Village Community. Glover circulated photos and reported on the following:

- Speeding – To slow down motorists on Whitmore Avenue, residents expressed speed bumps are needed especially near the school zone.
- City Bus Stop Sign – The photo showed that there is a utility pole in front of the City bus stop sign which is set too far back into the new sidewalk. It is very difficult to see the bus stop sign.
- Incomplete Paving of Sidewalk – The sidewalk is not safe for children riding bicycles due to an unfinished section of the sidewalk.
- Anchor Wires for Utility Poles – Anchor wires for utility poles hinder pedestrians walking on the sidewalk. The U.S. Navy is aware of the problem and will be removing the wires immediately.

DAM/WATERWAY COMMITTEE: Lowery reported on the following:

- Ku Tree Dam – The State's Department of Land and Natural Resources has commented on the Draft Emergency Action Plan. A copy was provided to the State Civil Defense/other DLNR offices and returned the draft to Schofield.
- Lake Wilson Reservoir – Schofield reported the Delta and Satellite photos (2005 vs. 2009) were due to a road belt in 2008. Plans to make a Lake Wilson Special Review Committee will be provided at the March Board meeting.
- Wahiawa Sewage Plant – It was advised that the Wahiawa Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade completion date is December 28, 2010.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Medical Arts Building – A resident raised concern that the groundskeeper from the Medical Arts Building cut down his bamboo hedge. Attempts to reach the owner of Medical Arts Building failed. Chair Acohido will meet with the resident after the meeting.
- Wahiawa Satellite City Hall – Acohido encouraged letters to the City Administration to support the retention of the Wahiawa Satellite City Hall. The communities of the North Shore and from the military bases should also be informed and send letters of support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2010: **There were no objections to ADOPT the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2010, 6-0-0 (Ayes:** Acohido, Francher, Ishikawa, Lee, Lormand, and Lowery).

BOARD BUSINESS:

Status of Hawaii Regional Security Operations Center (HRSOC), United States Navy Region Hawaii – Mark Wong reported work is still continuing off base on Whitmore Avenue on the installation of power lines, lighting, road work, and island curbs.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Narrowed Road – Communication lines were installed along Whitmore Avenue up to Kamehameha Highway. The road will be returned to its normal width.
2. Presentation Request – As requested by residents of Whitmore Village Community Organization, the HROC Navy will arrange a presentation for the residents of Whitmore Village Community.
3. Tour of Construction Site – A tour of the construction site at the base is currently not allowed.
4. Traffic Light Request – Residents are requesting a traffic light at the first intersection of Whitmore Avenue and the new access road to the base site.
5. Staffing of Personnel – It will take a year or more before the base is staffed and in full operation.

6. Employment Available – The type of jobs and training required are being reviewed at this time.
7. Main Gate – The new road will be the main gate to facility. This should minimize traffic on Whitmore Avenue.

Algae Farm near Pomaho Village: Guy Ontai distributed information sheets of the proposed algae farm project near Pomaho Village. A map of the area indicated the layout of the algae farm which included a processing facility. This pilot project is an algae fuel company called Phycal Hawaii R & D that plans to build and operate a 34-acre algae farm near Pomaho Village. If successful with producing renewable energy products from algae, then it will become a commercial operation. This would mean the selling of algal oil for renewable diesel and jet fuel, oil to the Hawaiian Electric Company as renewable electric power, and selling methane to TESORO as renewable hydrogen. Jeff Overton gave a detailed explanation of the entire process.

The Draft Environmental Assessment will be published by May 2010. Because a Conditional Use Permit is required, there will be a public hearing. Overton will keep the Board informed.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Amount of Land Required for Commercial Operation – There was a concern that a commercial operation will need more land than what is presented. Although the amount of the land depends on the number of contracts, it is estimated to be in the thousands of acres. There are no contracts at this time.
2. Current Algae Farms – There are algae farms in the mainland and two in the Big Island of Hawaii, and one in Kauai, for purposes other than oil.
3. Obnoxious or Hazardous Odors – There may be some fumes generated during the processing facility but will be addressed thru the permitting and planning process.
4. Esthetic Planning – The mounds will be created along the Kamehameha Highway side of the farm will. The ponds will be shallow, about 6 to 8 inches deep.
5. Final End Product – The final product of the algae after processing is nitrogen and phosphate or fertilizer.
6. Amount of Water Used for Processing – For a commercial operation, it is estimated that millions of gallons of R-1 water from the sewage treatment plant to be used daily. Overton will find out exactly how much water is needed to operate the pilot algae farm.
7. Date of Construction – If permitting, the earliest is October 17, 2010. Phycal Hawaii R & D is required to do an updated presentation before groundbreaking.
8. Over Flow of High Nutrient Water – Since the algae absorbs all the nutrients from the water and there is no nearby stream to carry the surface water to the ocean, there is no threat of algae bloom to the reefs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Recognizing Wahiawa Business – It was recommended that the Board recognize the Aloha Termite Company for their beautification effort. Chair asked the committee to review the nominee for a certificate of recognition.

Board/Community Meeting Schedules: A schedule of the meetings followed:

- Whitmore Village Community Organization – A tentative date of March 15, 2010 was decided. It was discussed that the Wahiawa Board meeting be held at Whitmore Village. Whitmore Village is listed under community organizations and can report their concerns at that time. Acohido will finalize meeting date with Whitmore Village Community Organization.
- Board Recess – Chair Acohido suggested that the Board recess for the month of April. After a discussion, the Board will bring this up at the March Board meeting.

56th Annual Kunia Orchid Show – Free tickets are available to the 56th Annual Kunia Orchid Show at Leilehua High School from Friday, March 19th to Saturday, March 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, March 22, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at Wahiawa Recreation Center
- Next Regular Meeting on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Wahiawa Recreation Center
- Board/Other Announcements

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Submitted by: Gloria Gaines, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Ben Acohido, Chair