



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

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013** **ALA WAI CLUB HOUSE**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Linda Wong called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. **A quorum was established with eight (8) members present.** (Note - This 15-member Board requires eight (8) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.) Chair Wong read the rules of speaking and for order and decorum.

Members Present - Julia Allen (arrived at 6:36 p.m.), Barbra Armentrout, Lee Manfredi, Victoria Mathieu, Michelle Matson (arrived at 6:55 p.m., departed at 8:42 p.m.), Barbara Miller (arrived at 6:47 p.m.), Bertha Naho'opi'i (arrived at 6:41 p.m.), Bert Narita, Don Persons, Laura St. Denis, Bryn Villers, George Waialeale (arrived at 6:36 p.m., departed at 7:50 p.m.), and Linda Wong.

Members Absent - Lance Takenaka and George West.

Vacancies - None.

Guests - Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Senator Sam Slom, State House Speaker Emeritus Calvin Say, Representative Scott Nishimoto and Kevan Wong (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office staff); Walea Constantinau (Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative, Honolulu Film Office); Mike Formby (Department of Transportation Services, Director); Ross Sasamura (Department of Facility Maintenance, Director); Mark Kikuchi (Department of Transportation Services, Division Chief, Traffic Engineering); Cliff Kaneshiro (Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's Office staff), Micah Munekata (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office staff), Captain Brett Mau (Honolulu Fire Department), Lieutenant Harrison Kim Han and Officer John DeMello (Honolulu Police Department, District 6), Lieutenant Maurice Asato and Officer Shane Fujitani (Honolulu Police Department, District 7), Justin Kessler (Board of Water Supply), Mahea Bernal (St. Louis Heights), Kerrie Villers, Daisy Murai, Ron Lockwood (McCully/Mo'ili'ili Neighborhood Board No. 8), Jan Bappe, Joanne Swearingen, Ron Pate, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

Board members Allen and Waialeale arrived at 6:36 p.m.; **10 members present.**

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 8, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Chair Wong mentioned that Board members have a choice of voting "yes," "no," or "abstain." Eight (8) "YES" votes are needed for approval. Board members are requested to email corrections to Board members at least three (3) days before the meeting and provide hard copies of the minutes corrections of the current and deferred minutes for adoption, so Board members can compare with minutes submitted by the Neighborhood Assistant and Secretary.

Armentrout moved and Allen seconded to approve the August 8, 2013 minutes as submitted by the Neighborhood Assistant and reviewed by the Secretary and Chair as circulated. The discussion was as follows:

- Villers, who suggested that private groups should sponsor the buses, suggested that on the Minutes on Page 8, under Councilmember Ann Kobayashi's report, it should read, "**Bus Sponsorship.**"
- Armentrout responded that the correct term was what was written there, which is "Bus Advertising." According to Armentrout, this is the term used. Villers conceded the point, as Armentrout said that she knew this to be the term that should be used.

The motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 10-0-0 (AYE: Allen, Armentrout, Manfredi, Mathieu, Narita, Persons, St. Denis, Villers, Waialeale, and Wong).

Board member Naho'opi'i arrived at 6:41 p.m.; **11 members present.**

Comments followed:

1. **Setting Policy** - Narita questioned if the reading of the letter last month from the Diamond Head International Music Festival and Conference was setting a new Neighborhood Board policy. Narita wanted to make sure that when groups are required to notify the Board before having an event, that prior notice is



given. Chair Wong responded, "For the August 8, 2013 meeting, under REPORTS, Chair's Report, Communication, it was stated that all of the items had to be listed to give the public "sufficient information to make a decision to attend or not." The Neighborhood Assistant has been informed that the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) does not list everything in their report. The letter Chair Wong mentioned did not ask for support (or to take official Board action) for the group's notification about asking the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for an increase in attendees. If they had asked for support by the Board for their event, then that should have been listed on the agenda. The letter was read under "Residents' Concerns." Armentrout added that there was a person in the audience, who would answer any questions and it appeared that the group already received approval to have the event from the DLNR. Chair Wong concluded that the reading of the letter did not set new policy.

REPORTS

Chair's Report - Chair Wong reported the following:

- July 11, 2013 Initial Convening Meeting - Chair Wong mentioned that she received an e-mail from the Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO). For the July 11, 2013 initial convening meeting, there was some confusion over agenda item II OATH OF OFFICE FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS. As only five (5) Board members attended the NCO Installation Ceremony, there would not be a quorum. However, in 2008 Governor Linda Lingle signed into law, a change to the Sunshine Law, that the Boards could hear testimonies and presentations, but could not take action on items. The Neighborhood Assistant only had to give the Oath of Office to Chair Pro Tem Linda Wong, so that she could call the meeting to order. Then, after item II, the Board would have quorum. There was no need for everyone to come early to be sworn in. This was verified by the Office of Information Practices (OIP) last month. Also, two or more members of the Board, but less than a quorum may attend an informational meeting or presentation, but they cannot vote.

Board member Miller arrived at 6:47 p.m.; **12 members present**.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) - Captain Brett Mau reported the following:

- August 2013 Statistics - There were 4 fires, 115 medical/rescue emergencies, 1 hazardous conditions (including fuel spills from automobiles), 9 service calls, 53 good intent calls, and 11 false alarms.
- Fire Safety Tips - Candle Safety - Candles may be pretty to look at, but they may cause home fires and deaths. A candle is an open flame, which means it can easily ignite anything that can burn. Extinguish candles before you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid using candles in the bedroom and areas where people fall asleep. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from items that can burn. Use candle holders that are sturdy and will not easily tip over. Extinguish a candle before it gets too close to the holder or container. Never use a candle if an oxygen tank is used in the home. Do not use candles during a power outage; use flashlights and battery-powered lights instead. Consider using flameless candles in your home. Never leave a child in a room alone with a burning candle. Place matches and lighters out of children's reach.

Comments followed:

1. Brush Fire - Allen inquired about a recent brush fire. Captain Mau had no information on it, but will follow up before the next St. Louis Heights Community Association meeting in October.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) District 6, Waikiki (Beat 662 - Kapi'olani Park area) - Lieutenant Harrison Kim Han and Officer John DeMello reported the following:

- Passenger Safety Week - The HPD and the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will partner on a passenger safety week from September 15 to 21, 2013, focusing on student safety.
- August 2013 Statistics - There were 0 robberies, 0 burglaries, 20 theft cases, 2 assaults, 1 motor vehicle theft, 6 criminal property damage citations, 7 liquor law violations, 13 motor vehicles were stolen, 28 arguments/family-non family, and 4 car break-ins (unauthorized entries into a motor vehicle or UEMV). There were 467 total cases for Beat 662.

Comments followed:

1. Traffic on Leahi Avenue - St. Denis reported speeding on Leahi Avenue. Lieutenant Kim Han advised calling 911.
2. Community Garden - A resident tried to tell a driver to slow down at the community garden, but the driver chased the resident. Lieutenant Kim Han advised calling 911.

3. No Sidewalks - It was reported that the lack of sidewalks near the community garden was dangerous to school children. Lieutenant Kim Han would follow up.

Board member Matson arrived at 6:55 p.m.; **13 members present.**

Honolulu Police Department (HPD), District 7, East Honolulu - Officer Shane Fujitani distributed the monthly report and Lieutenant Maurice Asato highlighted the following:

- August 2013 Statistics - There were 13 burglaries, 2 robberies, 47 thefts, and 14 unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle (UEMV) for a total of 76 cases.
- Safety Tips - The safety tips included tips to remain safe on the streets, in the car, and when traveling.
- Community Policing Team, District 7, East Honolulu - Contact information for the Community Policing Team was provided.

Comments followed:

1. Pictures - Manfredi displayed pictures of the trash behind the restaurants at the intersection of St. Louis Drive and Wai'ala'e Avenue. HPD advised calling State Department of Health (DOH) to follow up.
2. Bus Stop at Chaminade University and Wai'ala'e Avenue - Manfredi reported a person sleeping on the bench and unsanitary behavior at the bus stop at 9:00 a.m.
3. Graffiti on Kapahulu Avenue - Villers asked about graffiti at a private business. The owner is responsible.
4. Graffiti on St. Louis Heights - HPD is aware of the problem.
5. Illegal Flyers on Street Poles - Mathieu asked about flyers left on street poles after the event. HPD informed the Board that it is technically illegal to place flyers on street poles. Anyone who places a flyer should be sure to remove it. HPD advised calling 911 and an officer will talk to the violator.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) - Justin Kessler distributed his written report and highlighted the following:

- Main Break Report - There were no main breaks in the district during August 2013.
- About the Board of Water Supply - In 1929, the BWS was established as a semi-autonomous agency of the City and County of Honolulu. As a semiautonomous agency, the BWS is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors that approves the Department's budget and water rates, and sets policy and overall direction of the BWS. The BWS Board and semi-autonomous status also promotes greater efficiency in decision-making, encourages continuity of management, and fosters the establishment and monitoring of long range planning. The BWS manages Oahu's municipal water resources and distribution system, which includes 2,100 miles of pipeline, 90 booster pump stations, 172 reservoirs, and 166,000 customers. BWS does not receive any funds generated from City property taxes. For more information about Oahu's water history, please visit - www.boardofwatersupply.com.

Comments followed:

1. Spraying Round Up - Armentrout reported that a resident mentioned that crews were spraying Round Up herbicide as if it were water, in a seemingly dangerous manner. Kessler will follow up.
2. Retain BWS as a Semi-Autonomous Entity - Villers favored keeping the BWS funding separate from City real property taxes.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS

1. Speed Humps - Resident Ron Pate requested the installation of speed humps on Kalakaua Avenue in Kapi'olani Park to slow down drivers and to prevent pedestrian accidents. Pate explained that the speed limit on Kalakaua Avenue next to Kapiolani Park on the makai side is only 15 m.p.h., but that many speeders make a dangerous area so close to the people parking their cars. Matson mentioned that the Scenic By-ways group would like his contact information.
2. Graffiti Clean Up - Ron Lockwood, Chair of the McCully/Mo'ili'ili Neighborhood Board No. 8, announced that the Community Wide Clean-Up & Graffiti Paint-Out will be on Saturday, September 21, 2013, meeting at the Prince Kuhio Elementary School from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. TAG Team is a partnership of residents, businesses, schools, non-profit groups, and law enforcement agencies committed to eradicating graffiti from neighborhoods. T.A.G. has a Rapid Response Team. Lockwood suggested that for future cleanups, the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board No. 5 can form a six (6) - person team, and he will help them via T.A.G. with supplies.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative - Attorney General David Louie was not present. However, Chair Wong mentioned that next month he will bring Anthony Ching, Executive Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), to make a presentation.

State Senator Les Ihara, Jr. - Senator Ihara reported later in the meeting.

State Senator Sam Slom - Senator Slom distributed his newsletter and reported the following:

- Special Session - Governor Neil Abercrombie announced that he will call for a Special Session starting on Monday, October 28, 2013 to discuss a bill, relating to same sex marriage.
- More Pressing Issues at the University of Hawaii (UH) - Other issues included paying a coach not to coach; the head of procurement may be indicted, higher tuition with a 2.2% decline in enrollment, and students unable to graduate in four (4) years due to unavailability of classes.
- Number 1 in Welfare Costs - Hawai'i is nationally ranked Number 1 in welfare costs. Hawaii welfare costs are more than the budget for the State Department of Education (DOE).
- 17 Committees - Senator Slom is on 17 committees in the Senate, which now includes the Federal Sequestration Oversight Committee.
- Cost of a Special Session - Mathieu asked Senator Slom how much the Special Session would cost to hold. The pay for the legislators and staff is pro-rated over 12 months. The cost of a three (3) to five (5) day Special Session would be about \$28,500, mainly to cover travel expenses and lodging for neighbor island legislators. The only topic for discussion should be same sex marriage.
- Rail Restarting - Senator Slom mentioned that the Federal appeal has not been settled yet and the City Council is authorizing the start of the rail construction again on Monday, September 16, 2013.

House Speaker Emeritus Calvin Say - Speaker Emeritus Say distributed his newsletter and reported the following:

- Cost of a Special Session - Speaker Emeritus Say added that for a Special Session there is a \$10 a day per diem for five (5) days.
- Graffiti Clean Up - Speaker Emeritus Say will be participating on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Last year he hosted a Stream Clean Up in Pālolo. Manfredi would like the stream by St. Louis School cleaned up. Speaker Emeritus Say advised Manfredi to call his office.

State Senator Les Ihara, Jr. - Senator Ihara reported the following:

- Confirmations - The Senate has to confirm the temporary appointments of 23 nominees.
- Same-Sex Marriage - There will be religious exemptions, but if accommodations are open to the public, then there will be no discrimination.
- Other Bills to Consider - The Senate leadership would like to consider other bills.

State Representative Scott Nishimoto - Kevan Wong distributed Representative Nishimoto's newsletter and reported the following:

- Paint Out - The T.A.G. event will be on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., meeting at the prince Kuhio Elementary School.
- Recycling Event - The 10th Annual Community Clean Up will be on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., meeting at the Kaimuki High School parking lot.

State Representative Bert Kobayashi - Representative Kobayashi was not present and no report was available.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative - Walea Constantinou reported the following:

- 15 Miles Per Hour Signs - Board member Villers requested 15 miles per hour (mph) signs for Paliuli Street to reduce speeding. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will conduct an investigation, which may require research, site inspections, field assessments, collision history, and traffic data analysis. DTS will inform the board of the status of their investigation by November 2013.
- Crosswalk at Kapahulu Safeway - DTS investigated and confirmed that there are marked crosswalks crossing Kapahulu Avenue fronting the Kapahulu Safeway, one at each of the two intersections. The flashing lights on South King Street near the McCully Times Supermarket were installed as a pilot project for a pedestrian-activated warning signal. DTS is still in the process of evaluating the effectiveness of these lights in improving pedestrian safety to determine if they are appropriate for other locations.

Comments followed:

1. Clarification - Villers requested a large 15 miles per hour sign on Paliuli Street to be written on the pavement of Paliuli Street so as to be visible when entering from Kapahulu Avenue. The speed limit is already 15 miles per hour, but it is not followed.
2. Crosswalk by Kapahulu Safeway - Villers was not talking about the overhead blinking lights on King Street, but embedded lights in the road. Matson agreed that the embedded lights were needed for safety.
3. Crane Park Lights - Waialeale mentioned that the lights were out for more than 90-days.
4. Public Notice - Armentrout requested that the City and especially Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) give more public notice for work projects.

City Councilmember Ann Kobayashi - Cliff Kaneshiro distributed Councilmember Kobayashi's newsletter and was available to hear concerns.

Comments followed:

1. Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) Audit - Villers asked for the status of the HART audit, as construction will be restarted on Monday, September 16, 2013.
2. Bill 42 - Bill 42 will be changing the exemptions for the real property tax for historic homes.

City Councilmember Stanley Chang - Micah MuneKata distributed Councilmember Chang's newsletter and reported the following:

- Resolution 13-198 - Councilmember Chang introduced this resolution relating to the approval of legislative proposals for inclusion in the Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSCA) legislative package.
- Bill 59 Targeting - Mathieu asked if Bill 59 was targeting the homeless population, as she questioned who else would lay down on the sidewalks regularly. MuneKata said that it was not targeting the homeless, but making sure that the sidewalks, which are for the public's use, can be used by the public.

Comments followed:

1. Community Gardens - St. Denis asked for the status of a proposed site. MuneKata replied that he is waiting for a response, which is due in 90 days. St. Denis thanked Councilmember Chang for the Kapi'olani Park Rose Garden sign.

Board member Waialeale departed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.; **12 members present.**

PRESENTATIONS

Wai'ala'e Avenue Reconstruction - Director Ross Sasamura of the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) reported that the City is repaving Wai'ala'e Avenue, starting from 16th Avenue to Koko Head Avenue. There have been some delays installing bus pads. The pothole hotline is 768-7777. Give specific information about the location of the pothole, like the address or the name of the restaurant. State potholes will be referred to the State Department of Transportation (HDOT). DFM has filled 800 to 2,500 potholes since January 2013. Matters concerning crosswalks and no parking signs should be referred to Director Mike Formby of DTS. The one (1) - inch top layer of paving is laid over a varied base. The project should be completed by the beginning of 2014.

St. Louis Drive/Dole Street Crosswalk Update - Mark Kikuchi, Division Chief, Traffic Engineering, DTS, reported the following:

- History - Prior to 2010, a traffic study met warrant requirements for installation of traffic signals. After meetings with the Neighborhood Board and St. Louis Heights Community Association, DTS agreed to re-evaluate the need for a signalized intersection. DTS collected traffic data and updated volume counts, vehicle delays, vehicle queues, pedestrian volumes, and accident data.
- Re-evaluation Findings - The volumes at the intersection have decreased nearly 20% in some directions. The traffic queue situation only occurs during a brief and concentrated time period. There are a minimal number of traffic accidents, and low, but consistent, pedestrian volume. Vehicles traveling makai-bound on St. Louis Drive have a limited sight distance for pedestrian crossing.
- Resolution - No traffic signal will be installed. Instead, DTS will install a new marked crosswalk, makai of Dole Street, enlarge the pedestrian island, add curb ramps, and install a pedestrian-activated flasher to warn motorists of pedestrian crossings, using Federal funds.
- Next Steps - DTS plans to complete design by September 2013 and contract change order by October 2013. DTS estimates that the ordering of materials and construction will take four (4) months. The estimated activation of flashers will be by February - March 2014.

At 8:25 p.m. Armentrout moved and Villers seconded that the meeting be extended by 15 minutes. As there were no objections, the motion was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT, 12-0-0 (Allen, Armentrout, Manfredi, Mathieu, Matson, Miller, Naho'opi'i, Narita, Persons, St. Denis, Villers, and Linda Wong). The meeting was extended.

Comments followed:

1. Moving the Bus Stop on St. Louis Drive - It was suggested moving the bus stop closer to Dole Street. Kikuchi replied that the move is already "in the works."
2. Timing for Crossing - Kikuchi reported that there is a formula for pedestrian crossing, which can be adjusted after a three (3) month evaluation.
3. Final Comments - Allen remarked that the plan is different from what was proposed at the St. Louis Community Association meeting, in that pedestrians will cross on the makai side of Dole Street. Kikuchi agreed that it was slightly different, and added that the bike lanes would remain the same.

Popeye's on Kapahulu Avenue and Williams and McDonald's at Winam and Kapahulu Avenue - Director Formby, DTS, reported that Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) looks at the traffic studies. The Popeye's restaurant will include a "No left turn" from Kapahulu Avenue. Director Formby mentioned that human behavior is an enforcement issue for Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and that there is no traffic study yet. One suggestion was to build a curved entrance.

Board member Matson departed the meeting at 8:42 p.m.; **11 members present.**

The rest of the agenda was deferred to the next meeting.

ADOPTION OF MOTION TO ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by: K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant I

Reviewed by: Leland Ribac, Neighborhood Assistant II

Reviewed by: Victoria Mathieu, Secretary and Linda Wong, Chair