



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 10, 2007 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ah Mai at 7:17 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Ah Mai, Bert Narita, Barbara Miller, Kenneth Chang, Rick Egged, George Waialeale, Bertha Nahoopii, Roxie Berlin, Don Persons.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, Joe Otto, Linda Wong, Michelle Matson, Jay Harden.

MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT: None.

GUESTS: Major R. Macadangdang (HPD-District 6), Sgt. D. Hardington, Sgt. E. Lamontagne, Lt. G. Hasegawa (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Lt. E. Nishiyama, Sgt. G. Maekawa, Sgt. L. Dabauz (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Robert Freeman (Safeway), Capt. G. Lum (HFD-Waikiki Station), Andrew Garrett and Cindy McMillan (Communications Pacific), Kenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto), Arthur Aiu (Board of Water Supply), Jeff Kalani (Yogi Kwong Engineers), Daisy Murai, Arthur Medeiros, Janelle Cohen (Representative Calvin Say's Office), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Jan Bappe, Scot Drown, Julia Allen, Maria Tome (Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, Energy Office), Donald Anglin, Doug Olivares, Senator Les Ihara, B. Mikami, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Lum reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 3 fire, 117 medical emergencies, 7 service, and 10 false alarm calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: "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."

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

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Sgt. Hardington, from District 6, Waikiki, distributed a written report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Statistics for March and April included: 0/1 robbery, 3/1 burglary, 10/13 thefts, 7/2 criminal property damage, 19/36 liquor law violation, 13/16 motor vehicle collision, 33/19 arguments/family-non family, 16/8 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles.
2. Citations issued included 5 in the interior of Kapiolani Park for illegal camping, 1 for open lewdness; and 1 open lewdness at the Diamond Head Tennis Courts.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Sgt. Hardington was thanked for his report.

Sgt. Maekawa, from District 7, East Honolulu, distributed a written report which includes statistics and maps for beats in this area, and a brochure "Safety Tips for Adults."

Questions, answers and comments followed:



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1. A broken street light at Herbert and Winam streets is creating an unsafe condition, it is hoped that a report from police would result in faster attention to this matter. Sgt. Maekawa noted that broken street lights should be reported to the City Department of Transportation Services.
2. Drivers, including TheBus drivers, are making illegal turns from St. Louis Drive to 1st Avenue. Follow up will be done.
3. A number of incidents have occurred at UH dorms involving a number of officers responding, one involved a suspicious person which turned out to be an actor with a toy gun.
4. Cars are parked too close to the intersection of Kaimuki and 4th avenues. Follow up will be done.

Major Macadangdang reported that next month the Click It or Ticket program will be conducted, and reminded everyone to use their seatbelts. Major Macadangdang also thanked Chair Ah Mai for her work as chair over the past 10 years.

Major R. Macadangdang, Sgt. D. Hardington, Sgt. E. Lamontagne, Lt. G. Hasegawa, Lt. E. Nishiyama, Sgt. G.. Maekawa, and Sgt. L. Dabauuz for attending the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Arthur Aiu, from the Board of Water Supply, distributed a written report and highlighted/added the following:

1. There were no water main breaks last month in this area.
2. Detect-A-Leak Week is June 3 – 9. Toilet tank leak detection tablets are free for pickup at City Mill, satellite city halls, and the BWS offices on Beretania Street.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Only the section of the traffic lane on Campbell Avenue where trenching work occurred will be resurfaced.
2. Problems with metal plates covering trenches, such as at Kanaina Street and Kapahulu Avenue, can be reported to BWS for follow up with the contractor.

Aiu was thanked for attending the meeting:

STANDING RULES: Chair Ah Mai reviewed the Board's standing rules: (1) Be recognized before speaking; (2) all turns limited to two minutes unless otherwise noted; (3) no one speaks again until all others have been accommodated; and (4) no food or drink on the hardwood dance floor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 12, 2007 REGULAR MEETING – Egged moved and Narita seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Narita reported for the month of April, the Operating/Publicity Account balance was \$2901.09, and included \$155.65 in current expenses; and the newsletter has been mailed out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Chair Ah Mai read the list of Board members elected to the 2007 – 2009 term, those present identified themselves. Chair pro tem for the convening of first meeting next month is George Waialeale.
2. The Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse will not be available for the Board's July meeting. The Board has been offered a meeting room at Paki Hale. Discussion followed on the Board recessing, or meeting at

Paki Hale. The consensus was to reserve use of Paki Hale as a contingency if the new Board decides to meet in July. Chair Ah Mai will follow up.

3. Letters sent out last month included: a) support of a resolution for a race track on Oahu, and b) support of House Resolution 217, relating to social security and cost of living adjustment; correspondence received was made available for interested persons to review.
4. The passing of Representative Calvin Say's father was noted, services were earlier today. The consensus was for Chair Ah Mai to send the family a sympathy card on behalf of the Board.
5. There was no new information to report on the status of complaints filed against the Board.

SUB DISTRICT REPORTS:

SUB DISTRICT 1, ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS – Miller reported at the last St. Louis Community Association meeting one of the items discussed was a problem with a resident's pet pig that was in heat and attracting feral pigs. The next meeting is on May 14.

SUB DISTRICT 2 – No report.

SUB DISTRICT 3 – Berlin reported that the road into Diamond Head Crater was closed for two days last month for resurfacing work.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - No representative was present.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Janelle Cohen, from Representative Say's Office, distributed the monthly report and was available for questions.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Jenny Kaya, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report which includes a list of capital improvement projects for schools in this area and \$67,000 for the Kapahulu Center.

Kaya was thanked for attending the meeting.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – No representative from the Mayor's Office was present.

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

1. Regarding a question from last month's meeting about the use of mirrored glass on buildings, the use of this type of glass is encouraged as it helps conserve energy, saving on air conditioning costs.
2. Regarding the use of Segways on sidewalks, a State law allows it and would supersede any City law. Any change to the law would have to be done through the State legislature. Follow up will be done if Councilmember Djou will propose a change to the law.
3. The Council reorganization has made Councilmember Djou chair of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and he is no longer chair of the Zoning Committee, being replaced by Councilmember Tam.
4. The Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization has supported the mass transit segment between Kapolei and Ala Moana Center, including the route along Salt Lake Boulevard.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. There is a water ponding problem at Paki and Monsarrat avenues, follow up will be done.
2. It was noted that shipping trash out of state has been proposed by a City Council bill and that there is no plan on where the City would put the massive amounts of trash from a natural disaster, noting in New Orleans debris from Hurricane Katrina was shipped out of state, and in San Francisco debris from the 1906 earthquake was dumped in the Bay.
3. It was suggested trash in the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill be dug up and recyclable materials recovered.

Fichtman was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

1. The report includes fire prevention tips.
2. Earlier today she participated in an AARP project monitoring crosswalks in unsafe locations with AARP members and police officers. Educational signs were held and informational materials distributed. Assistance in identifying unsafe crosswalks was requested.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested the fire prevention tips include ones on use of space heaters, noting a recent fire involved one.
2. Regarding the AARP project, the following was suggested: a) mid-block crosswalks should be equipped with pedestrian-activated stop lights, b) flags be provided at crosswalks for pedestrians to wave when they cross the street as has been seen in use in Mainland cities.
3. A streetlight at Herbert and Winam streets is out and needs repair.
4. There is \$200,000 allocated for planning a restroom for canoe paddlers at the Kapahulu end of the Ala Wai Canal. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has indicated it will try to develop shower facilities this year. The funding is needed as DPR says there are no design plans were made. Board member Chang, who created and still has the design plans for this project, will follow up with Councilmember Kobayashi.
5. The deadline for scoping plans for the EIS for the Manoa Stream drainage improvement project must be submitted by May 25. Councilmember Kobayashi thanked Chair Ah Mai for her work on the Ala Wai Watershed project.

Councilmember Kobayashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

1. There is \$4.4 million allocated for part of the long term plan for the Diamond Head Crater and Monument. The current funding is for development of an interior trail system. Development of the visitor center will be a future project.
2. The \$67,000 for the Kapahulu Center is for a private/public partnership to pay instructors, etc.
3. Some 33 bills were introduced by the Kupuna Caucus, and 70 percent of the bills passed.
4. Other funding included: \$3 million for pedestrian safety, capital improvement projects of \$250,000 at Jefferson Elementary and \$1 million at Kaimuki Intermediate schools, \$20 million for the Weighted

Student Formula to prevent disproportional impacts to smaller schools, \$80,000 for a master plan at Leahi Hospital.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested there be legislation to prevent government employees from receiving retirement pay after being convicted of crimes, such as persons involved in the Ewa Villages schemes.
2. Use of flags for pedestrians to wave when crossing streets was suggested as it works in Mainland cities and has worked in Japan for decades. It was noted this was tried locally, but the flags were stolen.

Senator Ihara was thanked for attending the meeting.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – Jeff Kalani, from Yogi Kwong Engineers, a City contractor, reported the St. Louis Heights sewer improvement project will begin some time this month.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

The project is contracted to take 1-1/2 years, an exact start date has not be set. Sewer lines and manholes will be rehabilitated, not replaced; there will be no trenching in most locations. The rehabilitation will use the cured-in-place-pipe process where a resin impregnated fabric liner is inserted into an existing line, then filled with hot water to cure it.

WELA STREET NOISE PROBLEM – Chang reported he is following up with residents about an ongoing noise problem with other residents.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION REGARDING ELIMINATION OF BUS STOPS – Egged reviewed a draft resolution urging more public participation in the bus stop realignment project. Egged provided a brief background where the Department of Transportation Services does not seem to be seeking public comment, rather it just posts notices on bus stops it plans to close. **Narita moved and Waialeale seconded that the Board supports the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

EFFECTS OF ETHANOL ON SMALL ENGINES – Maria Tome, from the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, State Energy Office, and Donald Anglin was present. Tome reported ethanol in gasoline is currently used in 50 percent of the country, and has been well-tested. Locally 85 percent of the gasoline has the 10 percent ethanol blend, gasoline with no ethanol is available at five locations, with the Ala Wai small boat harbor the location in this area.

Discussion followed:

1. It was noted the ethanol-gasoline blend has resulted in drivers getting fewer miles per gallon.
2. The State is not liable for damage the blend does.
3. Blend has caused problems in small engines, such as leaf blowers.
4. There is a problem with the blend such as attracting water, creating a problem for boaters.

5. The use of the ethanol blend was approved in 1978; tests have been done by the Underwriters Laboratory, is approved by the Society of Automotive Engineers, and has been thoroughly tested.
6. Use of ethanol only benefits the agricultural industry.
7. There is a positive energy benefit to producing ethanol.
8. There is no local ethanol production at this time.
9. The State should issue warnings about hidden damage the ethanol blend causes.
10. Car repair shops report damage to vehicles by the ethanol blend.
11. Past studies have shown that pineapple would be a better crop to produce sugar for ethanol production than sugar cane, not having to remove leaves is one factor.
12. The State Energy Office, 587-3814, takes information/complaints about ethanol use, no specific problems have been found. Work is being done with car repair shops on identifying problems caused by the ethanol blend.
13. Use of ethanol is for the greater good. Tests have not been able to recreate problems reported by consumers.

Tome and Anglin were thanked for attending the meeting.

TRAFFIC ON KAPAHULU AVENUE – Doug Olivares, resident of Holiday Parkway, at 910 Kapahulu Avenue, reported that residents of his condominium currently have problems exiting their property, with waits of 10 minutes or longer due to existing traffic conditions. These conditions are expected to get worse when Safeway opens and the traffic signal light at Kapahulu Avenue and Olu Street becomes operational backing up traffic and stopping it fronting this address even more than now. He suggested that a stop line be painted on Kapahulu Avenue, similar to Leahi and Kapahulu, mauka of the condominium's driveway, to stop cars from blocking egress for residents of Holiday Parkway and the adjacent apartment building. He also suggested pedestrian-activated crossing lights by Safeway, across Kapahulu Avenue. He has contacted the City Department of Transportation Services, but has not received a favorable response.

Cindy McMillan and Andrew Garret, from Communications Pacific, consultants for Safeway, and Robert Freeman from Safeway, were present. They reported the Safeway project is on schedule and plans are to open by this Thanksgiving. Development of this project was preceded by community meetings, adjustments to the project were made to address community concerns, such as not developing the gas station part of the project.

The traffic management plan will have two lanes of traffic open in both directions, and right turn in and right turn out of Olu Street to prevent it from being used as a shortcut. A stop line at Holiday Parkway was proposed 1-1/2 years ago. Once Safeway opens, a traffic study will be done on whether or not the traffic management plan works. When the store opens there are plans to have special duty police officers on duty to direct traffic. Traffic lights on Kapahulu Avenue are currently synchronized between Date and Leahi streets, once Safeway opens the lights will be coordinated between Kaimuki Avenue and Winam Street.

The sidewalk fronting the project site will reopen in July. An announcement of the other tenants will be made shortly. Work is being done with the post office to have a facility within the project site. The traffic signal light at Olu Street will be completed in June, and energized in July, activated in August, and turned over to the City in September.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The stop line is needed as the problem with exiting Holiday Manor will only get worse.

2. A wall on the mauka side of the property will be completed soon.
3. Pedestrians will be able to cross Kapahulu Avenue at signalized traffic signal lights with pedestrian activated signals with the countdown feature.
4. The traffic study will determine if adjustments to the traffic management plan are needed. Synchronization of the lights along all of Kapahulu Avenue was suggested, and it was acknowledged this has been requested.

Egged moved and Persons seconded that the Board supports installation of a stop line to facilitate egress from 910 Kapahulu Avenue. The motion carried unanimously. Chang left the meeting earlier in the meeting and did not vote on this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant