



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, NOVEMBER 8, 2006 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rachel Orange called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum of seven (7) members present. Noting the late start of tonight's meeting, Chair Orange reminded Board members about being on time. Chair Orange went over the meeting time guidelines: (1) One Minute – Individual citizen input and Board member comment. (2) One Minute – Questions. (3) Two Minutes – Responses to questions. (4) All questions and responses will be done AFTER the presentation is completed. Other time limits are noted in the published agenda. (5) Persons who wish to give input must be recognized by the Chair and introduce themselves, prior to giving their comments.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Traver Carroll, Rachel Orange, Joshua Stanbro, Gregory Pentecost, Doug Wong, Owen Nakao, Gladys Hayes-Gerlich, Michael Weinstein.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Darlene Nakayama, Earl Shiraki, Erin Sonsona, Carolyn Walther.

GUESTS: Captain Scott Lee (Honolulu Fire Department), Major M. Nakagawa, Lieutenant A. Ahlo, Sergeant L. Dabaluz and Officer J. Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department), Joe Yasutake (Department of Parks and Recreation), Martin Okabe (Mayor's Representative), Gail Kakuda (Office of Representative Calvin Say), Senator Les Ihara, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Julia Allen, James Nekota, Howard Ishida, Ivan Hoe, Dave Gonzales (Olelo Videographer), Richard Wells (Honolulu Community Action Program, Leahi District Director), Dawn Tanaka, Dorothy Mau, Alice Kealoha, Barbara Schilling, and Jamal Siddiqui (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

BOARD VACANCIES: There were no interested persons at this time to fill the one vacancy in Sub District 3.

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Scott Lee distributed the monthly report with the following: (1) November's statistics: 22 medical emergencies and 3 miscellaneous. (2) Fire Safety Tip: The holidays are a time of celebration and that means more cooking, home decorating, entertaining and an increased risk of fire due to heating equipment. Therefore everyone should be very careful.

Questions and answers followed:

A resident inquired if HFD has enough generator power that lasted for 13 hours due to the recent earthquake. Captain Lee replied yes.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Sergeant M. Asato distributed the monthly report with the following: (1) The number of burglaries decreased while the number of thefts increased. (2) Attached to the monthly report were instructions from Hawaii Civil Defense informing residents on what to do in the event of a tsunami hitting landfall in Hawaii.

Questions and answers followed:

Weinstein inquired if HPD continues offering the practice of offering rides to citizens while HPD patrol is on duty. Sergeant L. Dabaluz replied yes.

Board Of Water Supply (BWS): BWS representative Stephanie Kimura was not present at the meeting. However, Chair Orange received and read that there was one water main break that occurred in October 2006.

Department Of Parks And Recreation (DPR): DPR Representative Joe Yasutake reported the following: (1) The 14th Annual Christmas Basketball Tournament for the ages 5 to 7 and 7 to 9 teams will take place sometime in November and December 2006. (2) Acknowledged area elected officials – Senator Les Ihara, Representative



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Calvin Say and Councilmember Ann Kobayashi for their assistance in the recent 3rd Annual Recycle Clean Up Day on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at the Kaimuki High School Parking lot where the proceeds benefited the following: Kaimuki High School, Kapahulu Center and the Moiliili Community Center. (3) Volunteers clean up and removed trash/litter at Kahala Beach Park and Magic Island in the Ala Moana Beach Park as part of the Make a Difference Day on Saturday, October 28, 2006. (4) The Annual Thanksgiving Drive is taking place on Friday, November 17, 2006.

Questions and answers followed:

Resident James Nekota inquired if the DPR staff positions have been filled. DPR Representative Yasutake replied yes. However he added that the key for the success of the DPR programs are the volunteers.

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP): Richard Wells, Leahi District Director explained the following about HCAP: (1) HCAP has been in existence for the past 40 years at the Leahi District Office located at 1450 Palolo Avenue. (2) HCAP provides job training and education services for low-income individuals. The most well known of the HCAP programs is Head Start – provides education services for low-income school children. In addition, there is S-CAP which provides similar services to low-income seniors. (3) Based on the programs' participants' circumstances, HCAP will provide funds to help low-income families pay bills including utility bills. (4) The Leahi District Office counts and provides services to homeless residents residing in areas from Nuuanu to Nanakuli. (5) Noted that for many years, Board member Carolyn Walther served as a member of the HCAP Board of Directors who hold their meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. (6) Wells mentioned that he grew up in the public housing in Palolo where he credited HCAP for teaching him skills that has made him successful.

Questions and answers followed:

Board member Pentecost asked Wells if he or another HCAP representative provide monthly reports in future Board meetings. Wells replied yes.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Without objection, the agenda was moved out of order.

Senator Les Ihara: Senator Ihara reported the following: (1) The 2006 elections are over, both the House and Senate are proceeding with reorganization in preparation for the 2007 State Legislative Session. (2) He is the Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Care Givers and the Kupuna Caucus. (3) Opening day of the 2007 State Legislature is Wednesday, January 17, 2007.

Returned back to the order of the agenda.

Stanbro arrived at 7:35 p.m., 8 members present.

Mayor's Report: Martin Okabe did not have the Mayor's Report regarding to responses to the concerns raised at last month's meeting. However, he mentioned that the City is planning to realign its bus stop placements for safer streets and more efficient bus service. As a result, the plan will go into effect on Monday, December 18, 2006.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Weinstein expressed concern that many area elderly residents cannot walk long distances. He cited an example where he witnessed two elderly people and child were waiting for half-an-hour to catch the next bus.
2. Okabe replied by reading a letter to all Neighborhood Board Chairs dated October 24, 2006, the third paragraph stating the following: "We are very much aware of the effect that bus stop realignment has on the bus riding community and every consideration is made to minimize such effects. As much as we would like to accommodate every bus rider, the City's resources are limited. In order to make the most of our resources, we have been improving our system of bus stops across Oahu, and that has meant consolidating and relocating some bus stops.

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3. Board member Pentecost inquired that with fewer bus stops, would there be more frequent bus services in Palolo Valley. Okabe did not elaborate with a response.
4. Ivan Hoe commented that he does not see any rationale in eliminating existing numbers of bus stops. He also noted that most of the buses stopping on area bus stops last no more than two minutes per stop.
5. Board member Nakao suggested that the DTS install signs on bus stops indicating which of them would open and close during weekday morning and evening rush hour traffic.
6. Board member Weinstein suggested that if DTS operates the Handi-Vans, they should be utilized by the Palolo residents as a shuttle service going to and from Kahala Mall.
7. Board member Wong suggested that a DTS representative be present at the next Board meeting so that residents can express concerns raised regarding the proposed bus realignment project.
8. Board member Stanbro commented that voters in the 2006 general election voted in the affirmative to amend the Honolulu City Charter mandating that the City Departments of Transportation Services and Environmental Services make a priority to build bike paths and curbside recycling respectively.
9. Okabe replied that the City is already doing curbside recycling specifically recycling green waste that can be done on Oahu while other items such as plastic, paper, bottles and cans have to be recycled on the mainland. Therefore, Okabe noted that the City has hired a nationally known consultant to help the City work on an integrated solid waste management program.
10. Chair Orange expressed dismay that newspapers and glass are not part of the state's HI-5 and City's Curbside recycling projects.
11. Board member Stanbro also expressed dismay where the City's renewable energy policy by burning waste and converting it to energy is not recycling. He noted that both Kauai and Maui counties has an extensive and more comprehensive recycling program.
12. Board member Pentecost mentioned that the United States military has a comprehensive recycling program.

With the arrival of the Mayor's Report handed to Okabe, he read the following concerns raised at last month's meeting with follow up responses: (1) Chair Orange stated that a resident mentioned to her the recent heavy rains that damaged La'i Road – The recent heavy rains damaged many roads on Oahu County. Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) assessing the damage to all these roads and will provide a report to the Board upon the investigation of La'i Road. (2) Department of Transportation Services (DTS) stated that Department of Design and Construction (DDC) should address the issue of speed bumps on 10th Avenue. However, the speed bumps are a traffic issue and therefore DTS should respond to DDC on the applicability of the speed bumps. Residents feel this area may be one place where speed bumps can be justified since there are no nearby houses – The City presently controls speeding through proper signing and enforcement by HPD rather than with traffic calming measures such as speed humps/bumps at this time. DTS investigated and found a 25 mile per hour speed limit signs posted along the concern portion of 10th Avenue (near 2429 10th Avenue). However, DTS will issue a work order to DFM to install an additional speed limit sign on Palolo Avenue near the intersection with Carlos Long Street to inform motorists of speed limit as they continue onto 10th Avenue. DTS has referred the speeding concern to HPD for what ever action deemed necessary. Okabe noted that several communities have worked successfully with HPD to curb speeding in their neighborhoods by developing alternative strategies to address the speeding problem. Should this be the desired option, contact HJPD at 529-3366. Should there be any further questions, please contact Adrian Chee of DTS by calling 768-8317. (3) A resident asked that the City has not kept its promise to repave Palolo Avenue – Due to the asphalt shortage; many of the projects were delayed. DFM will update this item at the next Board meeting. (4) Board member Darlene Nakayama reported that the bridge on Palolo Avenue is in dire need of repair. – Please clarify which bridge is being referred to by the Board Chair. The bridge closest to Palolo Place appears to be the likely bridge in question. Please confirm. DFM is investigating the bridges and will report back to the Board at its future meetings. (5) Board member Traver Carroll suggested that the City install solar powered lights in area City parks – The light output from solar powered lighting does not meet City standards. The City did install a few experimental solar powered lights at Hanauma Bay a couple years ago. However, these lights do not meet City

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standards. Either and the manufacturer of these lights are no longer in business. Chair Orange clarified that the original suggestion was to have light sensors for turning City park lights on and off, rather than a request for solar powered lights. Okabe responded that should be doable.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi: Councilmember Kobayashi was not present but her office distributed her monthly report. Chair Orange highlighted that the City Council received a copy of the Alternative Analysis of the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. The report looks at four alternatives for addressing Honolulu's traffic situation:

- a. No Build Alternative
- b. Transportation System Management Alternative
- c. Bus in Managed Lane Alternative
- d. Fixed Guideway Alternative.

Representative Calvin Say, The Speaker of the House: Gail Kakuda, from Speaker Say's office reported the following: (1) Speaker Say regrets not being present at tonight's Board meeting where he is in a House Reorganization Meeting. (2) Distributed the monthly report that highlights tips to protect citizens and property for the upcoming rainy season. (3) \$1.6 million has been allocated for much needed repairs at Anuenue Elementary School. (4) Regarding concerns with noisy mopeds, Kakuda distributed copies of a draft House Concurrent Resolution requests the County Police Departments to vigorously enforce laws relating to the operation of mopeds, specifically Section 291-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes that requires any moped being operated on a public highway to be equipped with a muffler in constant operation to prevent any excessive or unusual noise and further prohibits the modification of the moped exhaust system in any manner that will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of the moped.

Without objection, the agenda was moved out of order.

Resolution regarding moped registration: Carroll moved and Hayes-Gerlich seconded that the Palolo Neighborhood Board support the proposed resolution to request county police departments to vigorously enforce laws relating to the operation of mopeds.

Questions and comments followed:

1. Board member Pentecost submitted and read a written draft resolution requesting county police departments to vigorously enforce existing laws relating to the operation of mopeds.
2. Chair Orange expressed concern with language specifically relating to licensing mopeds.
3. The Board agreed to the following resolution language:

REQUESTING THE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO VIGOROSLY ENFORCE LAWS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF MOPEDS

WHEREAS, there is a proliferation of the presence and operation of mopeds in residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, many of these mopeds are operated by minors for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in many instances these mopeds are not being operated in a safe manner; and

WHEREAS, the operation of mopeds in residential neighborhoods has led to increases in noise pollution, disturbing the quiet of residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, section 291-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires any moped being operated on a public highway to be equipped with a muffler in constant operation to prevent any excessive or unusual noise and further prohibits the modification of the moped exhaust system in any manner that will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the motor of the moped; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Palolo Neighborhood Board No. 6 that the police patrols the respective neighborhoods are requested to vigorously enforce the provisions of section 291-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requiring the equipping and operation of mufflers on mopeds and the prevention of the modification of any muffler that will amplify or increase the noise emitted by the moped motor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Palolo Neighborhood Board No. 6 is also in favor of legislation making it mandatory for all moped operators to be licensed and there be increased penalties for repeat offenders, including impounding of mopeds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor, appropriate state House and Senate members, and the Chief of Police of Honolulu, Boise Correa.

The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote of 8-0-0.

Returned back to the order of the agenda.

Governor's Report: No representative was present to provide a report.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Concern regarding parking lot charges at Big City Diner in Kaimuki: Board member Hayes-Gerlich expressed concern regarding a \$1.25 charge for customers to pay to park their vehicles at the Kaimuki Big City Diner parking lot.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS

Meet, Mingle and Jingle: With Board member Sonsona absent, there was no presentation regarding the annual Meet, Mingle and Jingle that traditionally takes place during the December Board meetings. Instead, it was suggested that this event take place during Easter where the event would be advertised as Spring Meet & Mingle.

Resolution regarding road resurfacing priorities (Palolo Avenue): There was no written draft resolution on the table thus there was no presentation on this subject matter.

Approval for Board Recess January 2007: Hayes-Gerlich moved and Carroll seconded that the Board recess in January 2007. The motion was adopted by a vote of 7-0-1. Ayes: Carroll, Orange, Stanbro, Wong, Nakao, Hayes-Gerlich, Weinstein. **Abstain:** Pentecost.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS

9TH Avenue Variance: Board member Carroll informed the Board and community that there are two 5,000 square-foot lots (Lot 21 and Lot 22) at 1627 9th Avenue. The City Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has granted a variance that allows a proposed 10-foot wide, 100-foot long access easement is over Lot 21, and it provides vehicular access for Lot 22 which is landlocked. The proposed right-a-way easement equals 1,000 square-feet and decreases the net lot area of Lot 21 (which is adjacent to the street) to 4,000 square-feet. Since the minimum required lot area is 5,000 square feet, the proposal; creates a substandard lot, which lacks 20% of the minimum of area.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Orange made the following assignments: (1) Olelo Broadcast Slots: Aired on Channel 54 on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 9:00 p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, extension 133. (2) Bulky Trash Pick-Up; Take out by the morning of November 15, 2006 (3rd Wednesdays of every month). (3) Transit Community Outreach Meetings: 6:30 p.m. – November 13, 2006 at McKinley High School, November 17, 2006 at Kalakaua Middle School.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2006: Please insert the following amendment Page 4, under New Business/Presentation item Request to run an Adult Day Care Center from a residence, in the Questions and comments concerned section item 1 add the following sentence:

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- Another resident expressed concern about congestion and parking and showed photos documenting this concern.

Hayes-Gerlich moved and Carroll seconded that the minutes of October 11, 2006 be approved as amended. Without objections, the minutes were approved for filing.

TREASUER'S REPORT: Board Treasurer Weinstein read the following statement for October 2006: (1) The previous operating/publicity account balance was \$2,561.91, current expenses is \$79.67 (breakdown - \$7.66 in printing the November 2006 Agenda/October 2006 Minutes, \$27.69 in mailing out the November 2006 Agenda/October 2006 Minutes and \$44.32 for renting Palolo Elementary School as venue for Board meetings), and \$150.00 was allocated to videotaping Board meetings for future broadcast on OIelo Channel 54, current operating/publicity account balance to date is \$2,332.24. (2) There being no expenditures, the refreshment account balance remains at \$120.00. **Without objections, the Treasurer's Report was approved for filing subject to audit.**

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

Submitted by,

Jamal Siddiqui
Neighborhood Assistant