



WAIALAE-KAHALA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 3

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CALL TO ORDER: Pro Tem Chair Arnold Brady called the Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. **with five (5) members present. Quorum was ACHIEVED.** Note – This nine (9) member Board requires five (5) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present: Scotty Anderson, Marianne Au, Arnold Brady, Kenneth Chang, and Sylvia Himeda.

Board Members Absent: Peter Dudgeon, John Pyles, Martin Schiller, and Richard Turbin.

Vacancies: There were no vacancies.

Guests: Lieutenant Clinton Sukekane (Honolulu Police Department); Captain Tim Turgeon (Honolulu Fire Department); Les Fukuda (Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization); Lorna Heller (Board of Water Supply); Gerald Saito (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's representative); Adjutant General Darryll Wong (Governor Neil Abercrombie's representative); Representative Bertrand Kobayashi; Representative Mark Hashem; Senator Sam Slom; Kurt Tsue and Shari Ishikawa (Hawaiian Electric Company); Maoni Wright (Hawaii Medical Service Association); Bob Murakami; Paul and Claudia Johnstone; Nina Carney; Kathy Kane; Natalie Iwasa; Steve Davis; Victoria Mathieu; Martin Hsia; Lori Snyder (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND GUESTS

MONTHLY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): No representative was present, and a written report was not provided.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lieutenant Clinton Sukekane provided a handout and reported the following:

- **July/August 2014 Statistics:** Statistics included 2/2 motor vehicle thefts, 13/10 burglaries, 23/38 thefts, and 7/14 unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle (UEMV). HPD district seven (7) officers responded to a total of 6,435 emergency calls.
- **Safety Tip:** Do not leave valuables in visible areas of the vehicle. Items should be kept in the trunk of the vehicle or at home.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. **Slow Van:** Community member Kathy Kane voiced concern about a tourist van driving under the speed limit to allow photo opportunities for its passengers. Lieutenant Sukekane noted tickets are given cautiously for driving under the speed limit, and will follow up.
2. **Lights:** Anderson thanked HPD for keeping the blue vehicle lights on during all hours of the day.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): Lorna Heller provided handouts and reported the following:

- **Water Main Break:** There was one (1) 12 inch water main break on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 on Kilauea Avenue.
- **Water Meter Maintenance:** BWS is responsible for maintaining and repairing its facilities, water mains, meter boxes, and water meter. Meters are read electronically, and the community was encouraged to keep bulky items away from meters. Customers are responsible for the water delivered after the meter into the home or business. If there are any problems with the water meter such as a leak, it is the customer's responsibility to call BWS at 748-5000 for a BWS troubleshooter. For information on water meters and an "On the Job" video featuring the work of BWS, visit www.boardofwatersupply.com.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: **Fire Hydrants:** A community member noted that a 1,000 foot portion of Poka Place did not have a fire hydrant. Heller will follow up.

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OahuMPO): Les Fukuda reported the following: **Repaving Progress:** Street repaving and manhole cover installation is progressing at a decent pace. The community was encouraged to visit <http://www.oahumpo.org> to comment on future OahuMPO projects.



Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Pavement Thickness: Fukuda answered for Chair Brady that major streets are repaved with six (6) or seven (7) inches thick of asphalt, while minor streets are repaved to two and a half (2.5) inches thick.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative: No representative was present, and a written report was not provided.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative: Gerald Saito reported the following:

- Repaving: A total of 247 lane miles have been repaved since January 2014. Community members are encouraged to call 768-7777 to report a pothole.
- King Street Cycle Track: Construction of a protected bike lane on King Street, from Alapai Street to Isenberg Street, begins on Monday, September 8, 2014 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. A traffic study was conducted on the affected portion of King Street and showed that removing one (1) lane of traffic would not have a significant impact on traffic.
- Waialae Avenue Bike Lanes: Bike lanes and sharrows are being added to both sides of Waialae Avenue from St. Louis Drive to 17th Avenue.
- Waikiki Shell: The Waikiki Shell parking lot reopened two (2) months ahead of schedule.
- Rail: 120 columns, 146 foundations, and 26 guideway spans for the rail have been constructed since the beginning of the rail project.
- Homelessness: The City has a target of housing 100 chronically homeless individuals through Housing First by the end of 2015.
- Sewers: The Kahala Waste Water Processing System (WWPS) and Force Main System improvements project is in the planning and design phase.
- Parks: The Kahala Community Park and the Kilauea District Park improvements projects are in the consultant procurement phase.
- General Election: The deadline to register to vote in the November General Elections is Monday, October 6, 2014.
- Wilson Park Lights: The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff reset light timers so that the Wilson Park lights will shut off at 10:00 p.m.
- Sinking Street: The Department of Facilities Maintenance (DFM) is still researching the sinking street next to a man-hole cover near 537 Ahina Street.
- Aukai Avenue Drainage: Community member Edwina Snow previously requested a response from Director Ross Sasamura regarding the Aukai Avenue access area. Saito provided two (2) drawings addressing requested amendments.
- Kealaolu Avenue Sidewalk: The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) noted that the four (4) foot shoulder lanes along Kealaolu Avenue are not bike lanes, and both pedestrians and bicycles may use them in either direction. The shoulders are not wide enough for bicycles to travel in both directions on the same side, so making one (1) side for pedestrians and one (1) for bicyclists is not recommended. Should a concerned resident prefer standard concrete sidewalks, the creation of an improvement district (ID) project would be required.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Sinking Street: A community member noted the man-hole cover near the sinking street is BWS property.
2. Halekoa Drive: A community member voiced concern that the concrete beginning at 2002 Halekoa Drive is deteriorating.
3. Waialae Avenue Lane: A community member voiced concern about bicyclists taking up two (2) lanes on Waialae Avenue and causing traffic congestion in the mornings.
4. Kealaolu Avenue Sidewalk: Community member Natalie Iwasa noted she will follow up with DTS on the Kealaolu Avenue shoulder lanes.
5. Protected Bike Lane: Kane asked who was at fault if a driver at a protected bike lane hit a bicyclist when opening the car door. Saito will follow up.
6. Vineyard Boulevard: Fukuda noted the State Department of Transportation (HDOT) will remove cones for two (2) weeks on Vineyard Boulevard.

Chair Brady took the agenda out of order to **4.1. Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)**.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Tim Turgeon reported the following:

- Fire Statistics for August 2014: Statistics included 4 structure fires, 5 rubbish fires, 70 medical calls, 6 search and rescues, 5 miscellaneous calls, 0 major incidents, and 90 total alarms.

- **Fire Safety Tip:** The National Fire Protection Association selected “Working Smoke Alarms Saves Lives: Test Yours Every Month!” as the 2014 Fire Protection Week (FPW) theme. The 2014 FPW will be held on Sunday October 5, 2014 to Saturday, October 11, 2014. Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in the United States as a result of home fires. In October 2014, children attending elementary schools statewide will receive a Fire Fighter’s Safety Guide (FFSG). Parents are encouraged to review the FFSG with their child, create or revisit the family’s escape plan, practice the plan, test smoke alarms, and consider other safety tips in the guide.

Chair Brady took the agenda out of order to **4.5. Governor Neil Abercrombie’s Representative.**

Governor Neil Abercrombie: Adjutant General Darryll Wong reported the following:

- **Iselle Recovery:** The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency sent the National Guard to help the families affected by Hurricane Iselle. Many of the relief efforts can be seen on the local news broadcasts.
- **Puna Lava Flow Update:** The lava flowed 400 yards in one (1) day, and the flow is currently 50 feet wide. The flow will hit Highway 1 in two (2) weeks and the ocean in one (1) month. The flow will separate north Pahoia from south Pahoia when the flow reaches the ocean. The military is planning to create a temporary road to send food and water to the community affected by the flow.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Community Programs: Community member Nina Reppun Carney inquired about the individual community programs mentioned at a previous Waialae Neighborhood Board No. 3 meeting. General Wong noted the first program implemented was the Hawaii Awareness Resiliency Program (HARP) in Waimanalo. HARP assesses the safety needs of a community, and the State will provide resources to address those needs.

Chair Brady returned the agenda to **4.7 Councilmember Stanley Chang.**

Councilmember Stanley Chang: No representative was present, and a report was not available.

Representative Bertrand Kobayashi: Representative Kobayashi provided a handout and reported the following:

- **Economy:** There was a \$200 million change in the economy since March 2014. DOE is cutting \$25 million of their budget due to state restrictions, which will eventually total \$96 million in restrictions. There could be additional Governor’s restrictions later in the fiscal year.
- **Kapiolani Community College (KCC) Project:** The KCC Culinary Institute of the Pacific at Diamond Head project Phase 1, which was hoped to cost \$10 to \$22 million range, ended up costing \$34 million.
- **American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Conference:** AARP Hawaii will offer a free one (1) day family caregiver conference.
- **Fort Ruger Pathway:** The completion of the Fort Ruger Pathway from across the American Red Cross building to the 22nd Avenue vicinity is underway.
- **Diamond Head Kiosk and Gift Shop:** The Diamond Head Interpretive Kiosk and Gift Shop, a collaborative project with Pacific Historic Parks, opened on Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

- **Pathway Lights:** Himeda voiced concern about the lack of adequate lighting on the Fort Ruger Pathway.
- **KCC Reductions:** Anderson voiced concern about the reduction decision making for KCC Phase 1.
- **Lane Striping:** Kane noted the black striping implemented on Highway 1 is difficult to see in the daylight when driving, and suggested using the orange paint for striping.
- **KCC HARP:** A community member noted KCC would like to participate in the HARP program.

Representative Mark Hashem: Representative Hashem provided a handout and reported the following:

- **Clean-Up Event:** The 11th annual community clean-up will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Kaimuki High School from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- **Lunalilo Onramp:** The Lunalilo onramp will reopen on Monday, September 22, 2014.
- **Health Briefing:** An informational health briefing will be held at the State Capitol on Friday, September 19, 2014.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Shredding: Representative Hashem clarified for Kane that shredding would not be available at the community clean-up event.

Senator Sam Slom: Senator Slom reported the following:

- Briefings: An informational health briefing about the Hawaii State Hospital System will be held on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. in room 325 at the State Capitol. A Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) briefing will be held on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in room 325 at the State Capitol.
- Starbucks: Senator Slom noted he understood the traffic concerns due to the new Starbucks in Kahala.
- State Website: The State website www.hawaii.gov was considered America's best government website for the second year in a row.
- Special Session: The Senate will hold a special session in October 2014 to act on Governor Abercrombie's judicial requests.
- State Hospital Investigation: The special site investigation for the State Hospital was completed on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. A report will be provided to the Department of Health (DOH) and the Senate in October 2014.
- Child and Youth Day: Child and Youth Day will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at the State Capitol.
- Hawaii Roads: According to recent reports, the state of Hawaii has the worst roads in the country and highest cost of administration per lane mile.
- University of Hawaii (UH) Basketball Team: The UH basketball team signed two (2) contracts totaling around \$75,000 but did not get paid. The beginning scheduled games have been cancelled.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: UH Basketball Team: A community member voiced concern that UH did not research the consultant company before signing the contracts.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

Bike to School Day: Community member Natalie Iwasa reminded the community that International Walk and Bike to School Day will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 for private schools and Wednesday, October 1, 2014 for public schools.

Campaign: Iwasa thanked those who supported her during the recent campaign.

Starbucks: A community member voiced concern about the traffic congestion caused by a new drive-in Starbucks on Waiialae Avenue, and asked why the Waiialae Neighborhood Board No. 3 was not informed about the Starbucks. Anderson noted this Starbucks was on private property, so the Board did not need to be informed. Au voiced concern about the lack of handicapped parking due to the construction of the Starbucks. Anderson noted they could not obtain a permit without the legal amount of handicapped parking spaces. Chang noted as long as the zoning was correct for the use, they could be given the permit. Chair Brady noted he can invite Kahala Mall to a Neighborhood Board meeting but they do not have to accept the invitation. Chair Brady noted he talked with the director of Kamehameha Schools who said Kahala Mall was responsible for the building, while Kamehameha Schools just leases the land.

Bus Route Concerns: Community member Claudia Johnstone noted TheBus Route No.14 has no ridership at Pueo Street. Currently, TheBus Route No. 22 also travels along Pueo Street. Johnstone also voiced concern about the buses speeding in the early mornings. Chair Brady noted a Bus representative would be invited to the October 2014 Waiialae Neighborhood Board No. 3 regular meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA): Moani Wright from HMSA communications department reported on the Blue Zones Project. The Blue Zones Project is a health and well-being initiative to help communities change the environment so the healthy choice is the easy choice. A researcher studied different parts of the world with high populations of people living past 100 years old, and incorporated those lifestyle habits into communities in the United States. Schools, grocery store owners, law makers, and other representatives from the community work together to create lifestyle changes for their community. Blue Zone Project communities over time have a decrease in a number of chronic diseases and an increase in their quality of life. Those interested in implementing the Blue Zone Project into a community can visit www.hawaii.bluezonesproject.com and request an educational visit in October 2014.

Hawaiian Electric (HECO) Smart Meters: Kurt Tsue reported on smart meter technology. Smart meters are modern electric meters that enable two-way communication between customers' home or business and HECO through a secure wireless communications network. Smart meters will be used to accommodate more renewable technology, lower electricity bills, and to give customers more service options. 5,200 smart meters have been installed in Oahu and Maui counties. Through remote outage troubleshooting, HECO is able to pinpoint problems on the grid and fix problems faster, providing customers with more reliable service. The smart meter records energy use data and

transmits this information to HECO through a secure wireless network. Energy use data is updated in customers' personal Web portals, and customers can access that information to better manage one's energy use. After a smart meter is installed, the customer can access "My Energy Use," a personal web portal that shows a customer's energy use on a daily basis. HECO is in the information gathering stage of the smart meter program. The smart grid hotline is available 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling 440-4977. More information will be available at the Clean Energy Fair on Saturday, October 4, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Voluntary Program: Tsue responded to Himeda by stating that the smart meter program is voluntary and opting out of the program is currently free. To opt out of the program, one can call the smart grid hotline, e-mail HECO, or submit a written letter.
2. Health Concerns: A community member voiced concern that smart meters were testing for thermal but not biological effects. The community member noted her headaches began when the smart meter was installed, but when the meter was removed her symptoms decreased. The community member strongly encouraged further safety testing.
3. Radio Frequency: A community member asked why radio frequency was used for smart meter technology. Shari Ishikawa, HECO program director, noted the technology used for the smart meters is the most improved technology. Tsue noted he understood some people are more sensitive to the radiation than others. Ishikawa noted studies have not been done addressing multiple meters in close proximity.
4. Energy Use Rates: Chang noted the smart meter technology would be beneficial for HECO to understand what time of the day the most energy is being used, because HECO charges higher rates during the busy times of the day. Ishikawa noted residential customers are charged a flat rate, but a business is charged on their highest kilowatt charge. If a business can spread out the energy use, the business can lower their energy bill.
5. Concerns Summary: Chair Brady summarized the concerns by asking Ishikawa to consider the thermal and biological effects, the grouping of several meters in condominiums, and the general concerns on health.
6. Jobs: Community member Carney asked if there would be fewer job opportunities because of the new technology. Tsue noted there was a plan in place to keep employees in the company.
7. Metal Box: Representative Kobayashi suggested building a steel or metal box around the meter to decrease health effects from radiation. Ishikawa noted the metal box could cause difficulties for the signal transmission.

Authorization of Meeting Room Expenses: Anderson moved and Himeda seconded to authorize \$50 per month for the funding for the meeting room expenses. The motion was **ADOPTED** by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 5-0-0 (Aye: Anderson, Au, Brady, Chang, and Himeda.)**

Approval of Minutes: The July 17, 2014 regular meeting minutes were **ADOPTED** as amended by **UNANIMOUS CONSENT 5-0-0; (Aye: Anderson, Au, Brady, Chang, and Himeda.)** Amendment included: Page 4: "The motion to elect Pyles as Treasurer" should be changed to "The motion to elect Dudgeon as treasurer."

Treasurer's Report: Chair Brady reported a spending of \$11.66 in August 2014. The remaining balance was \$373.66. The report was filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Regular Meeting: The next regular Waialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted By: Lori Snyder, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed By: Neil Baarde, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed and Finalized By: Arnold Brady, Chair