



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

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 14, 2008 PAKI HALE

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bert Narita called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Julia Allen, Roxie Berlin, S. Michael Cain, Ken Chang, Scot Drown, Rick Egged, Jay Harden, Deborah Luckett, Michelle Matson, Bertha Nahoopii, Bert Narita, George Waialeale, Linda Wong.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Miller, Don Persons.

GUESTS: Firefighter David Dela Cruz (Honolulu Fire Department – HFD), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Daisy Murai; Captain Jeffrey Richards, Lt. Harrison Kim Han, Sergeant Emerick La Montagne and Sergeant Darren Nihei, and Officer Adam Schonhardt (Honolulu Police Department – HPD District 6 Waikiki); Officers Adam Kurosu and Erik Egami (HPD District 7 East Honolulu); Walea Constantinou (Mayor’s Representative), Clayton Frank (Governor’s Representative; Director, Department of Public Safety – DPS), Candice Van Buren (Representative Nishimoto’s Office staff), Stan Fitchman (Councilmember Djou’s Office staff), Senator Les Ihara, Jan Bappe, Wayne Swan, Eddie Gallagher, Arthur Aiu (Board of Water Supply – BWS), Elwin Spray (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

Welcome – Chair Narita welcomed the community to the meeting. Ten Board members were present (Allen, Berlin, Cain, Chang, Harden, Luckett, Nahoopii, Narita, Waialeale, Wong).

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter David Dela Cruz reported Waikiki station (HFD Station 7) activity statistics for the past month, including thirty-one fire alarms and one hundred and fifteen medical emergencies. He also presented a fire safety tip stressing the need for house addresses to be visible for safety reasons: *Fire, building, and U.S. postal codes and City ordinances state that property owners shall place their house numbers in such a manner so it is legible and readily visible from the street. This will assist the Honolulu Fire Department and other first responders in locating your house quickly in the event of an emergency.* Dela Cruz answered Waialeale that all HFD trucks were equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices that enable the closest HFD unit to be dispatched to an emergency call. Gallagher asked about records of HFD inspections of condominiums, with Dela Cruz reporting that the Fire-Code required every-two-year inspections are done through the HFD Fire Prevention Bureau. Chair Narita thanked Dela Cruz for his report.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 6, Waikiki – Lt. Harrison Kim Han introduced Captain Jeffrey Richards, Sergeant Emerick La Montagne, Sergeant Darren Nihei and Officer Adam Schonhardt and discussed a Waianae pedestrian accident that had occurred in a crosswalk earlier in the week, cautioning that those entering a crosswalk exercise care and urging pedestrians to make eye contact with drivers. He also cautioned that car break-ins occur in all parts of the island and suggested motorists exercise care and thought when parking vehicles, especially by not leaving valuables visible and by parking in areas that are visible. Harden suggested pedestrian promos be made, with Kim Han explaining that those are done by the HPD’s Public Relations Officer and that suggestions could be made directly to Captain Frank Fujii at the main HPD number 529-3111. Officer Schonhardt referred to



the distributed activity statistics for the past month and reported no robbery incidents, two burglaries, five thefts, eight criminal property damage cases, twelve liquor law violations, six motor vehicle collisions, twenty arguments, twenty-two calls for unauthorized entrance into motor vehicles (UEMV), and 396 total cases, with the total district calls at 3,353. Wong expressed appreciation that HPD officers were able to assist last month in Puulei Circle when tree cutting violations were occurring, explaining that the Diamond Head Special District prohibits the removal of any tree six inches or greater in diameter (visible from the street) without a City permit for the cutting. Murai referred to a recent street brawl in Waikiki, with Kim Han saying that each community has areas where issues seem to recur, also explaining that HPD District 6 is the Waikiki area from Diamond Head to the Ala Wai, with the area above Paki Avenue being in HPD District 7. Chair Narita thanked HPD for their reports and attendance.

Board member Drown arrived at 7:10 p.m.; eleven Board members present.

HPD District 7, East Honolulu – Sgt. Egami distributed copies of area statistics, referring to included maps of the covered areas, contact numbers for the narcotics/vice and community policing sections, and the web-site address for additional information on events and data. Chair Narita reported a positive response was shared with him from a neighbor where an UEMV (unauthorized entrance into motor vehicles) call had been made to HPD with an immediate response of two HPD units to the house. Waialeale commented on Crane Park homeless of some forty to fifty people, with a request that the park be monitored by HPD as the homeless affect the other park users; Egami said he would follow up. Chair Narita thanked Egami for the report.

Board member Egged arrived at 7:15 p.m.; twelve Board members present.

Board Of Water Supply (BWS) – Arthur Aiu reported a main recent break at 3143 Hayden Street and offered background information about main breaks, explaining that breaks are an unfortunate but unavoidable factor in the water utility industry. He reported that Honolulu breaks have declined since the 1990's. He also reported that the annual Water Conservation Poster contest is underway for Oahu's students in kindergarten to 6th grade. Chair Narita reported that resident Dr. Lum had offered two small koa trees to the BWS for planting; Aiu will follow up. Waialeale reported witnessing government watering of sites during mid-day and asked if the BWS would follow up; Aiu said calls reporting mid-day watering to 748-5041 would be followed up. Harden said that a BWS trenching and resurfacing was incompletely finished on Campbell Avenue some fifty feet before the Monsarrat Avenue, resulting in a potential loss of control for those motorists at the intersection, and explaining that he had made many complaints and that there had been no response. Harden also said he expected a Board resolution on the agenda; Chair Narita said he had not received the draft resolution and thus it was not included on the agenda, with Harden reporting that Matson had said she had sent the resolution out. Wong said that she had been asking for graffiti removal from a Kapahulu Avenue (at Harding Avenue) BWS pump station for two years and that it was still there; Aiu said that it had been removed four months ago.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report – Chair Narita wished the community Happy Valentine's Day and reviewed the community's request to the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) to delay development of the 548 Kapahulu Avenue site, reporting that community members had attended the BLNR's meeting on February 8, 2008. He reported that the BLNR had voted to continue to an auction of the property, ignoring the request of the community for a deferral (until the next meeting) due to the community concerns on unresolved issues, including the citing of a very low income figure in an analysis of anticipated parking lot revenue and the unknown location of funds paid by the Kapahulu businesses. He said that the BLNR and the staff had no knowledge of resolutions and positions of the Neighborhood Board expressing the need for additional parking spaces. He said that BLNR is

concerned about rapid replenishment of a "Special Land Development Fund" (SPLD) while the community is concerned about keeping the businesses viable with parking sites, pointing out that the drawdown of the SPLD balance included legislative action removing over \$16 million. Chair Narita thanked the community for their participation and for the leadership of Senator Ihara, Representative Nishimoto and Councilmember Kobayashi in this issue, saying that future possibilities include that Senate Ways and Means Chair Baker, who had budget oversight, may review the project, as well as possible review by Director Thielen. Chair Narita referenced a Thielen letter (that might be obtained by e-mail from Senator Ihara's Office) which gave the BLNR background. Berlin asked if the City had been asked to obtain the property, suggesting that the City could buy it at auction, with Chair Narita saying that the City had not expressed interest when the issue was first discussed several years ago. Harden expressed concern that the BLNR failed to note input from the community, as voiced by two resolutions from Neighborhood Board No. 5, in the decision making process. Wong suggested an audit by the legislature should be sought by the community. Chair Narita said that the BLNR staff said that they had seen neither the Neighborhood Board resolutions nor the City's Whalen report on Kapahulu, which was one of the reasons he requested a deferral. Chair Narita also noted that the staff had said that they had conversations with an interested purchaser. Clayton Frank distributed copies of the Thielen letter to Board members. Lockett suggested that rather than being involved in a "Save the North Shore" movement that the community become involved in a "Save 548 Kapahulu." Harden reported that the BLNR had a good hearing but that the BLNR members were not responsive to Kapahulu area input. Wong asked about prior Board action, with Chair Narita responding that the Board motions were in 2005.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Drown reported the prior month's expenditures at \$38.35 and an operating balance of \$1201.39.

Sub-District 1 (St. Louis Heights) Report – Vice-Chair Lockett reported St. Louis Community Association efforts to clear the Waahila Ridge, including a request for assistance to the adjacent landowner Chaminade College to jointly work on the effort. She reported prior actions of hand clearing of brush on the Ridge, posting of community signs for the Association meetings (coordinated by Barbara Miller), a proposed solar power initiative, and that the Association was requesting an update to the civil defense emergency shelter listing posted in the phone book.

Sub-District 2 (Kapahulu) – Vice-Chair Nahoopii had no report.

Sub-District 3 (Diamond Head) – Wong explained that the Diamond Head Special District prohibits the cutting down of any tree with a diameter of six inches or greater that is visible from the street unless the owner or building manager obtains a City permit, with a possible requirement that the tree will be required to be replaced with a smaller or different species. Harden said that a recent area concern was of too much street use for the Pro-Bowl activities.

Skateboard Task Force – Gallagher said he was forming a non-profit group under the title of Skateboard Parks of Hawaii Association and that they had met with Clarice Hashimoto of the Mayor's Office and with City Department of Parks and Recreation Director Lester Chang with regard to asking the City to request use of the site under the freeway from the BLNR for a skateboard park. Berlin asked if the intent was to use private funds, with Gallagher's response that the group was just starting, but that grants (such as for recreation and youth programs) are available.

Solar Energy Board Resolution – Chair Narita asked if there was any objection to moving up on the agenda discussion and possible action on a proposed Board Resolution on Solar Energy. **There were no objections and Chair Narita announced the agenda item was moved up for immediate attention 12-0-0.** Chair Narita announced that Board members and the audience had copies of a proposed resolution from member Berlin that encourages solar water heating and urges participation in City low-rate loans to homeowners. Constantinau suggested that the word

“renewable” be used, with Cain saying that the word “solar” refers to the program from which federal funds come into the City. Chair Narita said he had contacted a Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) representative who could attend the March meeting and make a presentation, asking if the Board wished to defer the item to be educated then. Berlin said the concept is to include notice (that City loans are available to install solar water heating) in the Board’s newsletter and on regular meeting agendas, providing the City’s Rehabilitation Loan branch contact information, saying that its important to start as soon as possible and that some \$7 million federal funds are available. Egged said it would be easy to pass an additional resolution at some other meeting and urged immediate action on the current resolution. Wong asked about installation work, with Berlin saying that HECO has a listing of vendors. **Chair Narita asked if there was objection to the passage of the resolution submitted by member Berlin, and with no objections, declared that the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board No. 5 had adopted resolution that encourages solar water heating, urges participation in City low-rate loans to homeowners, and commits the Board to endeavor to inform and educate constituents to use the City loans 12-0-0.**

ELECTED OFFICIALS REPORTS

Governor’s Representative – Clayton Frank (Director, State Department of Public Safety – DPS) represented Governor Linda Lingle and announced the Governor’s release of funds for the Leahi State Hospital, initiation of a program for “clean energy” and a settlement of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) lawsuit. He reported a clean up project of the slopes of the Diamond Head area (Monsarrat and Diamond Head), coordinated by Dee Cook. Harden asked to be advised of the planned completion of the irrigation project. Lockett asked about the “clean energy” program, which Frank said was for the modification of homes. Cain referred to federal funds that had been announced as being available to the State Department of Transportation (DOT) for bikeways and asked for Frank to find out if the State had accessed the federal funds and what the status is. Wong asked if Frank was aware of the concerns that the Board and the community had with regard to the 548 Kapahulu site, with Frank agreeing that he was aware and Wong asking that he ask questions regarding the issue. Cain noted a recent newspaper item about island pork, explaining that the long distance transport of animals from Alberta to Oahu for immediate slaughter, to enable the meat to be termed “island” product, brings a concern of abuse to animals and asked Frank to follow up, with Wong agreeing with the concern. Chair Narita thanked Frank for his report.

Senator Les Ihara – Senator Ihara distributed information about solar energy and reported that there were two currently active bills to amend the Sunshine law as it is applied to Neighborhood Boards, with the following points:

1. More than two Board members could attend community meetings
2. Members could discuss non-agenda community concern issues at Board meetings
3. Issues of immediate health and safety could be added to agendas on 2/3rds vote
4. If no quorum, the Board gathering could still hear reports from agencies present

Ihara also reported he was working on legislative items to 1) modify home tax credits by allowing more home uses and 2) provide increased protection for those who’ve paid into pre-paid funeral plans. Chair Narita asked to defer the 548 Kapahulu questions and thanked Ihara for his efforts and for the report tonight.

Representative Calvin Say – No representative was present for Speaker Say and there were no questions to be referred. Say’s office number is 586-6100.

Representative Scott Nishimoto – Candice Van Buren, of Representative Nishimoto’s Office staff, was present and distributed a community report, invited the community to a joint legislative “Town Hall” meeting on February 20, 2008, and invited input from the community in the form of questions or suggestions. Harden and Murai said Nishimoto looked good on the 548 Kapahulu issues, with Murai

adding that Nishimoto was included in a television story on the issue. Chair Narita thanked Van Buren for the report.

Board member Matson arrived at 8:00 p.m.; thirteen Board members present.

Mayor's Office – Walea Constantinau represented Mayor Mufi Hannemann and was available to relay community concerns and issues. Harden reported the need to review the amount of street blockage the City authorized for the recent Pro-Bowl events; Constantinau said she would follow up. Constantinau also reported on prior concerns, saying that the Neighborhood Commission Office will route Board resolutions to the Mayor's Office for distribution to City departments and that a cut-out lane at the new Safeway was not sought by TheBus because generally bus pull-outs are difficult for the driver to recover from but specifically because the scheduled bus route for Kapahulu are not frequent enough so as to obstruct the traffic flow (hourly bus route, increased to once every thirty minutes in peak time). Constantinau also reported that the Bike Master Plan is planned for updating this year, which will include public input opportunities, explaining that bike ways are not off the City radar. Chair Narita commented on a large pothole across from Leonard's Bakery, the need to increase the planned maintenance repairs frequency for Kapahulu Avenue (due to heavy tour buses using the roadway) and asked that the streets under the freeway be repaved (and review a City/State agreement that the repaving is the responsibility of the State, saying that it should be part of the City). Chang asked about receipt of Board resolutions, with Constantinau reporting that the Neighborhood Commission Office sends the resolutions out, so the departments are receiving the documents, with Chair Narita saying the Board should follow up and provide focus to those who can take action on resolution issues. Luckett pointed to the three recycling pilot projects that have been carried out and urged the start of the island-wide program. Waialeale reported that he was delayed in arrival due to the blockage of the roadway by traffic, with Constantinau pointing out that an option of an additional exit from the condominium's property (Holiday Parkway Apartments at 910 Kapahulu Avenue) had been voted down by the condo board. Waialeale said that the option rejected would have resulted in the removal of three parking stalls to create the driveway exit, with Constantinau saying that City engineers are reviewing the location as the Safeway traffic pattern normalizes. Drown said that the road resurfacing schedule is inadequate and asked for a projection of projects. Wong said potholes were fixed but that the fill material is washed out with the next rain and suggested a different type of fill, with Constantinau saying she would pass the suggestion on. Murai expressed thanks for the care City repair crews showed for replacing street light bulbs and then returning to confirm repairs to the light fixture. Chair Narita thanked Constantinau for her report.

Councilmember Charles Djou – Stan Fitchman, of Councilmember Djou's Office staff, distributed a community report and reported successful passage of two legislative issues introduced by Djou, 1) limiting panhandling near bank cash machines and 2) elimination of fees for installation of photovoltaic devices. He reported the next week's Council agenda would include several rezoning items, saying the agendas would be posted on the City website. Murai asked the status of a proposed Council Charter amendment placing term limits on Neighborhood Board membership with Fitchman saying it would be up for second reading the next week. Harden asked where the recycled material would be sorted, stored, and disposed of, with Chair Narita saying the question could be asked of Mayor's representative Constantinau at the next meeting, since she had left.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Councilmember Kobayashi distributed a letter discussing concerns relating to the transit technology selection panel process, explaining that although the Council passed by a vote of 6-3 the legislation authorizing the process, she and others feel its process is not proper, saying that the Council should directly do the investigation and decision making. She also pointed out that the panel is not following sunshine laws. Chair Narita agreed that the panel members' qualifications should have been made known before the panel meeting the next day. Harden asked about a recent newspaper article, with Kobayashi saying much of the information in the article was from the City's Alternative Analysis report from last fall. Wong asked about neighborhood board term limits,

with Kobayashi saying that several alternatives are being proposed. Chair Narita noted the need to vacate the meeting site by 9 p.m. Matson expressed a concern on the poor quality of the resurfacing performed on the Kahala side of Kilauea Avenue. Chair Narita thanked Kobayashi for her report.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2008 – Chair Narita announced that any written corrections to the January 10, 2008 Minutes should be forwarded to the Neighborhood Commission Office, explaining that he had corrected items including expressing appreciation to Board member Cain for invaluable assistance with the Waahila Ridge Fire Plan, that the Mayor's Office representative had left before the meeting started, that Senator Les Ihara was recognized as being present at the meeting, and that an individual was escorted out of the meeting (being disorderly during the course of the meeting) after his allotted time expired. Harden noted the prior meeting's intent to add a "Campbell Avenue at Monsarrat" resurfacing agenda item, with Chair Narita explaining that the draft resolution was not forwarded to him, with the Board practice being that the preliminary resolution needed to be ready so the issue would be accurately reflected on the agenda. **Chair Narita announced that without objection, the Minutes would be adopted as corrected; there were no objections.** Matson said she would send a draft resolution (for Campbell Avenue). **Chair Narita declared the Minutes were approved without objection and that any corrections needed to be forwarded to the Commission Office 13-0-0.**

548 Kapahulu Avenue – Senator Ihara explained that at a Friday, February 8, 2008 hearing (9:00 a.m.) the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) heard testimony from the Neighborhood Board, legislators, the general community and the BLNR staff. The community, including the legislators and Neighborhood Board, asked to defer, saying that the staff had said that commercial parking would produce a reasonable income. There were several BLNR absences, with two of the five present supportive of deferral but the other three opposed. He felt the next step was to request a new hearing because the staff may have provided inadequate information on income production, with future legislative planning to include that future projects be required to assess impacts on the community. He explained that the Special Land Development Fund (SPLD) receives most land income and that the fund is low. He reported Senate Ways and Means Chair Baker is reviewing SPLD accounts. Harden asked how the decision could be appealed, with Ihara saying it could be done to Governor Lingle but that the adjacent landowner (and real estate advisor) Prudential will pursue the staff input material with Director Laura Thielen of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Matson suggested review of discretionary funds with Ihara saying that an audit has been discussed, with a deadline for a legislative audit request in mid-March. Egged noted that the BLNR had voted approval of the decision to proceed with the auction, with Ihara agreeing that the Governor's approval is not required, but saying he still felt the Board could review its prior vote. Chair Narita said that the community needs to hear that "all is not lost" so that people understand that there is value in continuing with this issue. Chair Narita referred to his Chair's Report and a DLNR letter that discussed the shrinking of the SPLD account because of its use for emergencies and transfers out for other uses, explaining that there seemed to be a need for oversight. Ihara said that the legislature could support the funding request and Cain said the director would be asked to explain the BLNR's position. Matson reported opposition from DLNR to funding the Diamond Head Special Fund but saying that there was no explanation of other needs for departmental funds. Lockett said DLNR could be asked to attend a Board meeting with Chair Narita saying the Board should research the issue first, referring support for a proposed SPLD audit to the Board's 548 Kapahulu Task Force since the legislative deadline is March 12, 2008, the day prior to the next Board meeting, noting that Ihara is independent of the Board. Egged asked about Senator Baker's investigation, with Ihara saying his preference would be for a real proposal for commercial parking to BLNR with the Governor suggesting the BLNR reconsider.

Kapiolani Regional Park Master Plan Update – Matson reported that there was no court hearing but that a master has been appointed who will pursue the investigation, explaining the issue is of commercial use (zoo store front) in a recreation site. Chair Narita suggested a follow up with Council Parks Committee Chair Dela Cruz.

Action on 548 Kapahulu Site – Senator Ihara recommended the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board take action on the proposal to review commercial parking for the 548 Kapahulu site, explaining that the Board’s past position was for “commercial parking or a community center” and saying that a designation of support for “commercial parking” would be a stronger position for him to work with. **Char Narita asked if there was any objection for the Board taking a position for commercial parking at the 548 Kapahulu site; there were no objections. Cain said he did not object but wished to be recorded as abstaining.** Drown noted that the approval of the position was in advance of the language of the motion. **Chair Narita declared the position passed that the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board was in support of commercial parking use at 548 Kapahulu Avenue, reporting he would take the position with input from the 548 Kapahulu Task Force 12-0-1. Aye:** Allen, Berlin, Chang, Drown, Egged, Harden, Luckett, Matson, Narita, Nahoopii, Waialeale, Wong. **Abstain:** Cain.

Revised Neighborhood Plan 2007 Update – Chair Narita reported the Neighborhood Commission has not reported any update on its review of the proposed changes to the current Neighborhood Plan.

Board Certificate “Good Neighbor” Award – Chair Narita deferred the Good Neighbor certificate item and reported that a draft certificate will be developed for future board recognition, to be known as "The Neighborhood Board No. 5" "Good Neighbor Award" but asked that the discussed citation be sent to him prior to the next meeting, requesting that Matson and Harden work on the citation language. Luckett suggested the development of recognition criteria, with Allen suggesting the formation of a committee. Chair Narita named the three sub-district vice chairs as a committee to develop a recommended criteria and language for a certificate of recognition for the next meeting.

Community Concerns – Chair Narita asked for any additional community concerns. Murai reported the Transit Technology Selection Committee meeting on February 15, 2008 at the City Memorial Auditorium. Murai also announced the next Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting on February 20, 2008 at Honolulu Hale room 301, with a planned panel on transit technology.

Announcements – Chair Narita announced a February 20, 2008 Council hearing on Neighborhood Board term limits (Charter proposal) and announced the next Board meeting for March 13, 2008 at the regular Ala Wai Golf Clubhouse meeting site.

Adjournment – Chair Narita noted no additional business and, with no objections, announced that the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Elwin Spray, Neighborhood Commission Office staff