



## 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, MAY 14, 2008 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Rachel Orange at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum of ten members present. Chair Orange announced that the next meeting will be in July, the board is recessing in June. (Note: This 13 member board requires seven members for a quorum.)

**Board Members Present:** Chris Bennett, Traver Carroll, Tom Eisen, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Gregg Hutchings, Rachel Orange, Greg Pentecost, Earl Shiraki, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

**Board Members Absent:** Darlene Nakayama.

**Vacant Seats:** Two seats in Sub District 3, between Pakui Street to Pukele Avenue and Kalua Road.

**Guests:** Martin Okabe (for Mayor Hannemann); Sandi Yahiro (for Governor Lingle) Lt. M. Asato, Sgt. A. Rivers (Honolulu Police Department/District 7); Firefighter K. Won (Honolulu Fire Department/Engine 33), Moani Van Alst (Board of Water Supply); Gail Kakuda (for Representative Calvin Say); Eliepa Scanlan (HCAP), Shinsuke John Uehara, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**Board Vacancies:** No volunteers came forward to fill the two vacant seats in Sub District 3.

### CITY SERVICES

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD):** Sgt. A. Rivers, introduced Lt. M. Asato. Gave crime trend comparisons for May through May 13th in relation to April as follows:

- Decrease in burglaries from 14 to 8, decrease in unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV) from 6 to 2; and general thefts from 22 to 11.
- Burglary tips: 1) Safes should be used for firearms, cash, jewelry and other rarely used item but do not rely on them solely. 2) Do not leave valuables in plain sight. 3) When shopping do not leave wallets, purses and backpacks unattended in cars or shopping carts even for a short time. 4) Know your neighbors and their cars to report anything suspicious. 5) Start a Neighborhood Security Watch.
- Thanked residents for using their website: [www.honolulu.org/patrol/d7](http://www.honolulu.org/patrol/d7) to report resident concerns.

Questions, answers, concerns:

1. Carroll read a letter from a resident commending Maj. Green for ceasing the noise in Palolo Valley. The resident wrote letters on November 14, 2006 and September 10, 2007, with attached noise logs noting moped drivers revving their engines and loud boom boxes at the end of 10th Avenue. She asked that something be done and soon the valley was quiet. Again on April 16, 2008 she contacted Maj. Green about the noise and her neighborhood became peaceful. She really appreciates Maj. Green's dedication to keeping Palolo quiet. Sgt. Rivers noted there is a stiff penalty for drivers of modified mopeds. Chair Orange appreciates the efforts of HPD.
2. It is not known what happened to the Palolo Neighborhood Watch Program. Contact Ofc. J. Hendricks or Ofc. T. Kahapea on the HPD website, [www.honolulu.org/patrol/d7](http://www.honolulu.org/patrol/d7), and ask to be contacted to meet with interested community members and reactivate Palolo Valley's neighborhood watch.

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)** – Firefighter D. Mah reported the April statistics as follows:

- There was 1 structure and 1 rubbish fire; 18 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue and 2 miscellaneous calls. There were no major incidents.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** The risk of wild land fires increases as summer approaches. For safety, make a 30 foot wide fire break by clearing vegetation and clutter around all structures. Some wild land fires could force evacuation of neighborhoods so have an emergency preparedness plan ready considering the route to



- take and other preparations needed if you must vacate in such an emergency. If property borders on a wild land fire area, consider having a 30 foot setback there and make room for fire department access.

There were no questions for the Fire Department.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS):** Moani Van Alst distributed information for detecting a leak in toilets and announced the following:

- Palolo had no main breaks in the month of April.
- During their Annual "Detect a Leak Week" June 1 – 7, BWS asks residents to check for toilet leaks; a costly waste of water. BWS will take applications from single family home owners for free leak detection; 50 families will be chosen to have their homes inspected and will be counseled if they have leaks.
- BWS tries to control costs but due to dramatic fuel and electricity price increases in 2007, a modest cost adjustment will begin in May or June to recoup costs. The average charge per family per month will be \$1.22. Oahu's rates are the lowest in the state and in the United States.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Oahu's water is totally from ground water sources, unlike the other islands and the mainland. The BWS found desalination to be very expensive and it used a great amount of energy which would increase users' water rates. It is not needed currently, but plans are to employ desalination in 2020 or later. In Ewa the BWS has a recycling plant producing water for landscaping, not drinking water; they want to create more of these plants after examining the cost factor.
2. BWS has brackish (salty) water wells used for non-filtered uses and the military has their own water system that has a lot of brackish water.
3. Eisen noted there is a difference between brackish water and brackish ground water and secondary grey water after it has been used.

**HCAP:** Eliepa Scanlan, Community Services Manager for the Leahi District office, reported the following: 1) May 20th they will distribute surplus food at Punchbowl Homes; Kalakaua Housing, Mother Waldron Park, and their HCAP Office. 2) Their Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program helps families with their utility bills at Papakolea Community Center, Kalakaua Housing, Hausten Garden, Wisteria Vista, Birch Apartment Complex and their HCAP office. Call with questions at 732-7755. 3) HCAP partnered with Palolo Housing and the VISTA program to present a Cultural Exchange Program at the Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon on May 27th. A brochure about the event was distributed.

Questions, answers, and concerns:

1. HCAP has a Weatherization Assistance Program that provides florescent light bulbs and refrigerators.
2. HCAP will help process client's paperwork submitted to agencies providing rental assistance and electrical aid. They are currently helping many Aloha Airlines families. Those needing assistance should call their office.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mayor's Report:** Martin Okabe, for Mayor Hannemann, read responses from March:

- The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) was notified by Engineers Surveyors Hawaii, that a contra flow lane on Kapiolani Boulevard from McCully to the Atkinson intersection was not recommended at this time because they have ongoing roadwork at Kapiolani and Atkinson Drive. Tanaka asked for an update.
- DPR requested Star Company investigate the Palolo pool heater, inoperable for several weeks. They will inspect the boiler to give an estimate for possible repairs.

Responses for Issues in April and May:

- The construction at 10th Avenue and Maluhia Street is the result of a BWS main break. They are sending out a bid to a contractor for final permanent repairs.
- In response to a question on waste water, the Environmental Services Department (ENV) might have to produce a secondary water treatment plant under EPA's ruling. Tanaka's suggestion would require a tertiary plant that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Tanaka explained she was told that if the water supply became low, the BWS would create a plant to convert water to drinking water in five to ten years. She saw an article about what is being done in California so it was and thought it might be less expensive than a desalinization plant. Okabe said ENV outletting in deep water and there have been

- many tests done, scientists have spoken out to the EPA but we seem to be losing the negotiation. Chair Orange suggested that if California has secondary plants in place, it might not be as expensive for them to do a tertiary plant for their water as it would be for Oahu.
- DTS Traffic Engineering Division conducted a field observation and determined by their morning peak hours observation that adding a contra-flow lane or restricting the left turn movement for Ewa-bound Waialae Avenue traffic is not necessary because traffic flow was relatively smooth and a majority of cars were clearing the signalized Waialae intersections within one traffic signal.
- Waiomao Road street sign at the unnamed roadway below Halelaau Place was realigned with Waiomao Road. The Stop sign and street signs at Waiomao Road and Halelaau Pl. will be installed after it is fabricated. All other signage is okay.
- The request for an asphalt berm at Waiomao Road needs to go to Department of Road Maintenance and advise them of the alignment and length of any asphalt berm if warranted. If this is provided, DRM can repair the pavement and construct the berm at its proper location along the edge of the pavement. A recent inspection noted the roadway was clear of any rocks from run-offs. (NOTE: was this request sent to DRM by Okabe?)
- DRM tried to determine the origin of the seepage of water at 2416 Holomau Place and could not. It appears to be coming through the properties abutting the right of way and into the pavement area. The abutting property owners think the water source is from the Palolo Chinese Home near the rear of their properties. As Chair Orange has listened to the testimony, she thinks it is an underground flow of water so how can this be mitigated and not ruin the city's road? Shiraki asked what plan does DDC and DPP have to fix the problem and noted there was a decision made to install pipes to divert the water from coming into the street and send it into the sewer line.
- ENV will start recycling in Palolo in November picking up paper goods, cardboard, plastic and HI 5. HI 5 can be redeemed or taken to the school, or put it into their blue container for mixed recyclables. Blue bins are for plastic, bottles, cardboard and newspapers; green bins are for green waste and the grey or black bin is for trash. There will be one trash and one recyclable or green waste per week. After many studies it was shown that for those who recycle, there will be enough room in the gray bin for everything. Suzanne Jones, the Recycling Coordinator for the City and County of Honolulu, will make a presentation at this meeting in the future. They plan to have trash pick up twice a week in November and December; in January, 2009 it will change to weekly pickup.

Questions, answers, and concerns:

1. In areas with manual pick-up, ENV has not found a solution for recycling pick up yet.
2. Chair Orange, who paddles in the Ala Wai Canal daily, asked if the pipes on the mauka side of the canal are not leaking sewage into it because the water smells like sulfur by the pump station. Is the water is tested? Okabe thinks they test the water and the area she is talking about has so much pressure there it could be smelling but if it were leaking it would be very visible. They do test the water in the surf spots.
3. Weinstein reported he saw about two dozen trees planted today for a tree planting ceremony tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at the Palolo Recreation Center. Okabe was not aware of the event.
4. Shiraki asked to resubmit the request for installation of the left turn light leaving Palolo Valley at 10th and Waialae Avenues because he see cars continually racing through the light in a long line of cars to get through the intersection and he does not want to see someone get hurt.
5. An update on Resolution 07-379 regarding Neighborhood Board term limits was requested.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi** was not present. Her newsletter was distributed and Chair Orange said it focused on rail and encouraged people to get information on the ballot.

**Representative Calvin Say:** Gail Kakuda of his staff responded to some recent citizen's requests and his answers were as follows:

- Feral pigs on Waiomao Road: Representative Say responded to a woman who was bitten by a piglet there and announced the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is focusing a feral pig hunt mainly in Manoa but will ask if it could also cover Palolo Valley.
- Hospital Payment Program: There was discussion at the March 12th Palolo Neighborhood Board meeting about the disproportionate share of the hospital payment program; hospitals did not receive funding for the uninsured as expected. The Department of Human Services reported that \$10 million in federal funds and \$7.7 million in matching state funds were given to hospitals in March.
- Landowner liability for boulders rolling down the hill: A bill in 2008 passed the House but not the Senate. It would have put aside the common law regarding non-liability of the land owners' natural conditions on their land that caused damage outside their property. In 2007 a bill died that would have removed liability of public and private land owners of unimproved land if damages occurred because of any unknown land

- failure caused by a natural condition. Representative Say is looking at the possibility of attaching some criteria for the city and the state when they approve a house to be built on a property; it has to be deemed reasonably safe. After board discussion, the board is interested in creating a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) on this issue and Kokuda will advise Representative Say of this matter.
- Community Newsletter: Representative Say will produce a newsletter to advise citizens of the bills the legislature adopted this year, many of which were health related. The Grants in Aids requests were not given as much funding as the legislators would have liked.

Questions, answers, and concerns:

1. Gerlich-Hayes is not happy with the rule that if there is extra money the tax payers will get it back, she is not happy with a \$1 refund because that money had been put aside for repairing schools and that is not what the money is for.
2. Kukudo responded to a question of why our state is accepting to buy oil at the current high price that in an election year, if there was a way to lower prices it would have been done. The question is a macro economic worldwide phenomenon that we cannot control.
3. There could be an access issue to reach the pigs on Waiomao if the trail is on private property and/or BWS property.
4. Regarding a discussion about doctors and lawsuits and medical reimbursements at a previous meeting, Kukudo noted that those monies have not be refunded yet.

**Senator Les Ihara** was not present but Chair Orange will report on his findings on the boulder issue when it is discussed later tonight.

**Governor's Representative:** Sandy Yahiro distributed the Governor's newsletter. She mentioned the Governor released \$7.5 million in late March for payment to doctors and hospitals as Kokuda reported earlier. In response to superferry service to Kauai, the Department of Transportation is focusing on establishing a second daily trip to Maui. Kauai service will be considered only after the citizens have resolved their issues on ferry service to Kauai.

**RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

- Resident Richard Lee requested transportation into the valley on Waiomao Road. He sees older residents daily carrying heavy bags and walking a long way from the bus stop to Puunoa Place and Waiomao Road. Chair Orange noted this is an issue that was raised some board members when there was a reduction in the number of bus stops in Palolo Valley to no avail; since there is a shuttle for St. Louis Heights, why not one into Palolo Valley? It was noted the City has handy vans that go up Waiomao Road.

**OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Skate Park Update - Hutchings reported a national company is doing a fundraiser and some of the funds from the products can go to funding the skate park.
2. Status Update on HB 2730, HB1512: HB 2730 was adopted by the legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature covering such issues as allowing more than two board members attending a meeting that is related to a board issue. The Governor asked for public feedback on all bills awaiting her signature; Chair Orange asked those interested in any legislation to call the Governor's office with their opinion.

**NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:**

- Boulder Issue: Discussion of what options may be available: Chair Orange talked with a few people at DLNR at length. They have a procedure for a problem on state land but they have no policy that would affect this neighborhood issue and will not attend the meeting to discuss it.
- Senator Ihara's office research found no state law or rule requiring an inspection by private landowners for hazards and specifically boulders.
- Chair Orange spoke with Morris Atta at DLNR who responded to her as follows: "If rock falls are on private land, DLNR or the Department of Transportation (DOT) will refer the concerned parties to the owners on the county tax map. If danger is imminent, they call civil defense, as they are able to access both private and public lands. If the state owns the land, the DOT rock fall mitigation plan goes into effect. DOT's rock fall mitigation plan/study has ranked areas based on hazard level. DLNR is a reactive agency, meaning they respond by concerns or alerts they receive and then send out an internal inspection team, if the area is on state property, to determine a resolution. DLNR stated the duty of private land owners is only set by common law. If the owner is aware of a potential hazard, they may remain liable."
- DLNR is still waiting for a call back from the DOT to get criteria used to determine when to inspect lands under their jurisdiction for potential rock falls and to find out further responsibilities of private land owners.

- Chair Orange noted there is some money in CIP (Capitol Improvement Project) funds for rock fall mitigation but she thinks that applies to state land.
- Chair Orange went to the website to find a tax map of the hill in question in Palolo Valley and found some of it is conservation land owned by individuals and in the back of the valley, the quarry, is the only state land. She feels there should be some kind of proactive plan to have land inspections if the land is of a certain vertical grade.
- Hutchings did research and found two law suits filed by attorneys in Honolulu regarding areas in Manoa and Nuuanu.
- Pentecost suggested a small group could make an education package for buyers in the area being discussed so they are aware of the land grade, land make up, to help people decide when purchasing. Chair Orange expected the state to have something like that but they do not.
- Gerlich-Hayes suggested some of the homes with problems are older homes with years of wear and tear and much rain. She remembers in the past retaining walls were required but now homes have been built on top of where the original homes were built, loosening a lot of ground that was not properly compacted so it should be the responsibility of home owners to maintain the land properly. Properties with overhangs should be investigated.
- Tanaka agrees with much that has been said and would support legislation in regard to it. Since two boulders have fallen from this mountain, she supports a land owner survey their parcel of land to ensure no other boulders would fall.
- The board discussed who they thought should be responsible for investigating the stability of the land on the mountain and agreed it is a complicated issue. Orange suggested the question is "should the state have to do something about rocks on private land or should a public agency have to deal with the situation?"
- Chair Orange will put the issue on the next meeting's agenda.

**FUTURE PRESENTATIONS:**

Contact Rachel Orange at [rachel.orange@hawaii.edu](mailto:rachel.orange@hawaii.edu) with agenda item requests.

**CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Orange read the following:

- A. Reminder that next month the board will recess. The next meeting will be July 9, 2008.
- B. Video of neighborhood board meetings are now available online, see <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>.
- C. Bulky Trash Pick-Up: Take out by the morning of May 21st; bulky items are picked up the third Wednesday of every month.
- D. Karen Iwamoto from the Palolo Community Council announced that August 2nd will be another Palolo Pride celebration including home grown talent. She invited this board to have a booth. There will be a health fair from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the gym and from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. will be activities in Palolo District Park. During the event there will be two major anti-drug messages held in the pavilion; one by Gary Shimabukuro, well known in the anti-drug movement and one by Matt Takatea who runs the First Lab program and has his own personal testimony to share with the young people. Contact Palolo District Park if you have questions.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2008:**

Page 3 – No. 5 under Questions, answers and concerns: Add to what Pentecost said after "...you cannot plan." "and is it within the scope of purpose and responsibility of the government?"

The minutes were filed as amended.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Weinstein, Treasurer, reported the April statement is the last of the fiscal year. He did not see a listing of the billing from Palolo School for the use of the cafeteria that month and asked that it be billed and paid for. The refreshment budget has been used. There is \$500.00 to cover flyers Hutchings wanted to do. The board discussed purchasing a new banner that was approved at a previous meeting and to fix one that is missing a few letters. Trustin will proceed to contact the sign maker to move the purchase forward.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by  
Bonnie Trustin, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by  
Rachel Orange, Chair