



## WAIALAE-KAHALA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 3

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### **DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES** **THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011** **KAHALA COMMUNITY PARK**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Scotty Anderson called the Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **with a quorum of five (5) members present.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Members Present: Scotty Anderson, Arnold Brady, Stan Fichtman, Linda Fulton, John Pyles (arrived at 7:04 p.m.), Martin Schiller and Richard Turbin (arrived at 7:04 p.m.).

Members Absent: Sylvia Himeda and Paul Saito.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Sergeant C. Sukekane and Officer Tony Kahapea (Honolulu Police Department), Fire Fighter Regionaldo Gawiran and Fire Fighter Scott Matsumoto (Honolulu Fire Department), Tom Berger, Trevor Ozawa (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office), Ron Kuhn, Joan Shinn (Representative Barbara Marumoto's Office), Lorna Heller (Board of Water Supply), Ann Chung (Office of Economic Development/Mayor's Representative), Senator Sam Slom, Casey Nishimura (Representative Mark Hashem's Office), Carole Berg (Kahala Community Association), and Leland S.M. Ribac (Neighborhood Commission Office).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Chair Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day. Those present introduced themselves.

#### MONTHLY REPORTS:

Board members John Pyles and Richard Turbin arrived at 7:04 p.m. **A quorum of seven (7) members present.**

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Fire Fighter Matsumoto reported;

- February 2011 Statistics: Included 47 emergency medical services, 46 provided assistance, 38 investigative/enforcements, 5 fill-in/standby, 3 restore system services, 2 identify and confine hazardous conditions, 2 rescues and 1 extinguish and control.
- Fire Safety Tip: As Easter season approaches residents were reminded to never leave boiling eggs unattended and to be attentive to children when boiling or dyeing eggs. If candles are used, do not leave them near drapes, Easter baskets or basket materials.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Single Family Home Fires: It was questioned how many single family home fires occur every year; Fire Fighter Matsumoto to follow-up.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sergeant Sukekane and Officer Kahapea reported;

- February 2011 Statistics: Board members were previously emailed a copy of the statistics for the month. Statistics show a decrease in vehicle break-ins, usually attributed to the efforts of police officers.
- Safety Tip of the Month: Also included in the email distribution were warnings and safety tips pertaining to scams. Residents were warned of several types of scams including money transfer and sweepstakes scams, car accident scams, home improvement, and auto repair scams.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Community Policing Team: A Board member thanked HPD for their continued efforts and for providing members with an email distribution of the month's statistics.



Board of Water Supply (BWS): No report or representative available at this time.

Mayor Carlisle's Representative: Ann Chung apologized as two of last month's concerns have not yet been answered by the appropriate departments. A statement from Mayor Peter Carlisle was read noting that Honolulu has not received any indication of impact by harmful radiation from the nuclear plants in Japan. Hawaii has the appropriate equipment to detect environmental radiation, and readings have been normal.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Aha Maka Street Follow-up: Chair Anderson questioned if there has been any follow-up regarding Aha Maka Street and the photos that were provided; Chung apologized and will follow-up next month.
2. Bulky Trash Pickup: A Board member spoke to the City Department of Environmental Services (ENV) earlier this week and was informed that the bulky items would be removed within two to three days. It was noted that bulky items are regularly picked up the week of every fourth Monday; Chung will follow-up.
3. Kawamoto Properties: A Board member had spoken with Mayor Carlisle earlier this week in regards to the Kawamoto properties. The Board member requested to continue dialogue with the Mayor. Chung will touch base and follow-up with the Mayor.
4. Derelict Property/Canal: A member of Representative Marumoto's staff noted that residents have raised issue with the property adjacent to 4340 Kahala Avenue. The structure is derelict and may pose a hazard. Residents also noted the canal behind the property is full of graffiti.

**Without objection the agenda moved out of order to hear item II c, Board of Water Supply.**

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Lorna Heller reported;

- Water Main Breaks: No water main breaks in the Waialae-Kahala areas for the month of February.
- General Water Announcements: Aging infrastructure is one the greatest challenges facing utilities across the nation and world. The BWS responds to an average of one main break per day. Several proactive steps are taken to reduce the amount of breaks that happen every year. For more information visit the BWS publications website, [www.boardofwatersupply.com](http://www.boardofwatersupply.com).

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Water Loss/Main Breaks: It was questioned how much gallons of water are lost during a water main break. Heller noted that the response crews are extremely fast in responding to a break; however, the amount of water lost differs depending on valve or main size; Heller to follow-up.

**Without objection the agenda resumed order with item II e, Councilmember Stanley Chang.**

Councilmember Stanley Chang: Trevor Ozawa provided the Councilmember's monthly report highlighting;

- City Budget Process: The City Council continues to work on the City Budget. A 41% decrease, approximately \$32 million, to the road maintenance budget has been proposed. Councilmember Chang is working diligently to keep that budget secure, and is dialoguing with the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) in possible ways to acquire federal funds for the road maintenance.
- Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP): Councilmember Chang and his staff have had several meetings with DPP in attempts to address a range of concerns. Board members were provided a memorandum focusing on the violations of Genshiro Kawamoto.
- Compliance: DPP provided a spread sheet noting all 56 violations from May 24, 2005 to June 10, 2010. Of the 56 violations, 29 were issued a Notice of Order (NOO). Of those that incurred fines, seven (7) are still in negotiation with Corporation Counsel.
- Lien Policy: As a result of the latest meeting, DPP will be modifying their internally regulated procedures to initiate the lien process faster on four (4) types of elevated violations including; recurring violations; egregious violations; health and safety; and financial gains violations.

- Continued Collaboration: DPP Director David Tanoue and the Division Chief's are committed to working together to find solutions that are enforceable, equitable and reflective of what the community wants. Discussions will continue to address future proposals.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Basic Calculations: Questions and concerns were raised with the amount of monies owed in violations. It was noted that if Kawamoto owes \$230,000, but is only asked to pay 10%, he will have paid only \$23,000. Comments were also made, noting that this issue has spanned several years, and only now has DPP taken a proactive step in addressing the issue.
2. Commend the Councilmember: A Board member commended Councilmember Chang and his office for their diligent work in addressing this long standing issue. It was noted, that although this change in DPP is a 'baby step', it is a step in the right direction.
3. Pay the Maximum Fine: A community member commented that she would like to see Kawamoto pay the entire \$230,000. It was noted that DPP is not in the money making business, and is only interested in having the property owner be compliant.

Representative Barbara Marumoto: Joan Shinn provided the Representative's monthly report and noted that bills continue to move through the House and Senate.

- Helicopter Noise Complaints: Included in the monthly report are contact numbers for helicopter noise complaints; however, some contact numbers are incorrect and Shinn can provide correct numbers.
- Sustainable Agriculture: Representative Marumoto toured the North Shore farms along with other members of the House. The Representatives looked at methods of sustaining Hawaii's agriculture.
- Town Hall Meeting: Residents were encouraged to attend a Town Hall Meeting regarding pensions on Friday, March 18, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at Kahala Nui Retirement Center.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: Helicopter Noise Complaints: It was clarified that there seems to be no height limit for helicopters, private helicopters included. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorizes the flight patterns. In recent events, a helicopter had to land at Kokohead Elementary School. Residents may contact the FAA for complaints, and when doing so are encouraged to provide as much information as possible.

Representative Mark Hashem: Casey Nishimura provided the Representative's monthly report highlighting;

- State Budget: Members of the House debated and passed the State Budget yesterday. One aspect of the budget proposes to take away some tax exemptions. House members feel that by taxing everyone at fair rates, it takes away the burden from single individuals. Representative Hashem also opposes raising the General Excise Tax (GET) or taking away pensions.
- Senate Proposal: According to a Star-Advertiser article, a Senate Bill proposes to take money \$200 million from the City Rail Project, and replace it with \$300,000 in bonds; however, not many Representatives in House have favored this proposal.
- Proposal to Defer Tax Returns: The House Minority has proposed a bill that would defer State tax returns to balance the State budget; however not many Democratic Representatives favored this proposal.
- Kalani High School Lockers: The Kalani High School Women's Locker Room is included in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) shortlist, which does not guarantee the project, but is a good sign. The project will comply with the Title 9 requirements.

Questions, comments and concerns: Decreasing/Cutting State Spending: It was questioned and clarified that the House has received the Governor's budget. The State has decreased and cut costs over the past several years. It was estimated that close to \$2 billion has been cut from the budget over the past years.

Senator Sam Slom: Senator Slom provided his monthly report and highlighted;

- Education Week: It has been Education Week at the State Legislature. Both houses have honored outstanding teachers and principals in the area; several have also been recognized on the national level.
- Senate Confirmation: The Senate confirmed Richard Lim, to head the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). The Department seems troubled with moral and credibility problems. The Senator feels that DBEDT is focused on too broad of a range and not on small businesses.
- Council of Revenues: The Council of Economic Advisors met for their quarterly report on Thursday, March 10, 2011 and estimated a reduction of 2% on the overall economic forecast, translating into \$150 million deficit. The Senator noted that the Governor's Administration and Majority party believe that Hawaii can spend its way out of debt.
- State Budget: The House passed a budget of \$22 billion for the next two years. It was noted that the previous budget cuts have been very minor. In the past, Governor Linda Lingle has withheld funds to make up for the State's deficit. The current Administration is now putting back the appropriations and positions.
- Cutting Costs: The Senator feels that the State needs to cut its cost significantly, as the State does not have enough money. The Governor has asked for a special meeting in early April, to look at the impact on the visiting and tourism industry.
- Senate and House Bills: Very few bills introduced this year addressed business, or encouraged more jobs within the private sector. The Governor and the Senate has spoken in favor of raising the GET, as it is the fairest way to tax everyone in the State.
- Town Hall Meeting: Residents were again encouraged to attend the Town Hall Meeting on taxing pensions. The meeting will be held tomorrow, March 18, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at Kahala Nui Retirement Center.
- House Bill (HB) 1034: The Senate fast-tracked HB1034 Senate Draft 1 an 'emergency' appropriation bill to the Governor. The bill calls for taxpayers to pay \$18 million to the state employee health fund. Two Senators including Slom voted against the bill.
- Medal of Honor Ceremony: Residents were welcomed to attend the Annual Medal of Honor Ceremony, which will be held by both houses on Tuesday, March 19, 2011. The ceremony will honor service men and women that have lost their lives in battle.
- Bills on a Lighter Note: The Senator explained that foie gras was saved yesterday in the Senate. Residents for and against the bill provided ample testimonies. Senators Ihara and Slom introduced a bill to improve the State's ethics; however, the bill was gutted and amended from its original. however, was recognized in the media.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS: No community concerns were voiced.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 17, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes: **Turbin moved and Pyles seconded the approval of the February 17, 2011 regular meeting minutes as circulated. The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, 7-0-0, (Aye: Anderson, Brady, Fitchman, Fulton, Pyles, Schiller and Turbin.)**

BOARD BUSINESS:

Parking Issues at Hoaloha Kai Montessori School: No report or representative available at this time.

OTHER REPORTS:

Chair Reports/Correspondence: Chair Anderson provided flyers warning residents of the \$130 fine for entering a crosswalk incorrectly. Residents are not to enter the crosswalk once the timer begins to count down. The timer is to inform residents already in the crosswalk of how much time they have to cross the street.

Treasurer's Report: Chair Anderson read the February Treasurer's Report highlighting a current expense of \$29.13 due to printing and postage of agenda and minutes, leaving a current balance of \$2,362.70. The report was filed.

Committees: Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Traffic: No report at this time.

Land Use and Zoning: No report at this time.

Permitted Interaction Group (PIG): None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at the Kahala Community Park (current meeting location).

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted By:  
Leland S.M. Ribac  
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed By:  
Scotty Anderson  
Chair