



## PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Rachel Orange at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum of ten members present.

**Board Members Present:** Chris Bennett (appointed tonight), Traver Carroll, Tom Eisen, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Gregg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Greg Pentecost, Earl Shikai, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Vacant Seats:** One seat in Sub district 2 and two seats in Sub District 3.

**Guests:** Lt. G. Lum Lee, Sgt. A. Rivers, Ofc. J. Hendricks, Maj. M. McCauley (Honolulu Police Department/District 7), Sgt. C. Toda (Honolulu Fire Department/District 7), Joseph Thomas (Board of Water Supply), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Ivan Hoe, James Nekota (Palolo Community Council), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Cecilia Masaquel (Governor's Office) Anne Kusao, Eli Scanlan (Honolulu Community Action Program), Eduardo Hernandez (Kaimuki Neighborhood Board No 4), Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office Staff).

**Board Vacancies:** Resident Chris Bennett came forward to fill the board vacancy in Sub district 2. Street. He practices law, is originally from Hilo and has lived in Palolo for two years. **Gerlich-Hayes moved to accept Chris Bennett as a member of the Palolo Neighborhood Board from Sub District 2 seconded by Pentecost. The Board adopted the motion by unanimous consent.**

The meeting took a recess as Chris Bennett took the Oath of Office.

### CITY SERVICES

**Honolulu Police Department:** Maj. M. McCauley distributed their statistics from February 1 through February 11 and asked the audience note their phone numbers on their contact sheet and their email address: [www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7](http://www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7).

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Chair Orange's house was tagged with graffiti in December, 2007 on a place that is not visible from the street so someone had to climb on her roof to get to the area that was defaced and her neighbor's house was tagged a couple weeks later. Major McCauley reported the police are doing a good job of catching taggers which is a priority in this district. She asked the residents to call 911 right away so officers can get a statement and make arrests. Just tonight they caught two people tagging in the canal by Blockbusters. Similar tagging is discussed at monthly meetings. The ruling on juvenile taggers depends on their previous record and who the judge is.
1. Officers put an emphasis on moped noise in Palolo. Major McCauly wants moped mufflers to be inspected because drivers tamper with their mopeds to sound louder.
2. Tickets are issued for motorcycle drivers who are very loud and will continue to monitor
3. Sgt. Rivers will investigate illegally parked cars on Ahinahina Place causing drivers going down the hill to drive on the same side of the street as those going up. A resident of the street was hit on the driver's side of her car making a left hand turn. Illegally parked cars are tagged when they call but signage was requested to be posted because everyone is fighting to park on the same side of the street.



**Honolulu Fire Department:** Capt. C. Toda reported the following:

- Fire statistics for January were a few fires on New Year's Eve. This month there were 38 medical and 3 miscellaneous calls which are like false alarms.
- Fire Safety Tip: Fire, building and U.S. postal codes and City Ordinances state that property owners should place their house numbers so it is legible and readily visible from the street to assist the Honolulu Fire Department and other first responders in locating houses quickly in case of an emergency.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS):** J.T. (Joseph) Thomas distributed information about water main breaks and reported the following:

- There were no main breaks in the month of January in Palolo. No water utility is free of water main breaks and the BWS works hard to avoid them which created a decrease since the 1990s.
- The BWS Water Conservation Poster Contest for children in Kindergarten through sixth grade has a deadline of Thursday, March 13th. For more information call the BWS office at 748-5041.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Shiraki reported that in the 2400 block of Holomua Place underground water erupted in the road two weeks ago. He is still awaiting a response from BWS.
2. Weinstein noted the landscaping overgrowth and bags of rubbish by the BWS location were cleaned up.

**Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP):** Ellie Scanlan, the new District Manager for HCAP from the Leahi District Office, came to introduce herself and reported she has been with HCAP for 30 years and will now be servicing the Palolo District. In her new position she identifies the needs of the communities of lower income populations and develops programs to meet them. She did not have a report to give and there were no questions asked. Chair Orange welcomed her and looked forward to her presentations in the future.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor's Report:** Martin Okabe, the Mayor's Representative, was not present. There was no report given.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi:** Councilmember Kobayashi reported on the following:

- Councilmember Kobayashi voted against the panel chosen at the last Council meeting to choose the technology for the rail system because Corporation Counsel opined they are not advisory, they do not follow the Sunshine Law and they cannot be interviewed by the Council. She is very upset that a \$5 to \$6 billion project would be decided without any public input.
- At a meeting last week, playground equipment for different parks' maintenance needs will be a priority which includes Palolo Park.
- A hearing on the banning of plastic bags is very controversial. A company in Kalihi shreds plastic bags and makes them into new plastic trash bags. A company in Japan is looking at shredding bags and turns them into heavy oil which could be used in our generators and could also fuel our cars.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. There has to be an incentive to change the kinds of bags used since so many people use plastic bags when walking their dogs and for trash. Small stores especially in Chinatown depend on plastic bags.
2. Shiraki wants the Council to decide which rail to choose so there can be testimony. He advised people should be taught what to do with their bags. Councilmember Kobayashi suggested if the Japanese company operated here, electric bills might be lowered if plastic bags are converted into heavy oil. Discussion ensued about plastic bag replacements such as canvas instead of disposable paper bags. Tanaka supports a plastic bag ban to benefit the environment and when people use them for their dog's feces it could cause contamination in the landfill.
3. There is a bill in the legislature that addresses Styrofoam. A woman on Oahu started the company Styrophobia whose totally biodegradable containers can replace Styrofoam.

**Representative Calvin Say:** Representative Say noted two concerns before discussing legislative activities.

- Followed up with the City on a resident's request to get Waiomao Road and Kuahea Street repaired after the street collapsed during the recent heavy rains.
- The City and County Department of Parks and Recreation cut the tree at 10th and Waiialae Avenues where the homeless sleep, for the health and safety of the residents however homeless people were sleeping under a cover there and were not notified that the tree would be cut down.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. The Superferry will be in dry dock for 17-19 days to repair the rudder and it is projected to return to operation in the spring. Businesses look forward to transportation from Oahu to the Big Island. A presentation will be made when Kauai will be serviced by the Superferry.
2. A Legislative appropriations bill was signed today giving the authority to the Legislative Reference Bureau to operate the Superferry before an Environmental Impact Study is completed.
3. Representative Say reported that constitutionally the State Legislature is required to refund citizens from a surplus for middle and lower income residents, but he does not know at what level.
4. Representative Say projects the chances the Public Financing Bill from the Big Island County Council would pass through the session is 50-50. The Campaign Spending Special Fund will be looked at, but he would support money going into the public school system, housing, and related issues.
5. Regarding the Campaign Spending Reform bill, it seems to allow unlimited contributions for corporations and testified against it because legislators thought it would decrease transparency in the electoral system to see who is giving money to what campaign.

**Senator Les Ihara:** Not present at this time.

**Governor's Representative:** Cecilia Masaquel, the Governor's Representative, was present replacing Sandy Yahiro who could not attend and she distributed the Governor's report.

Questions, answers and concern:

1. Eduardo Hernandez, Chair of the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board, announced:
  - a) Maunalani Park had an official opening but the facilities remain closed.
  - b) With the help of the BWS and the Game Breeders Association the problem of feral chickens near the park is being addressed.
  - c) The Kaimuki Neighborhood Board has been discussing the probability of an Adult Residential Care Home opening in the area and how it would affect the residents living there.
2. The newly refurbished Kaimuki Parking Lot has attendant parking. Fee to park is \$.75 per hour and you can prepay before you go into the parking lot.
3. Hernandez feels the expansion of nursing homes is important as long as they operate as they should.
4. Eisen mentioned the problem of feral pigs on La'i Road at the end of the residential zoning before it becomes agricultural, and also on Waiomao Road behind the orchid nursery. Representative Say will put Eisen in contact with the person on the Manoa Neighborhood Board working on feral animals.

Without objections, the agenda was taken out of order when Senator Ihara arrived.

**Senator Les Ihara:** Senator Ihara reported the following:

- Introduced a bill to the Legislature to provide narrow exceptions to the Sunshine Law so neighborhood boards could receive information, such as reports, without needing a quorum.
- Introduced a bill to allow more than two people to attend the same meeting, and if the meeting is publicly noticed, all board members could attend.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Chair Orange thought the legislature was considering neighborhood board term limits. Then she addressed the City Council members suggesting if a board seat was contested she supports a term limit, but if it is not then asked the ruling not apply. Shiraki has served on this Board for 20 years which gives the board history of what happened in the past that she appreciates.

2. The chances the Public Financing Bill from the Big Island County Council passing through the session is up to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee.
3. The Senate bill on campaign spending for removing contribution caps for corporations was merged with many bills into SB 2004. He assumes that was part of it because there was no mention of it not moving and should be heard soon.
4. Senator Ihara feels the support for the Sunshine law exception should pass this year. His objectives is to get a level of trust that there does need to be exceptions allowed on a case by case basis, keeping it narrow.
5. Chair Orange realized in reading an email to all Chairs that not all neighborhood boards and chairs are on the same page in their following of the Sunshine Law. Some boards meet and hear reports without a quorum, but she knows that is not allowed and wants to uphold the law. With these inconsistencies in operating, it is hoped the Sunshine Law exceptions will become law.

#### **RESIDENTS' ISSUES:**

- Tanaka expressed a request from a resident that something be done on Waiialae Avenue in the morning leaving Palolo between 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on 8th to 1st Avenues because of the congestion from Alliiolani Elementary, Sacred Hearts School, Saint Louis School and the back roads to get onto the UH campus. The resident suggested a contra flow lane or no left turns be installed.
- Carroll regularly drives across the bridge at 7th Avenue and thinks the traffic is so heavy because people leaving Kahala take a Palolo detour going up on Waiialae Avenue and back onto the freeway on King Street. Chair Orange suggested a solution would be contra flow lane and left turns. Gerlich-Hayes noted there are contra flow lanes on Kapiolani Avenue on the outside lane but the bus stops slow down the inside lane and cars cut in and out.
- Councilmember Kobayashi reminded everyone there is a Council hearing on February 20th for Neighborhood Board term limits. Check the website for the time.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**John Brizdle:** Mr. Brizdle was not present.

#### **Skate Park Update:**

- Hutchings reported that a non profit was formed for the skate park. SOHA (Skate Parks of Hawaii Association) was established with Hutchings as the president and Will Fischer is the skate park liaison. At a meeting with Lester Chang, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, it was requested the State give the land in question to the City and County. However, that afternoon Hutchings asked the Governor about the request and she suggested having the City request the land in a letter that would become an Executive Order if it is voted on by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Hutchings asked Les Chang to write the letter.
- Senator Ihara noted at the meeting the Mayor's representative reported the City could not provide any funds therefore SOHA would want to raise private funds and ask the City to match them. The City might be able to maintain the skate park, but construction funds of \$200,000 will be the challenge. Possibly the Council would support a Capitol Improvement Project. He will talk to the Mayor about establishing the skate park.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Other parks are funded, constructed and maintained by the City; they are expecting the real property assessment of the area to go down. The Secretary/Treasurer of SOHA is a YMCA Director who agreed to make this a non-profit organization and then receive grants to build the park.
2. Residents should request the City to make a request of the State for the land and then ask the City to fund the skate park. However, the State can auction the land to the highest bidder. Hernandez suggested seeking private funding. Pentecost suggested corporate support be sought from businesses.

**NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:**

**T-Mobile's request to put an antenna in the flagpole at Jarrett Intermediate School** - Anne Kusao, representing T Mobile, presented the procedure T Mobile is pursuing with Jarrett Intermediate school to install a 60 foot flag pole in front of Jarrett to enclose their four antennas. Near the flag pole will be a square structure to enclose machinery that is also a part of the hardware to be a receiving tower for their phone system. The school will receive a financial donation for the use of their property. T-Mobile is applying for a Conditional Use Permit and a Height Waiver for the installation.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. The school agrees to T-Mobile's project and the lease with them is in process. T-Mobile has put up similar projects that have been well received in the community. The flag pole is 24 inches in diameter.
2. The electrical emissions of the tower are less than that of a baby monitor. The noise of the equipment in the nearby box has a fan on it, but when the doors are closed you cannot hear anything.
3. The school signed the proposal to proceed with the project. It is being installed to increase reception in the back of the valley and the capacity of the network as well as to help those connected with 911 calls to locate people in distress. In Kaimuki the shopping center and the business center only have antennas without the added equipment.
4. The Cingular phone company had a project that was stopped for a governmental problem.
5. The length of the lease is usually five years. T-Mobile will advise if in that case the pole would be removed.
6. It was suggested the equipment being installed be a color that blends in with the school's color.

**Pentecost moved to approve the proposed T-Mobile installation of the new flag pole and additional machinery at Jarrett Intermediate School seconded by Carroll. The motion was ADOPTED by unanimous consent (10-0-0.)**

**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:** Contact Rachel Orange at rachel.orange@hawaii.edu for agenda item requests.

**CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. To report a tree that is on a sidewalk for trimming, go to the home page of the city website and on the left hand side click on "problem to report." Then you will find it at Public Trees, 971-7151.
- B. Bills that would affect NB operations have been introduced to the legislature HB1512, HB2730, SB2201.
- C. Video of NB meetings is now available online, see <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco/>
- D. Olelo Broadcast Slots: Aired on Channel 49 every Wednesday at 9p.m. For schedule and information, call 834-0007, ext. 133. or email [olelo@olelo.org](mailto:olelo@olelo.org)
- E. Bulky Trash Pick-Up: Take out by the morning of Feb 20, 2008, the third Wednesday of every month.
- F. Other

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF DEC 12, 2007** – By unanimous consent the minutes were filed as distributed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Weinstein reported with four meetings left there is \$1,500 in the publicity account giving the Board the money to print flyers to give notice of the meetings. It was suggested the flyers could be given to Board members to distribute.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Submitted by

Bonnie Trustin  
Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by

Rachel Orange, Chair