



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
MARCH 8, 2007
ALA WAI GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSE**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Ah Mai at 7:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Gau, Sharon Dumas, George Waialeale.

MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT: None.

GUESTS: Lt. Darren Chun Major Randy Macadangdang (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Capt. Robert Green, Sgt. Dale Hardinger, Sgt. Stuart Yano, Lt. T. Reyes (HPD-District 7, East Honolulu), Hal Barnes (Mayor's Office), Stan Fichtman (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Fire Fighter Lee Marquez (HFD-Waikiki Station), Julia Allen; Evelyn Souza, Les Vallarano, Mike Wilcox (Save Oahu's Race Track), Daisy Murai, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Representative Calvin Say, Brenda Hashimoto, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Fire Fighter Marquez reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to 2 structure, 2 rubbish and 1 vehicle fire, 121 medical calls, 2 search and rescue, and 16 miscellaneous calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is "Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. Be responsible and extinguish fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Formulate plans and communicate with family members and neighbors to create a safer community. Report and remove hazards. Maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing vegetation surrounding all structures.

For further information on creating a safe place around your home, street, or community, contact Denise Laitinen of Firewise Communities at 281-3497 or go to www.firewise.org.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Firefighter Marquez was thanked for attending meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT 6, WAIKIKI – Lt. Chun reported statistics for February compared to January included: none/none robberies, 2/5 burglaries, 10/8 thefts, 1/5 motor vehicle thefts, 3/5 criminal property damage, 7/16 liquor law violations, 11/9 motor vehicle collisions, 13/14 arguments/family-non family, 11/7 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles. At the Waikiki Shell, citations issued included 3 for illegal camping and 1 for assault. In Kapiolani Park, citations included 4 for liquor law violations, 54 for illegal camping, and 1 for lewdness.

There were no questions from the Board or guests.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT, DISTRICT 7, EAST HONOLULU - Sgt. Yano reported statistics for February compared to January included: Beat 755 – Date Street, 1/2 burglary, 1/3 thefts, 4/3 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, Beat 757 – Upper Kapahulu, 1/1 burglary, 2/4 thefts, 4/5 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, Beat 758 – Lower Kapahulu, 1/3 burglaries, 4/3 thefts, 3/6 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, Beat 760 – Diamond Head Lookouts, 3/no burglaries, 2/no thefts, 5/7 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, Beat 762 – St. Louis Drive, 4/3 burglaries, 7/3 thefts, 6/5 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles.



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Questions, answers and comments followed:

Drivers are driving in an unsafe manner in the Waiialae Avenue, St. Louis Drive and 1st Avenue intersection, between 6:00 – 8:30 a.m, and 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., particularly as drivers head from St. Louis Drive and Dole Street to 1st Avenue. Follow up will be done and it was noted there is an ongoing program to improve pedestrian safety.

Sgt. Yano was thanked for his report, he and Lt. Chun, Major Macadangdang, Capt. Green, Sgt. Hardinger, Sgt. Yano and Lt. T. Reyes were thanked for attending the meeting.

Matson and Otto arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – No report.

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 FEBRUARY 8, 2007 REGULAR MEETING – Miller moved and Narita seconded that the minutes be approved as written by the Neighborhood Assistant. The motion carried, 10-0-1. Matson abstained.

Matson noted that the minutes included written corrections. Chair Ah Mai noted that the listing of corrections in February's minutes does not reflect a change in the Board's policy that written statements only be attached to the minutes on file with the Neighborhood Commission Office and not included in the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Narita reported for the month of February, the Operating/Publicity Account balance was \$3170.67 and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00. Chair Ah Mai reported the audit of the Neighborhood Commission noted that this Board has overspent its budget the previous two years but that the Board has been frugal with its operating expenses and the overrun was not a Board decision but one made by the Neighborhood Commission Office related to the number of newsletters mailed.

BOARD HOUSEKEEPING:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

UPCOMING ELECTION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEMBERS – Chair Ah Mai reviewed the list of candidates and noted that Sub-District 1, St. Louis Heights, has four candidates for five seats with all seats uncontested; Sub-District 2 Kapahulu, has six candidates for five seats, with all seats contested; and Sub-District 3, Diamond Head, has six candidates for five seats, with all seats contested.

Wong arrived.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 5 – Chair Ah Mai reported the Board's response on the Gau complaint voted on at last month's meeting has been submitted to the Neighborhood Commission Office.

Chair Ah Mai reported the Board has received notice of a new complaint filed by Gau relating to a violation of the Sunshine law when members Matson, Wong and Egged were all in attendance at a Waikiki Neighborhood Board meeting.

Discussion followed where it was noted that the members did not attend as representing the Diamond Head/Kapahulu St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board. Egged attended representing the Waikiki Improvement Association, Maston attended representing the Waikiki Residents Association, and Wong attended as an individual. Chair Ah Mai questioned if they were there to discuss an item Waikiki Board's agenda that was to come up on the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board agenda. **Narita moved and Wong seconded that the Board rejects the complaint.** Discussion followed where it was noted that to be

consistent, a complaint should have been filed against the Board for a violation of the Sunshine law when several members attended and testified at a recent City Council meeting. **The motion carried 10-0-2.** Miller and Berlin abstained.

NEWSLETTER – Miller requested articles be submitted to her as soon as possible and draft will be available by the next meeting. Publication will be in May.

STATUS OF 548 KAPAHULU AVENUE REZONING – Chair Ah Mai reported the City Council received public testimony at full meeting of the Council, including testimony by herself, Narita, Matson and Waialeale. Testimony included the desire expressed by the community that this parcel be used for parking. The bill on this matter was referred to a committee for further review. A representative from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, which is seeking the rezoning, provided testimony at the Council's meetings.

REZONING ALL OF KAPAHULU - Follow up was requested on whether or not members of the City Council are seeking to have all of Kapahulu rezoned from B-2, neighborhood business, to BMX, mixed business, a more intense business zoning.

SUB-DISTRICT REPORTS:

SUB-DISTRICT 1, ST. LOUIS HEIGHTS – Narita reported someone is conducting an auto repair business on Frank Street and leaving stripped cars on the street.

SUB-DISTRICT 2, KAPAHULU – Wong requested that the traffic lights on Kapahulu Avenue be synchronized before the Safeway store project is completed.

SUB-DISTRICT 3, DIAMOND HEAD – Matson reported bills relating to Diamond Head Crater are progressing. It was also noted that Paki Hale has been reopened.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say reported today was crossover day for bills between the House and Senate. Approximately 390 bills crossed over from the House to the Senate. Some bills of interest discussed this session relate to identity theft, the Kauai dam break, death with dignity, changes to the no smoking law, and funding education as much as possible.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done on the elimination of the uniform allowance for National Guard members and the status of bills relating to changes to the Sunshine law. Matson noted several bills relating to the Sunshine law were combined into one bill.
2. The appropriateness of a legislative committee considering a resolution concerning bounty hunter Duane Dog Chapman was questioned. Representative Say reported that the decision to hear this resolution was that of the chair of the House's International Affairs Committee, noting even as Speaker of the House, he cannot control what legislation committee chairs allow to be heard in committee.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Representative Nishimoto distributed his monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Paki Hale was recently reopened by the City and commended the work done.
2. There will be a community graffiti paint out day, March 10, 8:00 a.m. Approximately 100 volunteers are expected to paint out graffiti in the McCully-Moilili area.

3. Follow up will be done on the status of Sunshine law bills.

Representative Nishimoto was thanked for attending the meeting.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Hal Barnes, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The Administration has released the budget for the next fiscal year to the City Council for their review over the next few months. Interested persons can review the budget on the City web site.
2. In response to a question from last month's meeting regarding a wall at the Waikiki Natatorium, no new wall has been put up, the existing plywood wall was put up for security reasons to keep people out of the Natatorium. Wong noted the plywood replaced a fence that you could see through and preferred the fence. Barnes will follow up.
3. In response to a question about the condition of the roadway from Kapahulu Avenue to the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse, the roadway, which is classified as a driveway, has been patched and will be cold planed and resurfaced after a Board of Water Supply project in the area and use of a temporary contractor's yard is completed later this month. This matter was also answered in the Honolulu Advertiser's Bureaucracy Buster column on January 25.
4. In response to a question from last month, the State collects the general excise tax increase to fund the mass transit system and charges the City a 10 percent fee. It is anticipated that \$45 million will be collected in the first six months and \$150 million collected next year. The City does invest the revenue.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. The City, by law, is restricted in the types of investments used, typically earning between one and a half to three percent.
2. Questions were raised about the City putting money into the budget to cover anticipated employee pay raises. Barnes noted that binding arbitration is used and the budget includes a four percent raise, a conservative amount, and that some groups of employees have already received a higher pay raise. Putting the money in now helps address previous problems when the budget did not include funding for pay raises and money had to be found.
3. The budget includes approximately \$40 million for road reconstruction. There is a schedule for road resurfacing, and some problems have been encountered such as the asphalt shortage last year. Follow up will be done on whether or not a better patching material can be found as some pot hole patches do not last.
4. There will be a parade this coming Sunday through Waikiki and ending at Kapiolani Park as part of the Honolulu Festival events.
5. A complaint was made about a running event this past weekend in the Kapiolani Park area that blocked traffic. Egged noted that the event this past Sunday morning was sponsored by Straub/Kapiolani Clinic & Hospital and was outside the Waikiki area defined by a new law and not subject to the limit on the number of events held per year.

Barnes 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 is concerned about the increases in the budget, including sewer fees and property taxes. Persons interested in the budget are encouraged to attend the Council's upcoming informational meetings.

2. The Council has selected the Salt Lake route for the mass transit system which Councilmember Djou opposed.
3. Paki Hale has reopened.
4. Councilmember Kobayashi was unable to attend the meeting and he will relay any concerns for her.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Narita who cited the problems still plaguing cities such as New Orleans damaged by a hurricane, Fichtman acknowledged that according to officials, Honolulu is unprepared for such a natural disaster, and noted Civil Defense advisories to have a preparedness kit on hand should be followed.
2. In response to Berlin, the City budget is balanced as required by law.
3. Follow up will be done on whether or not the City Council is proposing to rezone all of Kapahulu from B-2 community business district to a BMX community business mixed use district.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION REGARDING ELIMINATION OF BUS STOPS – Egged reported he is still working on researching the matter and drafting a resolution. Chair Ah Mai reported that the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will have the Mayor's Office representative report on this matter at Neighborhood Board meetings and will also hold community informational meetings. Nahoopii noted receipt of a complaint about the removal of a stop at Kapahulu Avenue and Kanaina Street and a request for its restoration. Chair Ah Mai reported DTS welcomes input on this matter.

HASHIMOTO PROPERTY (OLD WAIALAE ROAD) REZONING – Chair Ah Mai reported that the Board heard a presentation on this matter in October 2004, and did not take a position at that time. The property is at 2868 Waialae Avenue, next to the Public Storage building, is zoned B-2 business with a 120 foot height limit, and a rezoning to A-2 apartment with a 60 foot height limit is being sought.

Brenda Hashimoto, in response to questions from the Board reported the family-owned property is a 5,000 sq. ft. lot with an old house on it, located on the mauka side between the Public Storage facility and a condominium. The family intends to keep it as a residence. The rezoning is desired as the property taxes for the property with the business zoning are approximately \$8,000 a year compared to approximately \$2,000 a year if it had a residential zoning. The apartment zoning is the closest type of zoning to the actual use that can be obtained.

Discussion followed on whether or not there were future development plans such as an apartment building, but Hashimoto noted the property is too small for such a use and there is no adjoining property that could be combined for such a project. Filing an appeal of the assessment was suggested, and it was noted the property is properly taxed for the zoning. **Matson moved and Harden seconded that the Board support the rezoning request.** Discussion followed. Additional comments followed on possible future development of the property and its impact on traffic. Chair Ah Mai relinquished the chair to Berlin and urged the Board not to consider hypothetical uses of the property in light of the family's stated intention. **Harden withdrew the second. Persons seconded the motion.** Discussion continued. **The motion carried, 10-0-2.** Chang and Egged abstained.

Berlin relinquished the chair to Ah Mai.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Ah Mai deferred the order of the agenda to take a presentation out of order. There were no objections.

UH-MANOA KENNEDY THEATER EXTENSION AND INCREASE IN PARKING – Tom Bingham and Jim Manke from the University of Hawaii, reported on plans to expand facilities for Kennedy Theater to accommodate teaching space and consolidate the dance program in one location on the site of a parking lot. Proposed is a three level parking structure with approximately 480 stalls and three floors to include classrooms, offices, rehearsal space, a 300 seat theater for performances, etc. Planning work has been done, the Governor has released funding for some of the design phase and additional \$3.5 million in funding for the remainder of the design work is being sought. The design architect has been hired.

Egged moved and Chang seconded that the Board supports the concept of the Kennedy Theater expansion. Discussion followed.

1. It was suggested the parking facilities be made available for after house use, such as to attend on campus sporting events, students living on campus, etc.
2. Construction will be funded by revenue bonds.
3. The Manoa and McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Boards have been notified of this project and have supported it.
4. This project is adjacent to the St. Louis Heights portion of the Board's district and will alleviate the parking effects the neighboring residential areas by new dorm construction.
5. There are performances at the theater approximately 25 percent of the time.
6. This parking lot will take some of the load off other parking lots, particularly the quarry lot. Overnight parking for students living on campus will be available.

The motion carried 10-0-2. Wong and Matson abstained.

Chang left the meeting at this time.

SAVE OAHU'S RACE TRACKS (SORT) – Les Vallarano, from SORT, reported that they are seeking support of a City Council bill for the City to acquire the closed down and since sold Hawaii Raceway Park which provided a safe venue for racing. That facility was developed in 1964 at a cost of \$750,000 and would cost approximately \$120 million to replace today. With the closing of Hawaii Raceway Park, no racing sports facility exists on Oahu. A racing facility is needed on Oahu to provide a safe venue for racing sports, as without one street racing could increase. The City provides facilities for a wide variety of recreational and sports facilities, and the raceway park could be acquired for \$5.8 million using City, State and other funding to provide a facility for racing sports. The City could then lease it to a non-profit organization to operate and the facility could generate revenue.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Plans are for a non-profit organization to operate and maintain the facility.
2. The City could purchase, negotiate a land swap, etc., to acquire the property.
3. To take the City out of being liable for accidents at the facility, the past procedure of having users sign liability waivers could be used. There were two deaths at the facility in its history.
4. Copies of a resolution passed by the McCully-Moiliili Neighborhood Board supporting a race track and a draft resolution of support from SORT were distributed to members for their review. The consensus was to defer action on this matter until the next meeting.

Narita left during the above portion of the meeting.

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RESOLUTION REQUESTING DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING NOTIFICATION TO BOARD OF NEW KAPAHULU AVENUE CONSTRUCTION – A draft letter was distributed to members for their review. Action on this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant