



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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Draft REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Rachel Orange at 7:02 p.m. with a quorum of nine members present. (Note: This 13 member board requires seven members for a quorum.)

Board Members Present: Chris Bennett, Traver Carroll, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Gregg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

Board Members Absent: Tom Eisen, Greg Pentecost.

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

Guests: Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Sandi Yahiro (for Governor Lingle); Lt. G. Lum Lee, Sgt. C. Sukukane (Honolulu Police Department/District 7); Firefighter K. Won (Honolulu Fire Department/Engine 33), Joseph Thomas, Jr. (Board of Water Supply); Robin Matsunaga (Ombudsman); Senator Les Ihara, Representative Calvin Say, Karen Ah Mai (Ala Wai Watershed Association); Milton Hutchinson (Executive Director, Mutual Assistance Association Center); Kevin Haysbert, James Nekota, Karen Iwamoto (Palolo Community Council); S. R. Tanabe (Troop 82); Julia Allen, Bonnie Trustin (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

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

Election of Officers:

Election of Chair: Gerlich-Hayes nominated Orange seconded by Carroll. There being no further nominations, Orange was elected by a vote of 8-0-1. **Aye** – Bennett, Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Shiraki, Tanaka, Weinstein. **Abstain** – Orange.

Election of Vice-Chair: Gerlich-Hayes nominated herself to be retained as Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer as Weinstein seconded by Carroll. Discussion ensued. Tanaka moved there be a separate Secretary position seconded by Orange. Gerlich-Hayes withdrew her motion for Secretary/Treasurer. There being no further nominations for Vice-Chair, Gerlich-Hayes was elected by a vote of 8-0-1. **Aye:** Bennett, Carroll, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Tanaka, Weinstein. **Abstain:** Gerlich-Hayes.

Election of Treasurer: Gerlich-Hayes nominated Weinstein as Treasurer seconded by Bennett. There being no further nominations, Weinstein was elected by a vote of 8-0-1. **Aye:** Bennett, Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Tanaka. **Abstain:** Weinstein.

Election of Secretary: Shiraki nominated Tanaka as Secretary seconded by Hutchings. There being no further nominations, Tanaka was elected by a vote of 8-0-1. **Aye:** Bennett, Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Weinstein. **Abstain:** Tanaka.

Determination of Board Meeting Date, Time, and Place: Gerlich-Hayes moved to keep the meeting date as the second Monday at the Palolo Elementary School Cafeteria beginning at 7:00 p.m. seconded by Carroll. There being no discussion, the board adopted the motion by unanimous consent.

Recess Dates: The board voted to take recesses in January and June of 2009 by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC SAFETY/COMMUNITY AGENCIES

Chair Orange took the agenda out of order to hear the Fire Department report before the Police Department report at the request of the Fire Department.



Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Firefighter K. Wong, Palolo Fire Station, reported two months of statistics. The statistics for May were as follows:

- There was 1 wild land and 1 rubbish fire; 21 medical emergencies, 1 search and rescue and 4 miscellaneous calls.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** Our island is at a higher risk for fires in the summer since wildland vegetation continues to dry with hot weather. (Brush fires are now referred to as *wildland* fire since that is more nationally recognized.) Be cautious when using fireworks, matches and/or lighters around wildland vegetation; the smallest spark and/or flame can ignite the dry vegetation. The law states children under 18 shall not possess or have access to fireworks, matches and/or lighters, except under adult supervision. Flame-producing devices are unsafe for young children; always follow manufacturer's directions. Enjoy the professional public fireworks displays on July 4th.
- Statistics through June 30th were as follows: There was 1 structure and 1 vehicle fire; 17 emergencies and 2 miscellaneous calls. There were no major incidents.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** With keiki on vacation this is a good time to review your home surroundings for potentially dangerous situations. Childproof your home for situations causing electrical shock, poisoning from medications or household cleaning items or house plants. Make sure swimming pools are properly fenced and gated; an alarm on the door from the home to the pool could prevent an unattended keiki from drowning. Keep matches and lighters in a secure place away from children.
- HFD operates with EMS and can answer calls for those who need assistance in breathing for which there is no charge. HFD does not transport the person to a facility if they need further care.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lt. Lum Lee, District 7, distributed their June statistics and the handout included crimes on a map that shows the area in which the crime occurred.

- Statistics for June were 21 burglaries, 5 unidentified entries to motor vehicles and 13 thefts. There are more updated mapped statistics on their website at www.honoluluupd.org/patrol/d7 and follow the steps to find your neighborhood where no crime addresses are listed to maintain confidentiality. Email them with any concerns and will respond in 48 hours.
- Tips for the Month: Home security tips were included to keep homes safe which covered locks and windows.

Questions, answers and concerns:

- Member Bennett is concerned about the intersection of Palolo Avenue and Orchid Street that turns up the hill. He drives there daily and sees people coming down Palolo Avenue not stopping when going through the three way intersection with Orchid Street on the driver's right hand side so he asked for a flashing red light going up Palolo Avenue. Lt. Lum Lee will investigate if the intersection Stop sign is visible and if, HPD can enforce the Stop sign.

Board of Water Supply (BWS): J.T. Thomas reported the Board of Water Supply invited the public to their 20th Annual Halawa Xeriscape Garden Open House and Unthirsty Plant Sale on Saturday, August 2nd at 99-1268 Iwaena Street from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All attendees can enter their \$18,000 Extreme Xeriscape Makeover. There will be many family friendly activities including workshops by garden and landscaping experts, keiki activities and tours of their three acre demonstration garden. Bring your bag for a mulch give away. See particulars at their website, www.honoluluboardofwater.com for directions to the Halawa site or call 748-5041. He reminded customers to keep conserving water in the hot weather and distributed a brochure on Seven Ways to Save Water. Xeriscaping can increase your outdoor water use by 30-80%.

HCAP: Milton Hutchinson, Executive Director of the Mutual Assistance Association Center, (MAAC) announced MAAC with HCAP are sponsoring the First Annual MAAC Film Festival for Children on July 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the MAAC Center. This will be an awards ceremony fashioned after the Oscars for kids ages nine to thirteen years who have produced films. Attendees can see the improvements and increased capacity of the MAAC facility. At its inception the center served South East Asian children but now they serve many different ethnicities of Palolo Valley. They hope to get a new grant for a mobile classroom to teach computers. Get more information at www.Palolomaac.com.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Report: The Mayor's representative was not present. Chair Orange asked residents with concerns to fill out a form for the Mayor's office which will be given to them.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi: Councilmember Kobayashi's report was distributed; she will arrive later.

Chair Orange announced **Representative Calvin Say and Senator Ihara** were not present to report however they can make their presentations if they come later.

Governor Linda Lingle's Representative: Sandy Yahiro distributed the Governor's report and a brochure on the State of Hawaii's College Savings Program, HI 529.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. Tanaka reported her experience at the new recycling center on Waialae Avenue where the attendant counted out \$5.00 worth of bottles but they only returned \$4.92 to her. The recycling center is no longer allowed to "round up" the weight of the bottles they weigh, for example, someone bringing in four and one half pounds of plastic is only credited for four pounds of plastic.
2. There will be no Superferry on Kauai until there is community support for it. Will give an update.

Chair Orange took the agenda out of order for Representative Calvin Say to report as he arrived.

Representative Calvin Say distributed his report and noted the Governor released funds for two measures affecting Palolo Valley, the Capitol Campaign for the Palolo Chinese Home and rock mitigation for Palolo Housing. In a special session yesterday the legislature overruled thirteen bills the Governor had vetoed.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. There is money in the TANF Bill budget to address the MAAC Center but he does not know if the Governor released the funds. Grant in Aid funds for non-profit organizations are only good for one year, July 1st to June 30th, so the legislature asked the Governor to release as much money as possible for the funds that were appropriated. Recently he said that he thought the Governor should have released the funding when the economy was rising but now that the economy is in a down turn the legislature is trying to cut back by restricting the release of funds to balance the state budget. The Governor recently asked all state departments, including the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii, to cut their budgets by four percent. The closings of two cruise lines, Aloha and ATA Airlines, and Molokai Ranch have had a big impact on the state budget this year.
2. Regarding fossil fuel, everyone is struggling with rising utility and fuel costs that impact the state governments' general excise tax revenues because less money is spent for extras, however, he is optimistic because the state legislature took measures to investigate alternative energy for Hawaii. National and international parties are interested in investing in our state's wind farms, solar, wave energy, and geothermal projects but they must get through the permitting process and the PUC regulations.
3. No state can get involved in multi-lateral agreements or the sale of fossil fuel with petroleum companies; he thinks Congress should get involved. The problem in Hawaii is that we are not connected to the other 48 states; when California had their energy crisis the northwest provided them with energy. He wonders if Hawaii is willing to consider geothermal energy from the Big Island rather than coal burning refineries at Keahole. The legislature adopted a solar bill and the Governor signed a bill into law for wind farms. Their hope is to have the utilities buy the energy but utilities companies ask how they can know that a wind farm owner can guarantee them continuous energy? He thinks geothermal energy is reliable but environmentalists do not support it. He feels the public needs to advise the legislature that they want fuel alternatives.
5. The wind mill in Kahuku had inefficient technology but windmill technology today is more effective. People complain about the esthetics of putting windmills on the Waianae coast but if we don't get ourselves off of fossil fuel we will be in a very precarious position. Chair Orange commended the legislature for taking bold steps on this issue.
6. Regarding the state law that requires ethanol use, incentives are being provided to private land owners to produce ethanol but the price of oil is cheaper than the cost of growing and producing ethanol. The state is having a hard time getting the auto industry to use ethanol to create a market for it. One company, McBride, located on Kauai, will be producing ethanol in a year.

APPROVAL OF BOARD EXPENDITURES: Chair Orange reminded the board she has approval to spend up to \$25.00 without board approval but the following expenses must be approved by the board.

- **Facility Rental:** Gerlich-Hayes moved to approve the board expenditure of \$68 per month for the Palolo School Cafeteria room rental seconded by Carroll. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.
- **Videotaping:** Carroll moved to approve videotaping of the Palolo Regular Board meetings for \$200 per month seconded by Bennett. The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

1. Chair Orange was notified by a resident who lives near Maluhia and Hinahina streets that when the wind changes direction she smells something like insecticide so the resident asked for people to be aware when spraying things the smell is carrying into your neighbor's yard.
2. Hutchings asked whether dogs are allowed on school grounds after school hours and reported people are not picking up their dogs' droppings and sometime are throwing it into trash cans.

OLD BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update: Hutchings reported he was just given the Skate Park Audit by Councilmember Kobayashi tonight. Chad is working with different companies on the mainland for fund raising.

HB 2730: This bill, which was discussed at our meetings and relates to neighborhood board meetings and sunshine law issues, was signed into law by the Governor. It allows board members to attend community meetings in groups of one less than their board's quorum and meetings can be held without a quorum to hear reports but not take votes on issues.

Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) Regarding Potential Boulder Falls: Hutchings, Orange and Tanaka volunteered to form a PIG researching the rock falling issue.

Chair Orange took the agenda out of order when Councilmember Kobayashi arrived.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi reported the City did an audit of skateboard parks and she hopes that will help instigate the planning of the proposed skate board park at Waiālae Avenue and Kapiolani Boulevard.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. She attached a recent editorial by Governor Cayetano to her newsletter because it provided good information on a less costly system for mass transit than a steel on steel train. The majority of the council is against a steel train but they support mass transit.
2. The bill to ban plastic bags by the City was deferred and a bill on plastic bags for Maui is on hold. Member Tanaka noted in a recent Discover Magazine it showed a 300 foot deep and one mile long formation made of plastic floating between Hawaii and California. Tanaka hopes the ban on plastic bags is adopted.
3. There was discussion of transportation on Oahu. She supports an elevated bus system with a new technology used in Europe and Asia that looks like a train and goes quickly. The Mayor chose steel on steel rail.

The meeting returned to the order of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Robin Matsunaga, Hawaii State Ombudsman distributed a brochure explaining what his office does. It has been in existence since 1969 and is an agency of the legislature. He was recently re-elected to a second six-year term by the adoption of both houses of the State Legislature. His office receives and investigates questions about all departments and agencies of the state and county government. The earlier question about the recycling center is under the auspices of the State Department of Health and Reynolds is contracted with them for recyclables. The rules were changed recently; before anything over 50 pieces they were authorized to weigh but now they must count up to 200 pieces and weigh anything over that. His office can look into the reimbursement issue.

Questions, answers and concerns:

1. The safety issues of the intersection at Palolo Avenue and Orchid Street can be referred to his office.
2. His office receives 5,000 calls per year and around 3,000 are in his jurisdiction to investigate.
3. He has a staff of 15 people including eight investigators and four intake staff. There is a separate ombudsman for long term care private facilities and the UH – Manoa campus.
4. They take any complaints including referrals from the Mayor's office and can take them from a TTY line.
5. The issue of tree trimming is the responsibility of the City.
6. Advised Weinstein he does not have authority over the Mayor's office or his representative to this board (regarding the complaint that the Mayor's Rep is not attending board meetings). His office does not have authority to mandate corrective action but points out what the law says and tries to persuade and explain why taking an action would result in a different outcome as a way for them to operate.
7. He can investigate the long delay of the Department of Transportation Services' proposal to install a left hand turn signal that they said would be done at 10th and Waiālae avenues. Although there was a big project there 6 months ago which did not include the turn signal, it could be a delay due to funding issue or a policy decision.

8. Their office always reports back to the complainant, hopefully providing a solution. Sometimes, because of the way the law is written, citizens have to go the legislature to ask the law be changed.

Chair Orange took the agenda out of order to accommodate Senator Les Ihara when he arrived.

Senator Les Ihara advised the Diamond Head/Kapahulu Neighborhood Board that the Palolo Neighborhood board is concerned with falling rocks. The Diamond Head board is working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) more concerned with fire on their side of the ridge and the homeless who camp there who could start fires. Chair Orange advised him that this board just appointed a PIG group on falling boulders in Palolo tonight. Senator Ihara offered to help both boards in any way he can.

The meeting returned to the agenda order.

Palolo Pride Event: Chair Orange announced it will be August 2nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. She passed around a sign up sheet for the board to participate and noted this had been an activity the board attended yearly. **Carroll moved the board have a table at the Palolo Pride event and pay for the \$75.00 table seconded by Gerlich-Hayes.** The board discussed what to present to the community and decided on a flier reviewing board activities at in the past year, resolutions adopted and would note the Opala presentation at the upcoming August board meeting explaining the recycling program. This will be an opportunity for the board to interact with the community. Milton Hutchinson, Co-Chair of Palolo Pride, announced the event will be at the Palolo Recreation Center and Gym with Extreme Fun, crafters, a music tent, food booths and petroglyph t-shirts for sale. A Health Fair will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the regular fair is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. sponsored by HMSA and the East Honolulu Rotary. There will be a Scared Straight program for younger children and 300 signed posters for sale by photographer Rick Noil of Palolo Valley taken from a helicopter. More can be seen at their website www.PaloloPride.com.. The \$75.00 table charge includes \$50 for the tent, \$9 for the table, and \$.75 per chair. **The board adopted the motion with a vote of 8-0-1. Aye:** Bennett, Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Weinstein. **Abstain:** Tanaka).

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS: Mentioned below.

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

- Opala representatives will be attending the next board meeting, August 13th, to present the recycling program that will start serving Palolo in November, 2008.
- Palolo Pride is August 2nd. Everyone please come.
- Chair Orange will ask for someone to come soon to a board meeting from the Department of Transportation Services to discuss the 10th Avenue left turn signal.
- Chair Orange encouraged everyone to consider working for the Office of Elections to assist voters in your community Saturday 20, 2008 and Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Chair Orange will be doing it and said it is a very rewarding experience. See the agenda for the number to call or website to go to.
- This neighborhood board meeting is seen on Channel 49 every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. For updated schedule information call 834-0007 ext 133 or email olelo@olelo.org.
- Bulky Trash Pick-up should be taken out the morning of July 16, 2008, the third Wednesday of every month.
- Contact Rachel Orange at rachel.orange@hawaii.edu with agenda item requests.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 14, 2008:

The minutes were filed as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Weinstein reported the June current expenses are \$26.78 and \$78.53 for a banner to be hung near the school. The board discussed their banner to be repaired; Trustin advised them the company that made their new banner offered to repair the one that needs new letters.

A resident named Ben offered a solution to a traffic situation at the corner of Waialae and 4th Avenues on the ewa corner of the Waialae Shopping Center. At the crosswalk on the makai koko head corner, since there is a sign that says "No Left Turn" move the sign over to the other side on the ewa corner so cars turning right on Waialae do not have to be concerned with the pedestrians.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by Bonnie Trustin, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by Rachel Orange, Chair