



WAIALAE-KAHALA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 3

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DRAFT – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Hoaloha Kai Montessori School

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Scotty Anderson called the meeting of the Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board No. 3 to order at 7:00 p.m. **A quorum was present with five (5) members.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish a quorum and take official Board action.

Members Present – Scotty Anderson, Arnie Brady, Kenneth Chang (Arrived 7:37 p.m.), Linda Fulton, John Pyles, and Martin Schiller.

Members Absent – Sylvia Himeda and Richard Turbin.

Guests – Ann Chung (Mayor's Representative/Office of Economic Development), Lance Tom, Michael Leong (Council staff), Cinde Fisher; Matt Derby, Toru Hamayasu and Jeanne Belding (HART), Chad Silva, Senator Sam Slom, Cliff Slater, Capt. Tim Turgeon (Honolulu Fire Department), Jim Quimby, Glenn Oamilda, Matt Gold, Lorna Heller (Board of Water Supply), Nina Reppun Carney (Kahala Community Association), Lucinda Pyles, Marylyn Lee Loy and Pili'aloa Lee Loy, Representative Barbara Marumoto, Walter Heen, Bob Finley and Sylvia Young (Commissioners); Kenneth Toru Hamayasu (HART), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Board members and guests introduced themselves at this time.

FILLING OF VACANT SUBDISTRICT 4 POSITION: There were no interested person(s) to fill the vacancy tonight.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Tim Turgeon reported the following:

- September Fire Statistics – Totaled 96 medical calls, 5 structure, 1 rubbish, 2 search and rescues, and 16 miscellaneous service type calls. There was one incident of a missing diver off the Kahala Hotel over a period of four days and involving six companies; part of the park was used as a landing.
- Fire Safety Tip – Fire Prevention Week (FPW) was created after the Great Chicago Fire on October 8–10, 1871. The Fire Marshals Association of North America decided that the anniversary should be observed nationally to inform the public about the importance of fire prevention. Since 1992, FPW has been observed the week of October 9. This year, FPW is on October 9–15, and the National Fire Protection Association selected "Protect Your Family From Fire" as its FPW theme, which focuses on keeping you, your family, and the community safe from fire. Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in the U.S. as a result of home fires. In October, children attending elementary schools statewide will receive a Fire Fighter's Safety Guide (FFSG) from their teachers. We encourage parents to review the FFSG with their child, practice their fire escape plan, test their smoke alarms, and consider the safety tips in the guide.
- Normally, there are five positioned to a truck or a minimum of four to a truck if someone is out sick.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – No representative present at this time; no report was available.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Lorna Heller highlighted an announcement about

- Wildfire Prevention and Watershed Protection – The BWS works closely with the HFD to provide efficient and reliable water service to save lives and property. Wildfires are devastating to Oahu's natural resources, especially to our watersheds that serve as a collection basin that helps to catch, collect, and store rainwater in our underground sources. If our watershed's ability to collect rainwater is compromised, less rainwater will percolate underground to replenish our ground water supplies. BWS fully supports the Fire Department's efforts to prevent wildfires and encourages residents to do the same by supporting wildfire prevention and watershed protection activities in their communities. Additionally, the simple practice of



water conservation also assists in watershed protection by reducing the need to use ground water that is essential for healthy watershed forests and stream ecosystem. These collective efforts help to create a sustainable future on Oahu where natural resources are cherished and sustained for many years to come.

It was noted that two water heater boxes were flooded and turned in to BWS, and came right out to fix it.

Mayor's Representative – Ann Chung highlighted on the following:

- Kahala Community Association – In response to the letter from the Kahala Community Association (KCA) provided to the City, was that the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) administers compliance with various land use and building codes. The phone number to call is 768-8000, and in order to investigate certain locations, a specific address and concern is necessary.
- APEC – There were a variety of news releases from the State Department, the Secret Service and the Mayor. Chung made copies available for Board members and extras for the audience. The conference will be held on Oahu from November 7–13 (Monday to Sunday), and hosting 21 Associations of Economies from the Asian Pacific Region, and more than 15,000 people are expected to be here; primarily in the Waikiki area. There will traffic impacts caused by road closures. The advisory is to plan for additional travel time, use alternate routes, use public transportation when possible, monitor the daily traffic updates, be patient and drive with ALOHA. For more information, visit www.honolulu.gov.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Drive with ALOHA – A comment encouraged to do a PSA (Public Service Announcement), that while APEC is here to “Drive with ALOHA”; Chung agreed the idea is excellent.
2. Public Transportation – A resident asked about the bus stops that Mayor Hannemann did away with and questioned whether Mayor Carlisle is going to do anything about bringing these bus stops back. One bus stop in particular was the bus stop at Times Supermarket on 21st Avenue that is very critical and the other is on Malia Street near Kahala Nui Senior Living. Chung provided her email address achung@honolulu.gov and telephone number 768-5761 for specifics areas of concern. Chair Anderson indicated that prior requests had been made with no follow-ups.
3. Hunakai Median – A concern that the water sprinkler system on the Hunakai median has been broken nearly two years and there has not been any done about this matter. It has been told that its going out to contract; Chung to follow-up.

Chair Anderson announced that HART (Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit) is on tonight's agenda. There are also people in opposition that wish to ask questions will be able to ask questions, but

wanted everyone to understand that the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit is on the agenda tonight, and that those in opposition will be able to ask questions; but there will not be a debate on the matter. It was also noted that there is no formal presentation, but that a question/answer type forum would proceed following the Councilmember's report.

Councilmember Stanley Chang – CM Chang followed-up that he would be happy to engage in any open discussion to the issues. The Councilmember highlighted on the following:

- The Bus Stop at Times Supermarket – This is a concern that the CM is aware of and has been working closely with the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to relocate that bus stop.
- Kahala Community Association (KCA) – KCA has a number of issues that the CM has been working very closely. The discussion of private covenants that is stricter on setback issues then are in the City ordinances. DPP is reluctant to enforce the private covenants, but the CM's personal feeling that even a warning that other covenants may apply, would be more helpful to the homeowner then the current lack of guidance offered by DPP. Nevertheless, he will continue to work closely with DPP.
- Kahala Recreation Center (KRC) – The CM feels it is contrary to the public purpose of park facilities, the proposed new charge of \$15 per hour for the use of the KRC meeting room facility. While he believes the City is strap for cash and does need to find innovative ways to raise money, making it financially infeasible for community groups to meet at parks, is not the way to do it.

- Wedding Permits and Limousine Drivers – CM's office has been following up with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and HPD that has purview over the enforcement relating to the concerns of misuse of wedding permits and limousine drivers at Kahala Beach.
- Genshiro Kawamoto Properties Update – There are no new permits at this time, however, his residence at 4758 Kahala Avenue was cited for an overgrown yard. The CM's office will try to monitor closely.

Questions, comments and concerns followed: People Living on Kahala Beach – A concern was that there is reason to believe that people are living on Kahala Beach, up and down the right-of-way of 4721 Kahala Avenue. The CM was ask if HPD could check into the concern.

Representative Barbara Marumoto – Representative Barbara Marumoto circulated her report and highlighted the following:

- Committee Tours – During the interim, committees in the legislature have visited various facilities and going to the Big Island and Maui to get an idea of areas that may need facility improvements.
- Ethics Commission – Rep Marumoto is awaiting a response from Director Les Kondo of the Ethics Commission regarding a statement that certain legislators could attend events for protocol reasons or purpose. She feels that the Director is going overboard on his decisions and will report back when she gets a response.
- Legislative Session – Begins January 2012 and Rep Marumoto encouraged getting your ideas for upcoming legislation to her office.
- Maunaloa Bay Talk Story – Rep Gene Ward is heading the Maunaloa Bay Talk Story on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 10:00 p.m.

Representative Mark Hashem – Representative Mark Hashem reported

- Project Grad – Rep Hashem, along with Rep Marumoto, Sen Slom and CM Chang, are all working on an "Aloha `Aina Earth Day" on Saturday, January 14, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All proceeds will go to Kalani High School's Project Grad.
- Finance Committee Tours – Rep Hashem will also be going on the Finance Tours and working with APEC.
- Motorcycles Racing – There were reports of motorcycles speeding on Kahala Avenue, Kealaolu and Farmers Road and racing up and down. The concern was forwarded to Officer Mark Mitchell and HPD is aware and monitoring the area.

Senator Sam Slom – Senator Sam Slom circulated his monthly report and reported the following:

- Informational Briefings - There has been a number of briefings at the Capitol over the past couple weeks. Of interest, the Budget House Republicans, a program about the budget and deficit, and if you thought it was bad, it is actually worst then you thought. This will set the pace for next year's legislative session beginning January. Sen Slom added if this Board has any suggested legislation, to pass it along to Reps Marumoto, Hashem and himself.
- APEC Comment – A number of small businesses expected to highlight during APEC. That is now not going to happen as presented earlier in an initial presentation. Mayor's rep Chung noted that the small business component is being addressed through an innovation showcase contest held statewide where the winners were selected and will be featured during APEC. The Senator is only saying that the small businesses thought there would have been a lot more opportunity for direct participation and not virtual visibility.
- Unemployment Rate – With all of the hiring that went on for Aulani, the employment rate went up 6.2%; and in the news today, the Makaha Resort is closing on October 31, 2011. It was said to be temporarily, but could not give a date as to when and if they would be reopening.
- State Reapportionment Committee – Wrapped up on their work and the maps and changes are available; and two lawsuits filed.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Position on Gambling – Sen Slom have for years been opposed to gambling, unless he can be told that the state will get rid of the GET (General Excise Tax) or personal income tax or corporate income tax. All of the proposals for this year, past years and next year will be to add a casino. But, if there were reduced taxes, the Senator would consider it.

2. APEC Participants – Normally the heads of state do not pay. This is not unusual that wherever there are major conferences, they generally have tax-exempt status. What is unusual is that the committee came up with a four-tier approach for different levels. The problem with this approach is that the business is responsible to differentiate between the levels to collect or not collect any monies, and keep a log to turn over to the state. If the business makes a mistake, the business will be penalized and fined.

Board member Kenneth Chang arrived at 7:37 p.m.; **Six (6) members present.**

RESIDENTS' AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Traffic Gridlock on Malia Street – When parents from the Hawaii Kai/Aina Haina area are dropping off their children at Star of the Sea School during rush hour, there is concern of traffic gridlock on Malia Street. It was requested that the Board send a memo to the school asking parents go up Kilauea Avenue after dropping off the kids. Traffic is traversing on Malia Street to get onto the freeway which is causing a total gridlock, rather than coming down Ainakoa Street to get on the freeway. The resident is certain this would greatly help the situation. Chair Anderson understands situation and will share that concern.

BOARD BUSINESS / PRESENTATIONS:

Approval of the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes – **Without any objections, the September 15, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as circulated, 5-0-0 (Aye:**

Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) Presentation – There was no formal presentation; however, there was a question and answer period between the audience and CM Chang, and at times reference made by HART.

1. The rail project is expected to cost somewhere in the area plus or minus of \$5 billion - \$4.5 billion by the City and \$1.5 billion from the Federal. The \$1.5 billion is still anticipated to be in the rail budget.
2. Whether the federal decides to not to give the money the question whether CM Chang would change his position or oppose the rail, CM Chang would have to look at all the details of the situation and the pros and cons before answering one-way or another. It was encouraged that CM Chang give it some time because the State or the Federal governments have a lot of excess money; and that traditionally throughout the country there has been some oops.
3. If the project is stopped or is no longer allowed to move forward, for whatever reason, CM Chang believes no expenditure should be made on the project.
4. If it was noted that the contractor made a significant error, CM Chang felt that if the city is exposed to liability for action of the contractor, the city should pursue available legal remedies against whomever might be at fault.

CM Chang thanked everyone and wanted to address the questions sent to him earlier. He added that the rail project is one of the few issues in the City that gained a lot of public interest and dialog on all sides. He recognized the hard work over the years of many and acknowledged several employees of HART who have made themselves available tonight; and made available a packet of information by HART.

5. Airport Alignment – There's been much discussion about the state and federal government warning the City about a certain portion of the rail line going too close to the airport runway. The City had to then, correct the error expending lots of money and delaying the project. Chang believes that this is not an accurate characterization of the situation. He explained that the City followed the state's recommendation on how to route the proposed alignment. It was only later when the City itself found out the map that the state had been furnishing were out dated, and the City again moved to correct the issue. According to Civil Beat, it cost much less than publicized.
6. Wayne Yoshioka and Parsons Brinkerhoff Conflict Issue – Wayne Yoshioka and members of his family, either were previously or currently employed by Parsons Brinkerhoff, one of the main contractors that the City hired for rail consulting services. There were long and extensive discussion at the City Council on this issue in 2008 and 2011. While the Council both in 2008 and 2011 had been concerned a majority of the

Council received no new information that would suggest that a conflict of interest is present. Chang directed attention to a copy of the minutes that were provided for a full and extensive extended discussion.

7. Traffic Issue – There is a lot of confusion about the traffic issue. As much as it might be difficult to say, any City in the world has great free flowing traffic all the time; and that's just a fact. And unless there is punitive taxation of cars, there's going to be traffic on the roads. The basic premise of the rail system is not to reduce traffic but to bypass all the traffic at a predictable speed. Reference was made to a Civil Beat article dated September 9, 2011 about the City and its representations about traffic over the years.

More questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. There will be growth expected to occur on Oahu largely on the west side of Oahu. Hamayasu indicated that growth expectancy is about a 20% increase or 200,000 in population; in Leeward and Honolulu will be higher density.
2. Reference was made to a second city vision plan, which the plan to move businesses and population was seen as a benefit all the way to Makaha. The Ewa Development Plan is up for review. The 10 years of development permits has cause an increase in traffic congestion. Alternative analysis states that traffic will not be reduced in 2030; the analysis information provided was incorrect. Plans for the original construction are not being done and monies getting real limited. The initial plan was to realign and relocate the KC line through Waipahu; however, that is not being done because the pads are being dug up for the elevated rail. The area is congested making it difficult for Leeward residents to get down to town.

The CM thinks there should be jobs in Kapolei, Aulani Resort. The bottom line is relocation jobs from one place to another does not reduce traffic when people want to get from point A to B. With the increase of economic activity and increase in residents, more transportation is always going to be needed.

3. A comment was that it would be a real pleasure that CM Chang and fellow council members make it clear to the general public that traffic congestion will be worse then it is today in the future. CM Chang said publicly that traffic congestion will be worse in the future with rail then it is today; and he directed attention to Civil Beat report from September 9, 2011. Slater disagreed stating that officials have never stated that traffic congestion would be better than it is today. CM Chang indicated that this comes down to a simple view point; it is true that traffic will be worse in the future then it is today.
4. The only unknown is that there will be 200,000 more people and if the projections are wrong then we need to clear the components. There are some elements that no one seems to be addressing and that is the growth of people out there. The only growth is in the 64 and over and the 18 and under.
5. The concept of the second city started in the 1970's with the revision of the General Plan and developing the concept of moving people out there and that has not be the solution or the result over the years because of planning or being able to move their jobs out to the Ewa Plain. The big concern with this project is that the talk is not about easing traffic, it is about the big chunk of agricultural land and development. There has been talk about sustainability but what is being done about it; and in the traffic oriented development plan, you're congregating people. There just doesn't seem to be a good social policy involved in this project.

Hamayasu had explained the technical aspects that the state distributes the population and jobs, and HART does is react to what would be the best transportation solution; its not the other way around. The environmental impact statement shows all the distributions.

Chair Anderson thanked everyone for being here. If there are any more questions, please forward them to your Council member.

OTHER REPORTS:

Chair's Report/Correspondence – No report.

Treasurer's Report – Correspondence from Tom Heinrich, Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission Office, was a notice of budget allocation for the Fiscal Year 2012. The budget allocation is \$386.00. By comparison,

expenditures for FY 2010 were \$324.93, and for FY 2011 was \$320.56.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Traffic – No report.

Land Use & Zoning – No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board is 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the Hoaloha Kai Montessori School, 1339 Hunakai Street.
- Other Announcements:

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson
Neighborhood Assistant