



## 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 APRIL 12, 2007 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Ah Mai called the meeting to order at 7:15. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Ah Mai, Barbara Miller, Rick Egged, Bertha Nahoopii, George Waialeale, Linda Wong, Michelle Matson, Roxy Berlin, Don Persons, Jay Harden.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bert Narita, Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, Ken Chang, Joe Otto.

**VACANT SEATS:** None.

**GUESTS:** Capt. Bridges, Sgt. S. Yano, Sgt. H. Ishida, Sgt. Saito (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Lt. H. Kim Han, Sgt. T. Kahapea (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Capt. K. Nakanelua (HFD-Waikiki Station), Daisy Murai, Justin Wilcox (UH Student), Julia Allen, Julie Akey, Adella Okuda, Michelle Ching (Mayor's Office), Jenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Mike Wilcox and Les Vallarano (SORT), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Senator Les Ihara, Joanne I. Benson, Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Nakaneula, from the Waikiki Station, reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included 7 structure, 1 brush, and 2 rubbish fires, 107 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue, 12 miscellaneous. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen for a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A 10BC), in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Capt. Nakaneula was thanked for attending the meeting.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Bridges, from District 6, Waikiki, introduced himself and made a few brief remarks. Sgt. Saito reported the written report distributed earlier includes crime statistics for this area. In Kapiolani Park citations issued included 19 for illegal camping, 1 for assault, 1 for open lewdness. There were no citations issued at the tennis center parking lot.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. No statistics were available about incidents involving tourists riding Segways which are legal to ride on the sidewalk.
2. There was no specific reason for increases in crimes as listed in the written report.

Sgt. Ishida, from District 7, East Honolulu, reported the written report distributed earlier includes crime statistics and pedestrian safety tips.

Questions, answers and comments followed:



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1. Tourists using Segways on the sidewalk along Diamond Head Road near the lighthouse take up the whole sidewalk forcing pedestrians off the sidewalk and into the traffic lane. Follow up will be done to monitor the area.
2. When burglaries increase in an area, increasing patrols is one of the steps taken to address the problem.
3. Speeding on Monsarrat Avenue, and noisy mopeds and scooters was noted. Violators are stopped if possible, citations can be issued. Follow up will be done to monitor the area.
4. Skateboarders have been observed riding down St. Louis Drive, in the afternoons between 3:30 – 4:00 p.m., creating a possible hazard to themselves and drivers. It was noted this activity has also been observed on Sierra Drive and Wilhelmina Rise.

Capt. Bridges, Sgt. S. Yano, Sgt. Saito, Lt. H. Kim Han, Sgt. H. Ishida, and Officer T. Kahapea were thanked for attending the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – A written report was received and available for interested persons to review.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 8, 2007 REGULAR MEETING** – Miller moved and Egged seconded that the minutes be approved as written by the neighborhood assistant. The motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chair Ah Mai reported for the month of March, the Operating and Publicity Account balance is \$3116.74.

Wong arrived.

**HOUSEKEEPING:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Ah Mai reported the following:

**BUS STOP CLOSURES, WAIKIKI, KAIMUKI** – Receipt of material from the City Department of Transportation Services about the closing of TheBus stops in Waikiki along Kuhio Avenue, and in Kaimuki along Pahoehoe Avenue, Kilauea Avenue, and Maunaloa Avenue.

A letter was received from a resident supporting the removal of needless TheBus stops that are too close together, and on small narrow streets as buses create a safety hazard for pedestrians.

Nahoopii noted receipt of a request a few months ago to restore a TheBus stop closed at Kapahulu Avenue and Kanaina Street.

Egged noted that he has not prepared a draft resolution on the Board's position on this matter.

**DIAMOND HEAD CRATER FESTIVAL SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSES** – An application has been filed with the Liquor Commission for a special one-day liquor license for the May 19 event. The application includes a contingency day.

**STATUS OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5** – A pre-hearing with the City Corporation Counsel in June has been scheduled for the Matson and Wong complaints; a pre-hearing date has not been set for the Gau complaints.

**NEWSLETTER** – Miller had advance copies of the Board's newsletter available for interested persons to review. The newsletter should be published and mailed by the Board's next meeting. Thanks were extended to the Board members for their articles and Neighborhood Commission staff member Bryan Mick for their work on the newsletter.

**HONOLULU HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT CORRIDOR (HHCTC) PROJECT** –The Board has received a copy of the HHCTC EIS Scoping Information Package which was made available for interested persons to review.

**ETHICS COMMISSION NEWSLETTER** – A copy of the newsletter has been received and made it available for interested persons to review.

**NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD ELECTIONS** – The deadline to submit ballots for the election is April 16, results will be announced May 1, the newly elected Board members take office effective June 1. The chair pro tem, the person receiving the highest number of votes in the election, will open the first meeting of the new term.

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES** – For the current fiscal year, Dumas, Gau, and Waialeale have missed three or more meetings, and under the Neighborhood Plan are to receive a letter from the Board requesting they declare their intentions to remain members or not. As the current term expires at the end of next month, the consensus was not to send out letters. It was also noted that Dumas' husband has recently died, and Chair Ah Mai will take care of a sympathy card from the Board.

**CITY PROCLAMATION REQUEST** – A former Board member requested Chair Ah Mai send a letter of recommendation to the City to honor him with a proclamation for his work on the Paki Hale renovation project. Chair Ah Mai noted that it would be unfair to recognize only one person for his efforts on this project, as many persons were responsible for pursuing this project with the City, including member Matson. It was also noted the former member is a candidate for a seat on another Neighborhood Board and with the Neighborhood Board elections in progress, such a letter would be inappropriate.

#### **SUBDISTRICT REPORTS:**

**SUBDISTRICT 1, ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS** – Miller reported the St. Louis Community Association did not meet last month. There was nothing else to report.

**SUBDISTRICT 2, KAPAHULU** – Nahoopii reported that construction for the Safeway project that recently closed lanes of Kapahulu Avenue, has been completed. Waialeale reported there was a traffic accident earlier today involving a moped rider in this area. Berlin reported receipt of a letter from Safeway requesting input from residents about the Safeway project. Wong noted construction on the Safeway project has been occurring after 6:00 p.m., Waialeale noted noisy construction work has been occurring after 3:30 p.m., an agreement with Safeway was that this would not occur, and he was able to resolve the problem. Egged noted that a special permit is needed for construction work after 6:00 p.m.

**SUBDISTRICT 3, DIAMOND HEAD** – Wong noted several burglaries and thefts have occurred on Pualei Circle recently. Harden noted five burglaries at 2979 Kalakaua Avenue since December of last year.

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**GOVERNOR** – No representative from the Governor's Office was present.

**REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY** – It was believed Representative Say was tied up at the legislature.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** – Jenny Kaya, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report that includes a list of capital improvement projects for schools in his district. Kaya was available for questions. There were no questions from the Board or guests.

**MAYOR'S OFFICE** – Michelle Ching, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Board of Water Supply reports that regarding the Campbell Avenue water main project, the section on Kaunaoa, between Leahi Avenue and Campbell Avenue, is complete. Work continues on Kapahulu Avenue fronting Rainbow Drive-In and the booster station. Campbell Avenue to Monsarrat has been repaved. Work continues on Kapahulu Avenue and Campbell Avenue near Monsarrat Avenue for chlorination and flushing of pipes. The entire lane will be repaved where construction has occurred. The project should be completed in June.

Harden reported ongoing problems with the space between the metal plates and the excavation on Kapahulu Avenue for some time not being properly filled with asphalt. Nahoopii has a contact for this project and will follow up.

2. In response to a question from last month regarding rezoning along Kapahulu Avenue, the Department of Planning and Permitting reports that it does not have any active plans to rezone the entire Kapahulu Avenue commercial strip from B-2 to BMX. The former Kapahulu Health Center site is currently the subject of a proposed zone change from R-5 to B-2.
3. Regarding a question from last month on the synchronization of traffic signal lights on Kapahulu Avenue, the signals are synchronized for the predominant traffic movement during peak travel times. During the off peak times, the synchronization is a balance between traffic flow in each direction. Wong noted she still does not believe the lights are synchronized.
4. Regarding a question from last month on the patching of potholes, use of a different material will not provide any significant increase in longevity because the surrounding asphalt is deteriorated and the patch will fail around its periphery. Excavating the pothole would cause unacceptable traffic delays.
5. Regarding a plywood fence around the Natatorium, the wall is necessary to prevent illegal entry. A portion of the fence along the Kaimana Beach wall that is not needed for security will be removed. The plywood will not be replaced with something else.
6. Community meetings on the proposed curbside recycling plan are being held this month and next month.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Potholes along Paki Avenue were noted. Follow up will be done.
2. Resurfacing of Ala Wai Boulevard will begin later this month. An update on the traffic management plan was requested.
3. Thanks were expressed for repairs to the Dillingham Fountain.
4. Sunset on the Beach is April 14 and 15.
5. The City has designated the white tern as the official City bird, and Kapiolani Park is one of its habitats.
6. Speeding is a problem on Monsarrat Avenue.
7. A request was made that the City maintain a tree at 3305 Monsarrat Avenue, that drops small "balls" and creates a mess and should be better maintained.

Matson arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Stan Fichtman, representing Councilmember Djou, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. At one time there was a discussion, between the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, City Council, and City Corporation Counsel about the zoning along Kapahulu Avenue. No action on the discussion was taken.
2. The Council is working on the budget.
3. Councilmember Djou has introduced a bill that would not prohibit the City from shipping trash out of the state.

4. Bill 39, relating to prohibiting companies with a criminal record of bribery or corruption from being awarded Honolulu's multi-billion dollar mass transit contract, which Councilmember Djou introduced, is progressing.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. An idea to rezone Kapahulu Avenue is not progressing. The Kapahulu Community Plan includes not changing the zoning.
2. The City Administration considers processing trash at the H-Power plant a form of recycling. Councilmember Djou supports the shipping of recyclable trash out of state. Use of a magnet to separate steel items from other trash at the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill was supported.
3. Use of Segways which are rented by tourists and operated on sidewalks creates a hazard to pedestrians.
4. It was questioned whether or not it is legal to use reflective glass on the exterior of buildings.

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 pedestrian safety tips.
2. The Council is holding hearings on the budget. Funding has been allocated to develop a shower facility on the Kapahulu end of the Ala Wai Canal for use by canoe paddlers.
3. New budget requests for funding staff positions are being made by the Department of Planning and Permitting and Department of Transportation Services, related to the mass transit project.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Matson noted priorities have to be set, such as repairing sewers and streets or funding the mass transit system.
2. It was noted that the City has stated that it has no architectural plans for the shower facilities for canoe paddlers at the Kapahulu end of the Ala Wai Canal, but Board members noted that Board member Ken Chang, the project architect, produced drawings for showers, restrooms, and canoe halau, as part of a Vision Team project; but it was uncertain if he produced plans. Board members expressed concern that the basic shower facilities were of primary importance and that this project should not be allowed to escalate as the previous attempt did.
3. Ridership projections for the mass transit system included use of surveys of TheBus riders.
4. The City's ferry system running between Kalaeloa and Downtown, will begin service on July 1, and is funded for one year.
5. It was suggested there be educational programs on the new pedestrian safety laws.
6. Tomorrow is the deadline to submit comments on the Honolulu High Capacity Transportation Corridor EIS Scoping Information Package.
7. It will be difficult to fund development of a parking lot on the State Department of Land and Natural Resources owned parcel at 548 Kapahulu Avenue.
8. The technology for the mass transit system could be some type of bus guideway.

Councilmember Kobayashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR LES IHARA** – Senator Ihara distributed his monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The written report includes a list of bills of interest.
2. Work is being done to have some type of public use, such as a parking lot, on the State Department of Land and Natural Resources owned parcel at 548 Kapahulu Avenue.
3. Tomorrow is the deadline for resolutions to crossover between the House and Senate. Today was the deadline for bills to crossover between the House and Senate. Monday is the deadline for bills vetoed so far by the Governor to be returned to the legislative for possible override.
4. Two bills are still alive relating to use of admission fees be used for the Diamond Head Crater Monument, and road improvements.
5. A grant-in-aid has been requested for the Kapahulu Community Center.
6. Bills relating to revisions to the Sunshine Law are dead, but still technically alive. They were not heard in Senator Inouye's Legislative and Military Affairs Committee, but could possibly be resurrected.
7. House Concurrent Resolution 217, relating to urging the President and Congress increase the levels of provisional income for Social Security beneficiaries in an amount equal to the federal cost of living allowance granted to federal employees in Hawaii, will go to conference committee.
8. Work is being done on the Diamond Head Monument bills that relate to use of proceeds from admission fees be used to cover costs of repair, maintenance and operations at the Monument; rock fall mitigation, and trail system improvements.

Senator Ihara was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**STATUS OF HONOLULU ZOO ENTRANCE PROJECT** - An update on the status of the Honolulu Zoo entrance project that includes development of a new entrance building was requested.

**SALE OF ART ON HONOLULU ZOO FENCE** - The Kapiolani Park Preservation Society is seeking a halt to the sale of art on the Honolulu Zoo fence.

Matson left the meeting at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION REGARDING ELIMINATION OF BUS STOPS** – Deferred to the next meeting.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING NOTIFICATION TO BOARD OF NEW KAPAHULU AVENUE CONSTRUCTION** – A draft resolution was previously distributed to members. **Egged moved and Waialeale seconded that the resolution be approved. The motion carried unanimously.**

**SAVE OAHU RACE TRACK (SORT)) RESOLUTION** – Chair Ah Mai noted the Board previously received resolutions passed by the Mililani-Waipio-Melemanu Neighborhood Board No. 25, and the McCully-Moilili Neighborhood Board No. 8. The McCully-Moilili Board resolution differs by including community notification requirements. Vallarano, from SORT, addressed the Board seeking support of House Bill 567, relating to the State funding acquisition of Hawaii Raceway Track which was closed and the property it sits on, sold. SORT is requesting the State/City to acquire the track, then lease it to a non-profit organization to operate and maintain, in

order to provide a racing venue for Oahu. Vallarno noted 11 Neighborhood Boards have supported a resolution for the State/City to acquire the track.

**Wong moved and Harden seconded that the Board support the resolution from the McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Board.** Discussion followed. **Wong withdrew the motion, Harden withdrew the second.** Discussion continued. **Wong moved and Harden seconded that the State and City and County of Honolulu look into providing a race track for the island of Oahu. The motion carried unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EFFECTS OF ETHANOL ON SMALL ENGINES** – Chair Ah Mai reported the guest speaker was unable to attend the meeting. This matter was deferred.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 217: SOCIAL SECURITY AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT** - Wong distributed copies of the resolution for review. **Wong moved and Egged seconded that the Board support House Resolution 217, “urging the President and United States Congress to enact legislation to increase, for social security beneficiaries, the levels of provisional income, which include social security benefits, by an amount equal to the federal cost of living allowance granted to federal employees in Hawaii.** Discussion followed. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Sunset on the Beach is April 14 and 15.

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

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant