



DIAMOND HEAD/KAPAHULU/ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 11, 2006 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ah Mai at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Ah Mai, Bert Narita, Wayne Gau, Barbara Miller, Kenneth Chang, Rick Egged, George Waialeale, Bertha Nahoopii, Joe Otto, Linda Wong, Roxie Berlin, Don Persons, Jay Harden.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Dumas, Michelle Matson.

GUESTS: Sgt. Maekawa, Lt. A. Auld, Sgt. Hytry (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Suzanne King (Hui Wa'a Canoe Association), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Lt. D. Chun, Major Mark Nakagawa, Lt. Sato, Sgt. Foreman (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Kapono Dowson Ryan (Chaminade University), Acting Capt. B. Mahoe (HFD), Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Daisy Murai, Ray Gruntz (Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9), Margo Ige (Diamond Head Gardens), James Ige, Joel Hatch (Diamond Head Gardens), Greg Quinn (Diamond Head Community Gardens), Jan Bappe, Randall Yee, Julia Allen, Walea Constantinau (Mayor's Office), Maile Pai and Wayne Babineau (Lokahi Canoe Club), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Senator Les Ihara, Representative Calvin Say, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Acting Capt. Mahoe reported the following:

1. Fire Safety Tip: Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out your escape routes with at least two ways out of each room. Designate a location outside of the house where everyone can meet. Know where the closest phone is to call 911.
2. Statistics for last month included: 21 fire calls, including 4 structure fires and 102 medical calls. There was one major incident, a fire on Nahua Street where eight companies responded.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to a question about whether it was proper for a store to lock exit doors before the close of business, Acting Captain Mahoe noted that there is a requirement that such doors be able to open from the inside the building.

Acting Captain Mahoe was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT - Lt. Chun, from District 6 – Waikiki, reported the following:

1. Statistics for April compared to March included: 0/0 robberies, 2/2 burglaries, 15/7 thefts, 3/1 motor vehicle thefts, 1/2 criminal property damage, 18/12 liquor law violations, 16/13 motor vehicle collisions, 17/14 arguments/non family, 8/4 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 11 illegal camping citations issued at the Waikiki Shell, 27 illegal camping citations for the interior of Kapiolani Park, no illegal camping citations issued for the parking lot of the Diamond Head Tennis Center.
2. Plain clothes officers and the Crime Reduction Unit are on duty in the area.

Lt. Chun was thanked for his report.



Major Nakagawa introduced himself as the new commander of District 7 and reported some priorities being addressed include speeding enforcement, maintaining traffic flow, and graffiti problem. He encouraged the public to report graffiti tagging in progress and one step trying to stop it is to remove it as soon as possible.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The Community Policing officers will follow up on providing signs for, and faster response to questions from the Neighborhood Security Watch in St. Louis Heights.
2. Follow up will be done about providing statistics that compare one month with the same time for the previous year.
3. A problem with a moped shop on Kapahulu Avenue using on-street, metered parking stalls fronting store to display its mopeds is recurring; follow up will be done.

Lt. Sato reported the written report distributed earlier includes statistics and "A Family Guide to Using the Internet," and the ATV unit has been issuing a variety of citations.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Chair Ah Mai requested attention to ongoing problems with illegal drug and alcohol use along the stream behind Kaimuki High School, and noted that a community clean up project is in progress to remove foliage that conceals this activity.

All the HPD representatives were thanked attending the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – A written report was received and distributed to members and made available for others to review.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 13, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – The following corrections were made:

Page 4, under Subdistrict 3, Diamond Head, it should read "...4. Wong reported that a captain at the Waikiki Fire Station said that the sidewalk bulbout at Kapahulu and Leahi avenues, allows for little clearance for their vehicles..."

Page 8, under McCully-Moiliili Area Flooding, it should read "Ron Lockwood, Chair, Cully-Moiliili Board, in response to a request from a Board member, reported the following..."

Berlin moved and Nahoopii seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:

DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTER: Chair Ah Mai, distributed advance copies of the newsletter to Board members and reported that it will be mailed to residents within a week. She thanked Miller and Bryan Mick, at the Neighborhood Commission Office, for their work on the newsletter.

CHAIR'S SUMMARY OF YEAR – Chair Ah Mai reported the Board is near the end of another year of servicing the communities of Diamond Head, Kapahulu, and St. Louis Heights. On behalf of the community, the Board supported: (1) the development of a Safeway-anchored shopping complex at the old Love's Bakery site without gas pumps, (2) the use of the site of the old Health Center next to Hawaiian Dredging on Kapahulu Avenue as a community center with public parking instead of commercial development, (3) the Diamond Head Crater Festival, and (4) Frear Hall renovation but with concern for the impact of parking in the nearby residential neighborhoods.

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Previews presented include: the new storage facility at King and Old Waialae Road, modifications to the Zoo entrance, and real property tax laws taking effect in the next two years. Capital improvements suggested by the Board that have moved forward in the Legislature are: repair of the seawall and walkway from Elks Club to Coconut Avenue, implementation of a Visitor Center for Diamond Head State Monument, the Kapiolani Community College Culinary Arts Facility at the old Cannon Club, and development of a community center and parking lot at 538 Kapahulu Avenue.

Members were also commended for their attendance at meetings and the Board being able to conduct its business in a timely manner, ending meetings close to 9:00 p.m.

Egged thanked Chair Ah Mai for the end of the term's year end report.

TREASURER'S SUMMARY OF THE YEAR – Narita reported for the month of April, the Operating Account balance was \$1046.17, the Publicity Account balance was \$1705.00, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. There is sufficient funding in the Board's accounts to meet its goals for the remainder of the fiscal year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TRAFFIC SIGNAL LIGHT AT DATE STREET/KAPAHULU AVENUE/MOOHEAU AVENUE – The new traffic signal light has been activated.

WAIKIKI SEWER BY-PASS LINE – The City has plans to install a temporary by-pass line, some 40 feet under the Ala Wai Canal. Construction is scheduled to start soon.

TESTING OF BEACH SAND – Testing of beach sand for contamination from the sewer spill was reported to be in progress.

RECESS: A recess was called at 7:30 p.m. Chair Ah Mai noted Board members Wong, Nahoopii, Miller, Berlin, and herself donated the refreshments, and thanked Miller for coordinating. The meeting was reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

SUBDISTRICT REPORTS:

SUBDISTRICT 1 – ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS – Gau reported at the last St. Louis Heights Community Association meeting there was discussion on problems with feral chickens and pigs, the move of a medical clinic on St. Louis Drive from a residentially zoned area, finding of nails on streets and sidewalks, and upcoming publishing of the association's newsletter.

SUBDISTRICT 2 – KAPAHULU – Chair Ah Mai reported the clean up of the stream behind Kaimuki High School so far has included the removal of two diseased trees which will be replaced with new monkey pod trees. Removal of the trees resulted in the receipt of complaints as the trees had provided residents living across from the stream a screen hiding the parked tour vans on the school campus.

Otto reported the restrooms at Crane Park need repairs and remodeling as they are in poor condition.

SUBDISTRICT 3 – DIAMOND HEAD – Wong reported: a) the crosswalk across Leahi Street, at Pualei Circle, was installed yesterday, b) there was a Vision Team project to renovate the restrooms at Crane Park, but it was determined that the tree roots created problems as they would be damaged by the project which may be dropped, c) there is no new information on the problem with the diversion of runoff from Noela Drive onto Pualei Circle, d) she is working on obtaining plans on the Kapahulu Avenue bulbouts, and that the project includes ADA ramps, storm drainage, irrigation system and landscaping, and e) the State Department of Land and Natural Resources is removing a baseyard on Monsarrat Avenue.

STANDING RULES: Chair Ah Mai reviewed the Board's standing rules: be recognized before speaking, turns are limited to two minutes unless otherwise noted, no one shall speak again until all others have been accommodated, and no food or drink on the hardwood dance floor.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – A written report was distributed earlier by Eric La'a, from Representative Nishimoto's Office. La'a was unable to remain at the meeting.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Walea Constantinou, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. In response to a question about testing beaches, like ocean waters, for contamination, the City continues to sample 15 sites, 7 of which are in Waikiki. All sites are monitoring the shoreline areas, and have been monitored daily for the past 33 days.
2. In response to a question about canoe clubs storing their canoes fronting the Natatorium, that due to the recent hazardous situation at the Ala Wai Canal, a temporary permit was issued allowing canoes to be temporarily stored fronting the Natatorium. Canoes cannot be stored on public land without a permit.
3. In response to a question about contingency plans if there is another sewer break like the one in Waikiki, construction of a temporary by-pass line from the pump station to the outlet trunk line in Ala Moana Park, is in progress.
4. In response to a question, the new left turn traffic signal at Kapahuu and Mooheau avenues, the signal was activated on April 20.
5. In response to a question about well drilling on St. Louis Drive, it is believed the work is not for a water well, but was most likely for some type of construction preparation.
6. In response to a question, about why resetting of manholes on St. Louis Drive has not been completed, Board of Water Supply reports that due to unforeseen site conditions, utility manholes adjustments for the rehabilitation of streets project needed to be deferred. The manholes need to be reconstructed. Plans are being developed, a contract change order is needed, estimated timeline from plan development to construction is three to six months.
7. In response to a question about an investigation into the Waikiki sewer spill, the City is currently focused on addressing the emergency situation.
8. In response to a question about Kapahulu Avenue bulbouts, the Department of Design and Construction provided Wong the contact number for the project manager.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done about the unsatisfactory condition of the restrooms at Crane Park.
2. Questions were raised about why the parking restrictions at the Waikiki Shell parking lot and on Monsarrat Avenue were imposed for all day on a Friday for a parade that took place on Saturday. The restrictions seemed excessive and deprived the public from accessing the area.
3. Regarding the well drilling on St. Louis Drive, Narita noted that the same equipment seen on St. Louis Drive was also seen on Kapiolani Boulevard near the Marco Polo condominium.
4. Regarding the project to reset manholes, it was noted that some manholes were paved over and the spots are now being undermined.

5. Attention was called to newspaper article in Wednesday's Advertiser which called attention to the need to resolve jurisdictional problems on stream cleaning where one section is under City jurisdiction and an adjoining section is under State jurisdiction, and the City was only cleaning the area under its jurisdiction.
6. In response to a question, Egged reported the Waikiki Improvement Association, is responsible for the Sunset on the Beach events. There are no costs to the City.
7. Follow up will be done with the Board of Water Supply on when the project on Campbell Avenue, near Monsarrat Avenue, will be completed.
8. Follow up will be done about whether the City is liable for not notifying the media about the Waikiki sewer spill sooner than it did, and on a suggestion that the water test results be provided to the media on daily basis.
9. The new left turn traffic signal at Date Street, Kapahulu Avenue and Mooheau Avenue, has been activated and is causing traffic back ups.
10. It was suggested that traffic signals on Kapahulu Avenue be synchronized.
11. Follow up will be done on a missing street name sign at Alohea and 12th avenues.

Constantinau was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Councilmember Djou has introduced a resolution calling for an investigation into the Waikiki sewer spill, with the Councilmembers serving on the investigative committee and having subpoena powers.
2. Councilmember Djou is chair of the newly formed Committee on Energy, which will work to find ways for the City to reduce its gasoline and energy bills.
3. Councilmember Djou is on the radio, KHVH 830, Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested that the City check with other states that have standards for bacterial contamination of beaches.
2. The mass transit project is in the alternative analysis phase, and will submit its report to the City Council in November. The Council will vote on which alternative the City will develop. The costs are being studied, the cost of the system in 1992 was approximately \$2 billion. Follow up will be done on the financing for the current alternative.
3. It was suggested, and Chair Ah Mai will follow up on scheduling a presentation on the system at a future Board meeting.
4. It was suggested the City can save money by using regular grade gasoline in its vehicles as the police department has done.

Fichtman was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The written report includes forms for property tax relief due to damages caused by the recent floods. A form for persons to apply for property tax relief if the family income is less than \$50,000 to pay either the tax or four percent of the family income, will be made available at next month's meeting.
2. The Council is working on the budget which includes funding requests for \$230 million in sewer related projects.
3. The Council is holding meetings on the budget around the island.
4. She is in agreement that one government agency should have jurisdiction over streets and streams to avoid problems noted earlier during the Mayor's Office report.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It is unknown at this time which alternative will be selected for the mass transit system. It could be one, or a combination of alternatives. Funding will be via the increase in the general excise tax which takes effect January 2007. The earliest construction could begin is sometime in 2009.
2. It was suggested that sewer repairs be the City's highest priority.
3. There are plans to build a by-pass line for the Waikiki line. Additional repairs are in progress.

Councilmember Kobayashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR LES IHARA - Senator Ihara reported the following:

1. Capital Improvement Projects for this area include funding for air conditioning the Jefferson Elementary School library, and elevator and roof repairs at Leahi Hospital.
2. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has determined that the Gold Coast seawall is on private property, precluding use of State funds for repairs. Harden disagreed with this position, noted there is documentation that its State property, and will follow up with Senator Ihara.
3. Legislation to increase the penalties for violations of the pedestrian safety law, did not pass.
4. Legislation passed for the Ethics Commission to impose fines.
5. Campaign spending reforms include a \$1000 limit on corporate donations to political campaigns.

Senator Ihara was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say reported Capital Improvement Projects for the area include funding for Hokulani Elementary School parking lot and improvements at Waahila State Park.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were extended for the legislature's work on addressing citizens' concerns about the Kakaako Makai project.
2. Representative Say noted the legislature addressed citizens' concerns regarding the Kukui Gardens housing.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

NEW CROSSWALK AT DIAMOND HEAD COMMUNITY GARDENS – Joel Hatch, Greg Quinn, and Margo Ige reported the newly installed crosswalk across Leahi Street at Pualei Circle is blocking the driveway to the gardens preventing the City and gardeners from delivering mulch and other supplies, and creating a “no parking” zone. Paki Avenue does not provide an alternative. Gardeners did not receive prior notification of the crosswalk installation. They requested the crosswalk be removed or a waiver be granted to allow deliveries through the driveway, and that this item be placed on the Board’s agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion followed. Some gardeners requested the crosswalk and Hatch and other representatives were requested to check with other gardeners. Constantinau reported that prior to the installation of the crosswalk, City departments were contacted to review this request and the site was determined to be a pathway, not a driveway, and a crosswalk was allowed. She will follow up.

SUSTAINABILITY – Gruntz noted that Senator Trimble and Representative Stevens have been requested to, or have proposed, sustainability studies be conducted for the Waikiki and Kakaako areas.

WAIKIKI SEWER SPILL – Gruntz noted that the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board should be more concerned about the sewer spill.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

Harden moved and Waialeale seconded that the meeting be extended to 9:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

CANOE CLUBS REQUEST FOR SHOWER FACILITIES NEAR KAPAHULU LIBRARY – Maile Pai and Wayne Babineau, Lokahi Canoe Club, requested an update on the status of the project to develop shower facilities for canoe paddlers and other recreational users of the Ala Wai Canal. Chang reported that a Vision Team project was initiated several years ago, and went through versions, including: a restroom, shower facilities, canoe halau, and parking lot improvements. The Vision Teams were initiated by the previous Administration, and funding has since been cut.

Pai and Babineau noted the need for this project, as canoe clubs do not want to use the canal at this time, but when they do return need the project to protect the health of canoe paddlers and other recreational users of the canal. Chang will work with Pai and Babineau on this matter.

Fichtman noted that while the project is not funded, it remains on the books, so it is not dead.

It was suggested that work be done to attach this project to the dredging project, which might begin in 2010 at the earliest.

Chair Ah Mai spoke in favor of the project, for which she was the project champion.

Egged moved and Chang seconded that the Board supports shower and restroom facilities in the proximity of the Waikiki Library. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The next Board meeting is June 8.
2. Office of Environmental Quality Control notices were made available for interested persons to review.

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3. The Neighborhood Commission has filled three vacancies, elected Grant Tanimoto as chair, and Jeanette Nekota as vice chair, and changed its meeting date to the fourth Monday of the month, and plans to alternate meetings between City Hall and Kapolei Hale.
4. Waikiki by Moonlight, May 12, 7:00 – 11:00 p.m., free entertainment. Kalakaua Avenue between Kaiulani and Liliuokalani streets will be closed for the event.
5. Parade for the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Filipinos in Hawaii, May 13, along Kalakaua Avenue.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant