



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 FEBRUARY 8, 2007 ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ah Mai at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, Rick Egged.

MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT: None.

GUESTS: Anne Chipchase (National Kidney Foundation), Arthur Aiu (Board of Water Supply), Sgt. Darren Chun (HPD), Keith Young, Jenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Suzanne Miller (NFFH), Kyle Yamasaki, Lt. A. Ahlo, (HPD-District 7), Mike Wilcox (Save Oahu's Race Tracks), Capt. Keith Nakaneula (HFD-Waikiki Station), Daisy Murai, Janel Cohen (Representative Calvin Say's Office), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Anthony L., Eric Kaneshiro (Cingular), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Walea Constantinau (Mayor's Office), Dennis Callan (honolulutraffic.com), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Nakaneula reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 3 structure, 3 rubbish and 1 vehicle fire, 1 false alarm, 116 medical emergencies, and 4 miscellaneous calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is every home should have a working smoke detector installed near each sleeping area and on every level. Since cooking vapors and steam can set off a smoke detector, the detector should be located away from the kitchen or bathroom. Wall-mounted detectors should be positioned six to twelve inches below the ceiling and away from air vents.

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

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Lt. Yamasaki, from District 6 – Waikiki, reported statistics for January compared to December included: 0/1 robbery, 5/5 burglary, 8/13 theft. 5/1 motor vehicle theft, 5/7 criminal property damage, 16/8 liquor law violation, 9/11 motor vehicle collision, 14/6 arguments/family-non family, 7/5 unauthorized entry into motor vehicle, at Waikiki Shell – 5 illegal camping, in Kapiolani Park, 10 liquor law violations, 24 illegal camping in Kapiolani Park, 6 lewdness.

There were no questions from Lt. Namasaki.

Lt. Ahlo, from District 7 – East Honolulu, reported the written report distributed earlier includes crime statistics and information on the new child booster seat law. The ATV detail made 32 warrant arrests, issued citations for 52 liquor law violations, 5 dogs without leashes violations, 6 illegal camping violations, and 461 moving violations.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

A case of a school student being accosted near Kaimuki High School is under investigation.

Lt. Namasaki and Lt. Ahlo were thanked for attending the meeting.



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

1. Last month there were two water main breaks, a 24-inch at 540 Kapahulu Avenue on January 9, and a six inch one at 3115 Herbert Street on January 30.
2. The new Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer is Dean Nakano.
3. Regarding a project on Campbell Avenue, the contractor has two crews working on this project. One crew is at the connection point at the intersection of Campbell Avenue and Kaunaoa Street, which should be completed by March, the other crew is working on the last phase on Kapahulu Avenue which should be completed by July. All of Campbell Avenue is repaved except for the connection point at Campbell and Kaunaoa.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done with a resident about damage to curbs, sidewalks, ADA ramps, etc., by the contractor.
2. Thanks were expressed for the repaving of Campbell Avenue.

Aiu was thanked for attending the meeting.

Wong and Matson arrived during Public Safety reports.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 11, 2007 REGULAR MEETING – The following corrections were made:

Relating to Approval of Minutes of the November meeting, a statement from Gau was received for filing with the original minutes and agendas at the Neighborhood Commission Office, per the Board's procedure.

Page 4, under Sub-district Reports, the second paragraph should read "Sub-district 3, Diamond Head – No report." The following paragraph should read "Sub-district 2, Kapahulu – Berlin reported..."

Page 7, the first paragraph should read "...the Hilo National Guard temporarily took over the MAST (Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic) program on Oahu and has since been replaced by the Alaska National Guard.

Miller moved and Persons seconded that the minutes be filed as written. The motion carried, 11-1. Wong opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Narita reported for the month of January 2007, the Operating and Publicity Account's current month's expenses were \$45.24 leaving a balance of \$3215.34. The Refreshment Account balance remains unchanged at \$120.00.

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.

BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMUNITY MEETING - Chair Ah Mai noted receipt of a notice from the Department of Education of a community meeting on the Weighted Student Formula, February 22, Likelike Elementary School, at 6:30 p.m.

OTHER:

ADDITION TO AGENDA OF RAIL TRANSIT ALTERNATIVE - Chair Ah Mai announced that the resolution relating to the "rail transit alternative," discussed at the two previous meetings, had inadvertently been left off the agenda and requested that the Board add the item to the agenda. The Board unanimously approved.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5 - Chair Ah Mai reported complaints filed by Wong during the 2003 – 2005 Board term, one relating to then-member Steve Knauer, and the second relating to actions at an executive committee meeting and then-members Fay Kennedy and Jim Cone, are still pending action with the Neighborhood Commission.

Chair Ah Mai reported the complaints addressed by the Board at last month's meeting filed by Matson and Wong, relating to events at the November 2006 Board meeting are scheduled for a pre-hearing meeting with the City Corporation Counsel's Office, February 26.

Chair Ah Mai reported a complaint filed by member Gau against members Matson and Wong relating to Matson's and Wong's complaints against the Board, has been received by the Board and requires action at tonight's meeting.

Chair Ah Mai relinquished the chair to Vice Chair Nahoopii. Discussion followed on the complaint with members' statements that it was filed in retaliation by Gau, that the complaint relates to a criminal action and should not be handled by the Board but by law enforcement, and that the complaint is and is not frivolous,

Ah Mai moved and Miller seconded that the Gau complaint be handled like the Matson and Wong complaints and be forwarded to the Neighborhood Commission for disposition. Discussion followed. **The motion failed to carry, 7-1-4.** **Yea:** Miller, Nahoopii, Matson, Berlin, Persons, Ah Mai, Harden. **Nay:** Wong. **Abstain:** Narita, Otto, Waialeale, Chang. The motion failed to receive the necessary eight votes to carry.

Additional comments followed urging Board members to refrain from filing complaints which only waste Board, Neighborhood Commission and other City resources.

Nahoopii returned the chair to Ah Mai.

NEWSLETTER - Miller reported that the format will be similar to the previous newsletter.

OTHER, CONTINUED:

ADDITION OF ITEM TO AGENDA ON DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES PARCEL ON KAPAHULU AVENUE - Matson moved and Narita seconded to add an item to the agenda on the Department of Land and Natural Resources rezoning of a parcel on Kapahulu Avenue. The motion carried unanimously.

SUB-DISTRICT REPORTS:

SUB-DISTRICT 1 – ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS – Miller reported there will be no St. Louis Community Association meeting this month.

SUB-DISTRICT 2 – KAPAHULU – Nahoopii reported Safeway store representatives recently met with area residents to update them on the construction project. Plans are to complete the walls over three days next week, followed by adding roof beams, then work on the interior; construction of the small shops will follow with the store opening this October.

SUB-DISTRICT 3 – DIAMOND HEAD – Harden reported the Gold Coast Community Association is taking legal action on repairs to the seawall and walkway.

Matson reported the Department of Parks and Recreation will be opening Paki Hale on March 1 which has been closed for renovations. Chair Ah Mai reported a copy of Matson's letter to the editor on this subject was available for interested persons to review.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

SENATOR LES IHARA, JR. – Chair Ah Mai reported Senator Ihara was unable to attend the meeting, and provided copies of some bills he introduced. Chair Ah Mai briefly reviewed the bills and made copies available for interested persons to review.

Matson reported a bill relating to aircraft noise mitigation has been introduced.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Janel Cohen, from Representative Say's Office, distributed the monthly report which includes information on income tax filing.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Concern was expressed about the National Guard discontinuing the uniform allowance for Guard members. The allowance is needed due to increased duty by members.

Cohen was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Jenny Kaya, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report includes tips on preventing ID theft.
2. Representative Nishimoto's initiated a Legislative Progress in the Classroom to educate and involve youth in government. He has been visiting schools and students have been visiting the State Capitol to observe the legislative process.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Thanks were extended for Representative Nishimoto's work on noise mitigation bills.

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

1. In response to a question about "no parking" restrictions at the Waikiki Natatorium parking lot, three stalls are reserved for lifeguard staff, and two are reserved for handicapped parking. There are no other parking restrictions in the lot.
2. In response to a question about new parking restrictions in the area of 3731 and 3737 Kanaina Avenue, the Department of Transportation Services investigated residents' concerns about line-of-sight problems and the restrictions were installed to improve safety.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The poor condition of the access road from Kapahulu Avenue to the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse parking lot was noted. Follow up will be done.
2. A new wall erected by the Waikiki Natatorium blocks ocean views. Follow up will be done.

Constantinau was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

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1. Councilmember Djou opposes House Bill 1001, to exempt affordable housing development from all state and county regulations.
2. Councilmember Djou introduced a bill to require doctors and veterinarians who treat patients with dog bite injuries to notify authorities. There is no such requirement at this time.
3. The Council is scheduled to receive the budget from the Administration by March 1.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It was suggested questions about whether or not the Moana and Royal Hawaiian hotels' renovations are violating historic preservation laws be directed to the Historic Preservation Society.
2. A report on the amount of money collected from the increase in the general excise tax to fund the rail transit project be provided, and that the money collected be invested before it is needed for the project. Follow up will be done.

Fichtman was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Fichtman reported Councilmember Kobayashi was unable to remain at the meeting. A written report was provided for interested persons to review. Any questions for Councilmember Kobayashi can be referred to him.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF HAWAII AT KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MARCH 10, 2007 – Anne Chipchase and Susan Miller, from the National Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, reported that kidney disease is increasing and Hawaii has a larger percentage of its population, one in seven, with kidney disease, than the national population with one in nine. Kidney diseases can show no symptoms until they cause problems requiring treatment. Some treatments like dialysis are expensive.

The National Kidney Foundation is holding a Gift of Life Festival, on the Great Lawn, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, activities will include screening for kidney diseases, free entertainment, exercise demonstrations, cooking demonstrations, craft sale, etc.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Kidney disease can be caused by a diet with too much protein, lack of exercise, heredity, and other diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, etc.
2. The Shintani Diet has helped some people with kidney disease.

SAVE OAHU RACE TRACKS (SORT) – Mike Wilcox, from SORT, reported Hawaii Raceway Park was closed last year, eliminating the only save venue for racing sports. They are seeking City Council support for the City to acquire Hawaii Raceway Park and support of a bill in the legislature to develop a new facility, possibly in Kalaeloa. Wilcox requested this matter be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The drifting event recently held in the Aloha Stadium parking lot was organized by a different organization.
2. The assessed value of the Hawaii Raceway Park site is \$5.8 million.
3. SORT is also requesting the City Council not rezone the Hawaii Raceway Park site from the current agricultural to industrial zoning. Reopening the park and upgrading it is desired. The park was in operation for approximately 42 years and it is believed there were two deaths there in that time period.

The park has facilities to accommodate a variety of racing events, including a drag strip, road racing course, and motocross.

4. Another racing organization is seeking development of a new facility in Kalaeloa.
5. There were reports of racing by hundreds of drivers on the H-1 following the drifting event at the Aloha Stadium parking lot.
6. It was requested this matter be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION REGARDING ELIMINATION OF BUS STOPS – Deferred.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION ON RAIL TRANSIT ALTERNATIVE – Chair Ah Mai distributed a draft resolution "...strongly urging the City Council's full consideration and approval of the managed lanes alternative." **Berlin moved and Narita seconded the Board support the resolution.** Discussion followed.

Dennis Callan, from honolulutraffic.com, reported a managed lane alternative could consist of an elevated roadway for high occupancy vehicles, buses, carpool vehicles, and other vehicles paying a toll. Construction would be funded by tolls and federal funds.

Discussion followed on: a) support for the rail transit alternative, b) the State Department of Transportation's announcement of its own alternatives for a toll way using the zipper lane, proposal for an elevated roadway for Nimitz Highway, c) greater service flexibility with buses than fixed rail, d) a managed lane proposal would have eight accesses and exits, e) personal experience that managed lanes seen around the country don't work, f) and personal experience that rail seen around the county and world only works in certain circumstances.

The motion failed, 7-4-1. Yea: Chang, Nahoopii, Wong, Matson, Berlin, Persons, Harden. **Nay:** Miller, Otto, Waialeale, Narita. **Abstain:** Ah Mai. The motion failed to receive the necessary eight votes to carry.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL AT 548 KAPAHULU AVENUE – Chang reported the State Department of Land and Natural Resources is requesting the City rezone this parcel from residential to commercial zoning rather than develop a parking lot and community center the business and residential communities support. The Board previously supported the development supported by the business and residential communities. The rezoning is before the City Council and scheduled for second reading and a public hearing. Chair Ah Mai noted that since the Board already voted on this matter in September, 2006, no further action is necessary, and a letter stating the Board's position can be sent to the City Council. Individual testimony at the City Council hearing was encouraged.

Chang left.

CINGULAR REQUEST FOR CELL PHONE TOWER AT KAIMANA – Eric Kaneshiro, from Cingular, distributed material, including pictures on the project. He reported they are planning to install new equipment and a new antenna on the roof of the New Otani Kaimana Beach Hotel. Their facilities have been at this location since 1990. Other companies' facilities are also located on this roof.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The project follows Federal Communications Commission guidelines.
2. The project involves installation of new equipment in an existing equipment shelter and addition of one new antenna next to an existing antenna. Other companies' equipment is visible on this roof.

3. The equipment has no effect on TV signals. These types of antennas are seen on other nearby buildings and others all over town.
4. The project is an upgrade to improve service.

There was no Board action on this matter.

REPORT ON ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS – Miller reported the Neighborhood Commission voted to use on-line voting for uncontested seats in 91 sub-districts and mail-in paper ballots for the contested seats in 58 sub-districts in the upcoming elections for Neighborhood Board members. Persons voting for contested seats will have the option of voting on-line or mail-in. Safeguards will be in place to prevent persons from voting both on-line and mail-in.

BOARD INPUT REGARDING CHANGES IN THE SUNSHINE LAW – There was no Board input on this matter.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING NOTIFICATION TO THE BOARD OF NEW KAPAHULU AVENUE CONSTRUCTION – Deferred.

RESOLUTION ON ABILITY TO PAY FOR RAIL – There was no Board input on this matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Requests were made for future agenda topics included: a) the ethanol gasoline blend is creating problems in small engines, b) synchronization of traffic lights on Kapahulu Avenue to accommodate traffic generated by the new Safeway store project.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant