



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

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 • FAX (808) 527-5760 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 13, 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, Bertha Nahoopii, Joe Otto, Roxie Berlin, Don Persons, Jay Harden.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Dumas, George Waialeale, Linda Wong, Michelle Matson.

GUESTS: Arthur Aiu (Board of Water Supply), Marc Thomas, Acting Captain Mahoe (HFD), Lt. A. DeLima, Sgt. A. Tsukano, Detective J. Martin (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Daisy Murai; Officer C. Hytry, Officer Felter, Capt. A. Arita, Lt. Darren Chun, Officer Chris Chung, Detective David Chang (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), John Hau, Jan Bappe, D.E. Byrd, Eric La'a (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Representative Scott Nishimoto, Ken Swearingen (St. Louis Heights Community Association), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Don Brough, Andrew Garrett (Kapehulu Hale), Maruice Kondo and Alden Yago (INK Architects), Joann Moe, Joanne Kealoha, Bobbi Masumoto, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Acting Captain Mahoe reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 4 structure, 10 rubbish, 1 vehicle fire, 110 medical responses. There was one major incident, the fire at the UH Lab School, further investigation into the arson is being done.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Take the time to childproof your home, especially since keiki are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e., electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of the reach of small children.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Acting Captain Mahoe was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Chun, from District 6, Waikiki, reported statistics for June included: no robberies, no burglaries, 10 thefts, no motor vehicle thefts, 2 criminal property damage, 17 liquor law violations, 21 motor vehicle collisions, 15 arguments, 9 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 2 illegal camping in the Waikiki Shell area, 11 illegal camping in Kapiolani Park.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Kapiolani Park is not designated as being closed at night like Ala Moana Park or some other parks.
2. In response to a question, a driver was cited not for a parking violation, but for “illegally cleaning, washing, or repairing a vehicle parked in a public roadway” across the street from the Waikiki Shell. It was noted that the driver was cleaning graffiti off his vehicle, and will contest the citation.

There is an ongoing problem with persons parking for extended periods of time in this area.

3. It is illegal to park in a public park for longer than 60 minutes between 2:00 – 6:00 a.m.



Detective Chong distributed copies of the Federal Trade Commission's publication "Take Charge: Fighting Back Against Identity Theft," which provides tips on preventing identity theft and what to do if you become a victim.

Lt. DeLima, from District 7, East Honolulu, reported the following:

1. The written report previously distributed provides area crime statistics for the past six months.
2. Statistics from Narcotics/Vice Division report they received seven new complaints and 12 prior complaints were closed. Regarding the new complaints, three were from the Waialae area, one each from McCully, Kaimuki, University, and Maunalani Heights areas. Regarding the closed complaints, five were from the Kaimuki area, three from Hawaii Kai, two from McCully, and one each from the Waialae and Niu Valley areas.
3. The written report also includes information on 21 Step Home Security from the Citizens Handbook of Crime Prevention.
4. The ATV (all terrain vehicle) Detail, which covers the area from Diamond Head to Makapuu, handled 5 drug, 15 warrant, 14 liquor and 2 dogs in the park cases.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Thanks were expressed for the response to a call on Robert Place.
2. Pedestrians and skateboarders are creating hazards by walking in the roadway, etc., on Dole Street, between St. Louis Drive and University Avenue. Follow up will be done.

The police department representatives were thanked for attending the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Arthur Aiu, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. There were no water main breaks last month.
2. Annual Halawa Xeriscape Garden Open House and Unthirsty Plant Sale, August 5, 99-1268 Iwaena Street, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
3. The Annual Water Quality Report on: a) where your water comes from, b) what is in the water, and c) how tests results compare to standards for safe drinking water, has been mailed to customers.
4. Regarding the Campbell Avenue water main project, "...the contractor is currently working on two sections along Campbell Avenue, at the intersections of Brokaw Street and Kaunaoa Street. The installation of the 24 inch water main at these two points of the project requires the main to go under the huge drainage boxes causing work to move carefully, and unfortunately, slowly. The Campbell Avenue portion is estimated to be completed sometime in September. The project will then move out to Kapahulu Avenue to connect the newly installed water mains to the Diamond Head Booster Station. The project is a little more than half complete."

Regarding questions about blocking of access to side streets, "Due to construction liability issues, there are intersections along the project area that are blocked for 'local' traffic only."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Regarding a past question about installation of a water meter for the triangle park between Kalakaua and Poni Moi Road with the ironwood trees, a meter would have to be requested by the Department of Parks and Recreation.
2. Ancient remains (iwi) found during the Campbell Avenue project have been reburied.

Aiu was thanked for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 8, 2006 REGULAR MEETING – The following correction was made:

Page 5, under Representative Calvin Say, item 3 should read "...in House Bill 2555, relating to Kakaako..."

Egged moved and Miller seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:

RECESS DATES – Chair Ah Mai asked if the Board wanted to establish a recess. **Egged moved and Narita seconded that the Board recess in December. The motion carried unanimously.**

COMMITTEE GUIDELINES – Chair Ah Mai distributed a draft of guidelines on committees and permitted interaction groups to members and briefly reviewed them, noting the guidelines were created using excerpts from the Neighborhood Plan and State Sunshine Law.

Discussion followed on the restrictive nature of the State Sunshine Law and State Office of Information Practices' opinions that severely restrict Board members attending public meetings, contact with other Board members, etc. that other members of the public are not subject to meeting, and that the Board has to comply with these restrictions. Chair Ah Mai noted that the suggested guidelines establish the context provided by the Sunshine Law and the Neighborhood Plan, the extent of the authority of Permitted Interaction Groups and Committees, and the procedures by which these groups interact with the full Board. The result would be to allow more Board members to attend meetings than are allowed under other circumstances.

Egged moved and Miller seconded that the Board adopt the guidelines on committees and permitted interaction groups. Discussion followed. **The motion failed to carry, 7-3-1. Yea:** Miller, Egged, Narita, Gau, Nahoopii, Berlin, Ah Mai. **Nay:** Chang, Persons, Harden. **Abstain:** Otto. The motion failed to receive the necessary eight votes to carry.

Additional discussion followed, including on the need for changes to the law which must be made by the State legislature.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Narita reported for the month of June, the Operating Account balance was \$564.62, the Publicity Account balance was \$363.34 over budget, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. The deficit in the Publicity Account was made up by transferring the difference from the Operating Account.

SUBDISTRICT REPORTS:

SUBDISTRICT 1, ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS – Gau reported at the last St. Louis Heights Community Association meeting included discussion on the development of a new Frear Hall dormitory on the UH campus, real property taxes, need for sidewalks, parking problem on Dole Street, and a suspected drug house.

SUBDISTRICT 2, KAPAHULU – No report.

SUBDISTRICT 3, DIAMOND HEAD – Miller reported the Department of Land and Natural Resources approved concerts, like the one held this past April 1, to be held in Diamond Head Crater for the next two years.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – No representative was present.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say reported the following:

1. The Governor has released \$300,000 for Kaimuki High School improvements.
2. He has written, and not received a response from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, on his request that something be done to address problems with the homeless at Waahila Park.
3. He is following up on a request that the University of Hawaii address concerns about identity theft by their use of social security numbers on some documents it sends out.
4. The Governor has signed the speeding bill into law that will impose fines up to \$1000, revocation of drivers license, and up to 30 days in prison for driving more than 30 miles an hour over the speed limit or 80 miles per hour regardless of the speed limit.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Legislation to make changes to the Sunshine Law was introduced this past session, but failed. Representative Say suggested that Boards and others interested in changes work with organizations that oppose changes.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Representative Nishimoto reported the following:

1. Work is being done on a request for left turn signals from Kapahulu Avenue to Date Street.
2. Area elected officials will be sponsoring a community clean up day on October 14.
3. The Governor has to release the funding for repairs to the seawall along the Gold Coast.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

It was suggested that a railing be installed on the Gold Coast seawall walkway, but it was noted that the walkway is wide and the current funding does not include a railing. Representative Nishimoto will follow up on the request.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – The Mayor's Office representative was unable to attend the meeting. Reporting on responses to last month's questions was deferred.

Questions, answers and discussion followed:

1. Opposition to so many parking spaces along Kalakaua Avenue in the Queen's Surf Beach area being designated "no parking" for events, was expressed. A recent event closed spaces all the way to the Waikiki Aquarium.
2. Thanks were expressed for removal of a tree on Kaunaoa Street and patching of the sidewalk damaged by the tree's roots.
3. A written request for pothole repair was provided to the Board and will be forwarded to the City for attention. It was noted repairs are made promptly.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Stan Fichtman, from Councilmember Djou's Office, reported both Councilmembers Djou and Kobayashi are in Japan checking out landfill and recycling technology. Reports from both Councilmembers were distributed, and Fichtman highlighted/added the following:

1. Councilmember Djou has requested a review of drug policies, relating to use of illegal drugs, for Emergency Medical Service personnel.
2. Councilmember Djou supports the night closure of Ala Moana Park.

3. The City Administration was able to find \$5 million for the State to fund the collection of the general excise tax increase to fund the mass transit system, and the Councilmember feels the Administration should also be able to find the funds to implement curbside recycling.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Councilmembers' expense reports are available on the City Council's web pages: www.honolulu.gov/council/ccl
2. The Councilmembers' trip to Japan is not being paid by local taxpayers, but by Japanese companies.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

HOMELESS AT WAAHILA PARK – In response to a concern about problems with the homeless, drug activity, etc., at Waahila Park, Representative Say reported he has written to the Department of Land and Natural Resources months ago about this problem and has not received a response. He noted there is a caretaker for the park that opens it up in the morning and closes it up in the evening, but there are no enforcement officers on site. It was suggested that a fence be installed at the end of Quincy Place to restrict access to the park from this area. Representative Say also noted there is a problem with extreme bike riders using the park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

KAPAHULU MEDICAL BUILDING PREVIEW – Bobbi Masumoto, representing Drs. Sharon Lawler and Clyde Miyaki, owners of the building, reported this site, the former location for the KC Drive-In, was purchased about a year ago and development of the office building is proceeding seven days a week in order to open the offices in December providing a range of medical specialties. The five-story building will have parking on the first two floors, offices and a senior day care on the third and fourth floors, and a radiology department on the fifth floor. The service providers are not employed by Drs. Lawler and Miyaki, and a number are seeking space in the building.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. A traffic study was done. Concern was expressed about existing traffic backup problems in the area and that this building will make the situation worse. The building will have a drive through drop off area. Traffic patterns will be different, while for the drive-in it was constantly transient, but for the medical offices patients would arrive and remain for much longer. The Board requested a followup presentation and a copy of the traffic study.
2. The building will have more than 80 parking spaces, and concern was expressed that this was insufficient for staff and patients. Plans are to encourage staff to car pool. It was noted on-street parking in this area is not available even now.
3. It was suggested a 'no left-turn into, and no right turn out of' the building be implemented the traffic pattern.
4. The building will be open seven days a week, 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
5. All permits have been received or are in progress. Questions were raised about whether or not permits were received for inside the building.
6. Approximately 12 service providers will have offices in the building.
7. A Certificate of Need from the State Health Planning and Development Agency is not required as this facility is not a hospital, only offices.

8. Residents and the Board noted that they were not informed about this project until it was well underway. It was noted there was no requirement for public notification as no variances, special permits, etc., were required. The Board had previously requested the City Department of Planning and Permitting notify the Board of such projects before, not after the fact.
9. The building meets setback requirements and landscaping will be planted.
10. The senior day care center will accommodate 15 clients, Monday through Friday.

Everyone was thanked for their participation in this portion of the meeting.

KAPAHULU CENTER RENOVATIONS PREVIEW – Maurice Kondo, from INK Architects, consultants the City, reported the Center's main building on Campbell Avenue will be undergoing renovations including ADA accessibility to the first floor of the building and restrooms, repainting and repair of termite damage of exterior walls, and some electrical and plumbing repairs. The size of the building will not be altered. Permits are in progress and work will be completed by the end of the year. Work is being funded by Community Development Block Grant and federal funds.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The funding totals \$400,000.
2. There will be no changes to two other buildings on the site.
3. ADA accessibility will be either by ramps or a lift, and is limited to the first floor only.

Kondo was thanked for attending the meeting.

ELECTED OFFICIALS, CONTINUED:

SENATOR LES IHARA – Senator Ihara reported the following:

1. There will be no special session of the legislature this year.
2. He is working on community concerns about Diamond Head Crater.
3. He has arranged a meeting with St. Louis Heights Community Association members and University of Hawaii representatives on residents' concerns about the Frear Hall dormitory project and impacts on the nearby residential area.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Additional discussion followed on the desire for changes to the State Sunshine Law relating to exemptions from the law for some bodies, including Neighborhood Boards. It was noted legislation was introduced this past session, but it failed to pass.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu

Neighborhood Assistant