



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA,

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Orange apologized for the late start - explaining a recent memo from the Neighborhood Commission Office, in line with the Sunshine Law, encouraging the policy of “no quorum no meeting”.

The meeting was now called to order by Chair Orange at 6:40 p.m. with a quorum of seven (7) members. A brief announcement highlighted the order of tonight’s Board business to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. followed by the candidate’s forum at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Traver Carroll, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Erin Sonsona, Owen Nakao, Gladys Hayes, Michael Weinstein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Josh Stanbro, Carolyn Walther, Gregory Pentecost, Doug Wong.

GUESTS: James Nekota, Daniel H. Cunningham, Julia Allen, Renee Ing, Jan Bappe, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Dave Gonzales (Olelo Videographer), Sandra Lee; Acting Lt. H. Ishida, Sgt. K. Numasane, Officer Jason Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department), Dahlia Asuega (Palolo Homes – Mutual Housing Development), Ivan and Dot Hoe, Taeko Nakao, Susan Kamida, Brenda Tausaga, Howard Ishida, Stephanie Kimura (Board of Water Supply), Martin Okabe (Mayor’s Representative), Acting Capt. Simeon Pihana (Honolulu Fire Department), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff) and approximately 25+ others who did not sign in.

BOARD VACANCIES: There was no interest at this time to fill the one vacancy in Sub District 3.

CITY SERVICES:

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

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Acting Lt. Ishida distributed the monthly report to the Board members and reported that crime has been down.

Questions and answers followed:

1. Hayes shared concern about kids riding skate boards after 8 p.m. on 7th Avenue; and is there anything that can be done. Ishida was not aware of the concern nor are there any ordinances to address that situation.
2. Carroll was concerned whether the skateboarding occurs on the street. Officer Hendricks encouraged calling 911 if you see it happening.
3. Shiraki expressed there’s one particular vehicle that circles 10th Avenue making big noise.
4. Sonsona said that speed bumps has always been a problem, however, to address the speeding situation

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Stephanie Kimura was present; a report was available and included: a) four main breaks in August: two on August 22 on Pukele Avenue and Hardesty Street and Pukele Avenue; one on August 23 on Hardesty and Pukele; and one on August 24 on Palolo Avenue. b) General Water Announcements: 1) Construction information is now on-line at www.BoardofWaterSupply.com; 2) BWS Information Session for Neighborhood Board members is set for Saturday, September 30, 2006 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the BWS’ Frederick Ohrt Museum. For more information contact Devon Nekoba at 748-5369 or dnekoba@hbws.org. 3) Safety Tip: when cleaning your fish tank, use the tank water fro your plants. The water is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus, providing you with an excellent free fertilizer!

City Parks and Recreation (DPR) – No representative was present at this time.



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ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Martin Okabe updated on the previous month's concerns:

- Repair/mitigation work on Kuhea Street – the damages incurred on Kuhea Street and its infrastructure from the March 2006 rains will be addressed in two phases: Phase 1 – provision of emergency temporary repairs to the damaged areas and the damaged drainage pipes; and the mitigate of further water intrusion to the subgrade. Phase 2 – provisions for permanent repairs, as well as implement stabilization measure for the roadway and utilizes. The plans have already been finalized; followed by the bidding and construction. A consultant has been engaged to develop alternatives for permanent improvements; and is estimated that the development and evaluation of alternatives will be towards the end of the year.
- Who is responsible for the overgrown trees on the City setbacks of La'i Road – the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) needs a more specific site location to investigate such as: street address and/or tax map key and/or cross streets. Sonsona will convey that message to her constituent.
- What's the hold up of Kaimuki Toyota's Service Center project – DPP confirmed receipt of the plans and is working to reduce the backlog. DPP appreciates the referral.
- ADA access on 7th Avenue – the City plans to construct curb ramps on 7th Avenue at intersections of Keanu, Kaau and Pukele streets; and anticipate start of construction late 2006/early 2007. Individuals with physical disabilities can submit a request for ramps by filling out the Curb Ramp Request Form available on the City's website: <http://www.honolulu.gov> (click on: *Government and I would like to Request a Curb Ramp*). Submit the completed form to the Department of Design and Construction (DDC).
- Safety hazard where 10th Avenue meets Palolo Avenue – the status request indicates that the Department of Facility and Maintenance (DFM) has installed in place of the metal railings a temporary chain link fencing. The damaged fence will be repaired by a private contractor. Resident Francis Yara was informed of the status.
- Trash complaint at 2143 Palolo Avenue – a Refuse Division supervisor spoke with the apartment manager on August 18, 2006; and told the apartment manager that the items set out for bulky item collection are considered construction debris and must be disposed of by the contractor that is doing the renovation work on the apartment.
- Recycling bin removal from Jarrett Middle School – these matters were answered in an earlier report.

Comments followed:

1. In regards to the trash issue, Sonsona noted looking into whether there might is a clause grandfathering older apartment buildings from having to provide on-site trash collection bins.
2. Shiraki raised the same concern regarding an independent or delayed left turn traffic signal on 10th Avenue at Waialae Avenue.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Councilmember Kobayashi was present and distributed her monthly report.

The agenda was taken back to Honolulu Fire Department.

Honolulu Fire Department – Acting Capt. Simeon Pihana was unaware that the meeting started earlier tonight, apologized and proceeded to report: 1) September's statistics included: 3 structure fires, 27 medical and 5 miscellaneous. 2) Safety Tip: the National Fire Protection Association has selected "Prevent Home Cooking Fires: "Watch What You Heat" as the theme for Fire Prevention Week, which will be on October 8 – 14, 2006. Signs will be displayed at all fire stations, and demonstrations will be conducted at various schools and shopping centers around the island. The 2006 Fire Fighter's Safety Guide will also be distributed to all elementary schools. b) Provisions of the traffic code regulating the operation, parking, and standing of vehicle does not apply to emergency vehicles responding to emergencies, provided the driver of the vehicle sounds a siren, bell, or exhaust whistle and displays a lighted red lamp. These warning devices help to ensure the safety of the public as well as the safety of the emergency responder.

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A resident asked what's happening with Palolo Fire Station. According to Pihana, resurfacing of the parking area in the back has been done.

The time was approaching 6:50 p.m. and a brief discussion ensued about extending the meeting because there were some residents' present wanting to express community concerns. Although, the idea of moving forward with the candidates forum, Chair Orange entertained the Boards wish and was open to a motion. **Nakayama moved, Shiraki seconded a motion to extend the meeting to hear the Residents' Concerns and Issues. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

1. Susan Kamida, resident of Holomua Place just below the Palolo Chinese Home (PCH). expressed serious concerns from the residents on Holomua Place that since the construction of the new parking lot off 10th Avenue and the service road below the PCH main residential facility, the residents are very unhappy.

In the interest of time, Kamida handed a copy of the concerns and asked it be reflected for the record.

Kamida has polled her neighbors and as late as yesterday evening, a number of concerns were brought to attention and just to name a couple concerns: a) workers have started their machines as early as 7:10 a.m.; b) dust barriers have only been erected partially; c) presently all of the dust shields are gone; d) lack of notice that heavy machinery equipment would be operating so near to the homes; e) a tree still stands in the parking lot, where all others have been removed, the lack of maintenance of foliage droppings into two neighbors' yards; f) the tree's root system is damaging one of the resident's existing wall; g) the lack of soliciting input from Holomua residents; even after PCH agreed to do so; h) a trench that exists between PCH's newly erected hollow tile wall and the existing walls; i) issues with storm water runoffs that has yet to be discussed and which a resident at the lower end of the road receives the brunt of the water draining from PCH; j) less than appropriate language used by construction workers who are oblivious that they are working in a neighborhood where grandparents babysit and people work at home; and finally, k) disappointed in the lack of communication by PCH once their project was approved. Calls have not been returned in a timely manner; and that the invitations extended to Mr. Leigh-Wai Doo to come and see the concerns were never responded to.

The neighbors are hoping to bring the concerns to the Board, hoping to get assistance with reminding PCH of the agreements that were made in good faith and that lines of communication can once again be established.

2. Dahlia Asuega announced that Mutual Housing Authority of Hawaii is no longer the group on the federal side to handle the Palolo Housing. There has been a change in leadership and a decision was passed not to privatize, however, other options are still being looked at. Brenda Tausaga said residents of the federal side decided to change their minds on August 29 and went door to door. They respect the decision and on Thursday, August 31, decided not to go forward.

Asuega also announced the \$200,000 award for their learning center.

3. Howard Ishida reported that the entire road of Lamaku Street is one giant pothole; and at 2306 Lamaku, the Waiamoa hillside is sliding down.

All other agenda items were deferred until the next meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2006; and please note for reference the announcement items under the Chair's Report.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:12; and the candidate forum followed.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson,

Neighborhood Assistant