



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2006 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Chair Rachel Orange was called to order at 7:00 p.m.; a quorum was present with seven (7) members.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Gregory Pentecost, Gladys Hayes-Gerlich, Traver Carroll, Darlene Nakayama, Erin Sonsona, Doug Wong, Michael Weinstein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joshua Stanbro (notified), Carolyn Walther, Owen Nakao.

GUESTS: James Nekota, Sandra Lee, Connie Tokunaga, Martin Okabe (Mayor's Representative), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara; Lt. Abner DeLima, Sgt. Andrew Tsukano, Officer Jason Hendricks, Officer Clinton Corpuz, Officer Ryan Kalahiki (Honolulu Police Department); Capt. Scott Lee (Honolulu Fire Department), Randall Yee (Board of Education), Joe Yasutake (Department of Parks and Recreation), Sharon Agnew (Governor's Representative), Ivan Hoe (Palolo Chinese Council), P. Parsons, Dave Gonzales (Olelo Videographer), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

BOARD VACANCIES: Acting Chair Orange announced on Board vacancy in Sub district 2. There were no interested candidates at this time.

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – No representative present at this time.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Lt. Abner DeLima:

- Distributed the crime trend statistic report - included was break down by beats statistics for burglaries, thefts and unauthorized entries to motor vehicles from November 2005 to June 2006.
- The Narcotics/Vice Division received three (3) new complaints from the Waialae area, and one (1) each from McCully, Kaimuki, University, and Maunalani Heights area.
- Safety Tip for the month included: "21 Step Home Security Checklist".
- Power Watch All Terrain Vehicle Detail included: 5 misdemeanor arrests, 15 warrant arrests, 14 liquor law violations, 2 dogs in the park, parking and moving citations were issued.

Questions and answers followed:

1. Sonsona asked about the seizure of the \$7,000 in U.S. currency. Lt. DeLima said the Hawaii Airport Task Force seized that money because of a drug arrest.
2. Nakayama wanted to confirmed and validated whether HPD was aware of an abusive and dangerous situation in the vicinity of the 1400 block area of 10th Avenue. Without elaborating, Lt. DeLima acknowledged.

The agenda was taken out of order to Honolulu Fire Department.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Scott Lee apologized for being late and reported:

- 5 rubbish fires, 13 medical and 5 miscellaneous emergencies.
- Fire Safety Tip: Take the time to childproof you home, especially since keiki are summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e. electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of the reach of small children.

No questions followed and the agenda resumed order.



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Board of Water Supply (BWS) – No representative was present.

Wong arrived during this portion of the meeting (8 members present).

City Parks and Recreation (DPR) – Joe Yasutake reported:

- Summer Fun program is ends next Friday; the Teen Program a week later.
- Summer Fun finale next Thursday from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the gym.
- Registration dates for the Fall Program is September 6, 7, and 8.
- The partnership project with Cingular Wireless and the MAAC program was turned down because the MAAC program is not an affiliated program of the City. Cingular is still moving ahead with the project.
- Monies have been budgeted to work on the gym roof, fencing (behind the gym) and paving of the parking lot.
- Palolo Pride - Saturday, September 9 - located in the volleyball court area. There will be a health and wellness booth for seniors, informational and political booths, food booths and entertainment.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Martin Okabe reported:

- Okabe will do a power point presentation on the Ala Wai Canal sewer rehabilitation.
- House Bill 970 – awarded the City \$5 million to fix damages of Kuaheha Street - concrete roadway, repair damaged underground utilities and stabilize the hillside.
- In response to the inquiry whether repairs for Waiomao Road would be included; the response was the City will repair Waiomao Road, as necessary, when the reconstruction of Kuaheha Street and utility work is constructed. In the interim, the Department of Facility Maintenance will be reconstructing damaged portions of the Waiomao.

Questions and answers followed:

1. Shiraki asked again about the status of the 10th Avenue left turn signal (going makai) at Waiialae Avenue. His reason is that motorists are trying to beat the light and he feels it is a hazardous safety issue and is again requesting that it be a priority. Okabe noted that it is on record and budgeted for a future date.
2. Kuaheha Street resident asked if the appropriation was only for road work repairs; it seem there has been extensive property damage as a result of the flooding, and that they've nearly exhausted all their means. Also, the on-going issues were there from before the actual flood came and needs to be sorted out. Okabe's understanding was that the appropriation was for repairs to the road and not building/structure; and he suggested contacting Acting Director Eugene Lee with the Department of Design and Construction. The resident said they've written letters to various departments and are still awaiting responses; she chooses not to go down that same road again. Okabe feels it is a complicated matter and believes a response is in the making.

Discussion followed: 1) Representative Say said there is a comprehensive bill for flood victims, and a tax credit provision was adopted during the Manoa flooding, passed and signed into law; so these are measures to look into. 2) Carroll's understanding was that a liability aspect was involved. 3) Representative Say said five to six homes were relocated. The roadway is County and the excavation of the mountainside was dealt with by the State but because there was a liability, the State was willing to pay for the relocation of residents. 4) Okabe reiterated that the \$5 million appropriation was to be used for the repair of the Kuaheha Street concrete roadway, underground utilities and stabilizing the hillside, beyond that he's not sure. 5) Carroll asked what and when can anything be done because residents are concerned if it rains again; also, the sink holes are sinking more. 6) Orange asked if the monies appropriated would be used for the homes as well; however, it was Representative Say's belief that the monies not it be used for personal property, but that they would need to rely on the tax credits. 7) Representative Say requested that this matter be on next month's agenda for further discussion.

3. Nakayama directed her concern to Okabe, Representative Say and Agnew (Governor's representative) that recently the recycling bin was taken away from Jarrett Middle School. She asked where else can the recyclables be taken to because there's nowhere else in Palolo. Other recycling locations are at Kaimuki High School and Times Kahala.

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Discussion followed: 1) Nekota said the bin was taken away because it was set on fire. 2) Okabe said it could be beneficial for the vendor of some other location with a large enough space; and he suggested contacting Suzanne Jones, Recycling Coordinator with the Department of Environmental Services; or log onto: www.opala.org. 3) The problem is finding a place to locate the bin. Sonsona felt the parks property would do however, the parking lot being the only logical place Yasutake agreed it would take away parking stalls. 4) There are benefits to recycling; however, there are challenges to finding ways to curb vandalism. 5) Shiraki said there is a need to find a solution; Sonsona noted there is some fiscal benefit, but it can become more of a problem than a benefit when it keeps getting torched. Okabe agreed that the department is trying to find more recycling locations. 6) Carroll said that people take from the bin what they are able to recycle themselves. Okabe said the department is aware of that and they trying to find ways of curbing the vandalism but there's just not enough enforcement people, so there is a need for the additional eyes and ears of the public.

4. Nakayama said there's trash that were moved to the side of 1423, 1431 and 1441 10th Avenue and the question are those people being cited the same as the Bahai Faith Community and how can we find out. Okabe was not certain and would have to look into.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – No representative was present, however, Councilmember Kobayashi's report was available for review.

Representative Calvin Say – Representative Say distributed his newsletter and reported:

- The Governor signed into law the speeding bill - violators will be charged a up to \$1,000 in fines, revocation of the driver's license, and up to 30 days in prison for driving more than 30 miles an hour over the speed limit or 80 mph regardless of the speed limit.

Senator Les Ihara – No representative present at this time.

Governor's Report – Sharon Agnew distributed the Governor's Weekly Update and reported:

- Agnew will follow-up: a) with the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the situation on Kuaheha Street; and b) finding any other recycling sites in Palolo (last year there was a list for bottle recycling).
- The Governor's major focus is on the homeless issue – and is interested in knowing if Palolo has issues with homeless people in the area.
- Of interest for Stanbro - a pamphlet from Hawaiian Islands Utilities Corporation addressing alternative energy.
- Legislation being put forward for the Office of Youth Services, the Counties and the Department of Education for non-school hour programs for youth; and talking about actively working on a partnership so that funding will be shared for these programs at DOE sites and in conjunction with the Parks Department; one of the suggestions put forward by one of the kids was extending the hours at Palolo Pool.

Questions, comments and answers followed:

1. Orange noted an emergency proclamation was signed to accelerate the State's efforts to develop emergency and transitional shelters for the homeless. She personally haven't noted the homeless in Palolo, but noticed a lot along the promenade of Hawaii Convention Center and the Ala Wai Canal. Please notify Agnew if notice a particular area in Palolo.
2. Sonsona would like to see in challenged areas where the children are left without parents in the afternoons a development of a master plan for a library and tutoring within the parks facility. Agnew said it's a great idea. She mentioned was a "speak out" program where people expressed what kinds of activities that they would like in their area and this could be a quiet place to read and share books. There is an RFI (request for information) process in place, so if you have any questions or want to submit anything contact her at the Office of Youth Services at 587-5706 or 587-5734 (fax).

The agenda was taken out of order back to Senator Les Ihara.

Senator Les Ihara – Senator Ihara said yesterday the Governor vetoed the bills in session and the legislature decided not to go back into session; legislature won't be going back until January 2007. Senator Ihara still has his staff on board and continues to receive calls in his office.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

Videotaping (for action) – Hayes moved, Carroll seconded to continue videotaping (10) for the next year. Discussion followed: NA Richardson explained that the NCO is taking a different look at accommodating Board's that don't quite have enough funding suggested increasing payment from \$130.00 to \$150.00 per taping (10 per year). **Hayes and Carroll agreed to amend the motion; and the amended motion carried by unanimous consent.**

Ala Wai Sewer Discharge Update – Martin Okabe gave a power point presentation about the Beachwalk Wastewater Pump Station and Force Main Project, located makai of the intersection of Kuhio Avenue and Kaiolu Street, serves the McCully, Mo'ili'ili, Kapahulu, Diamond Head and Waikiki communities, was constructed in 1964 for a total length of over 6,000 feet, and pumps approximately 12.7 million gallons per day with a minimum flow of 350,000 gallons per hour.

It has a spill history that goes back to February 1993 of a hairline fracture of a section of the force main causing wastewater to weep from the ground at the interseciton of Ala Wai Boulevard and Kaiolu Street; the fracture was repaired. In January 2004, water from a rain catcher insert located above the force main bulb on Kaiolu Street was used to pump down the bulb back into the wet well of the Beachwalk Pump Station. The necessary repairs were made and the spill was zero because it was all contained in the bulb. But with the recent 42 days of rainfall from February to April, the force main on Kaiolu Street, where the actual break occurred was under pressure to pump sewage to its destination; usually a gravity sewer or another pump station.

During the first attempt to repair the ruptured force main the excavation was not dewatered all the way down. In the interim a diving contractor was brought in, to dive into the wastewater to inspect and patch the pipe; this was not successful. The dilemma was that the City was now forced to dewater completely and expose the entire force main for additional inspection and assessment of the rupture, completely stopping the force main from pumping to empty it out and which the option was to bypass the Beachwalk Pump Station right into the Ala Wai Canal. The other option would have allowed untreated wastewater to over flow and back up everywhere and eventually into the streets of Waikiki and onto the beach. On March 28, the pipe was patched with epoxied and fibreglassed, and reenforced with a concrete jacket; March 29, the force main was slowly pressurized using the wastewater from the pump station to allow an immediate reduction of wastewater into the Ala Wai; and on March 31 to April 2, three colums were installed to the area where the reenforced concrete jacket to support the additional load; and from April 3 to 4, the repaving was completed.

Mayor Hannemann considers this to be top priority in his Administration and the Governor has proclaimed this an emergency, waiving permit application requirements to ensure timely construction and the City will comply with environmental regulation requirements; and the Environmental Protection Agency is monitoring the progress; and the City plans to complete the entire project (bypass) by the end of the year.

Questions and concerns followed:

1. In response to a question, Okabe replied that the circumference of the pipe is about 69 inches.
2. The reason way the main is called a forced main is because it is not going down hill but is more lateral or level.
3. Another concern was that all the parking along the Ala Wai Canal was taken away and where are the people expected to park without paying something outrageous (\$7 - \$8 per hour). Okabe said the pumps along the Ala Wai are temporary until the construction is complete; he had no timeline of completion. He also noted that parking is an issue of the Department of Facility Maintenance and perhaps those questions might be posed to the Director Laverne Higa regarding the previous Administration's promise for a municipal parking lot on Seaside and Aloha avenues.
4. What are the possibilities of ruptures when dredging the Ala Wai. Okabe said there won't be any dredging; Carroll noted it was just done and won't be again for another 20 years.
5. Sonsona said in Portland had the same problem and how they dealt with it was by diverting the down spout water, which they said was the problem. Okabe said the issue is different – in other municipalities and areas they have what is called storm sewers and those carry both storm water and wastewater. In Honolulu, we have seperate systems and normal roof drains are supposed to be drained in the storm drains and not the sewer drains. Sonsona said for your information, in Victoria B.C. all the raw sewer goes into the ocean.

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6. Orange understands that a hydrographic survey was done at the Ala Wai. She would like to know how deep it is going to be at low tide from the surface to the pipeline. Okabe will need to get back with that information.
7. Okabe gave some forecast information: Kaiolu Street will have traffic restrictions to reduce chances of another break; drilling and inspections along Kaiolu Street will be from August to October 2006; and the temporary pumps will be installed along the Ala Wai Canal from Lewers Street to Wailina and the parking will be closed from June to December 2006; bike path will be rerouted along the Ala Wai for the duration through January 2007; the pipe will be installed by open trench across the Atkinson Drive entrance and work performed at night during park closures; and the pipe in the Ala Wai will be used as the backup force main for 5 – 6 years until a permanent and redundant force main is in place. Visit the website at: www.beachwalkpumpstation.com or call the hotline number is (808) 203-5777.
8. Weinstein wanted to clarify that this line will connect to a pump station in Ala Moana Park, from there sewage goes to the Sand Island Sewage Treatment Plant and eventually dumped several miles off shore; and he questioned whether it would be able to handle the capacity. Okabe said it's going to be the same.
9. In response to Shiraki's inquiry, microtunneling will be used, but some access points will be required; the intent is to bypass until it is fixed, so about a couple years.
10. Orange asked will there be an assessment to the rest of the sewer systems. Okabe was unable to speak much about because of obvious regulation fixes.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:

9th Avenue Variance – Deferred.

RESIDENT'S ISSUES AND CONCERNS: None.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS: Acting Chair Shackelford announced future agenda items: 1) pedestrian and vehicular law changes – HPD; 2) renovation of Palolo Housing – Federal – Dahlia Asuega; 3) update on the Dae Won Sa Temple.

Nakayama suggested a Candidate Forum. Orange entertained for discussion as an agenda item for August. Hayes will take charge to coordinate the forum.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Acting Chair Shackelford made the following announcements: 1) **Olelo Broadcast Slots:** Aired on Channel 54 on the first and third Thursday of every month at 9p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, ext. 133. 2) **Bulky Trash Pick-Up:** Take out bulky trash items by the morning of Wednesday, July 19, 2006 (third Wednesday of every month). 3) **Other:** None.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2006 & JUNE 14, 2006: Being there were no corrections or objections to the minutes of April 12 and June 14, the minutes were approved as circulated.

TREASURER'S REPORT – April 2006 & May 2006: Deferred. However, NA Richardson brought up the issue regarding balance in the Publicity Account. **Carroll moved, Hayes seconded to pay Dave Gonzales the balance of \$260.00 in the Publicity Account. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

ADJOURNMENT: Without any objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson
Neighborhood Assistant