



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008 PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rachel Orange called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; a quorum was present with nine (9) of 13 members. NOTE: This 13 member board requires seven (7) votes to take any Board action.

Members Present: Chris Bennett, Traver Carroll, Tom Eisen, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Greg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Michael Weinstein (arrived 7:06 p.m.).

Members Absent: Dawn Tanaka.

Guests: Carl Richards and Stephanie Ourada (Medicaid Quest Expanded Access (QexA), James Nekota; Lt. Arthur Kurosu, Sgt. Roy Hayamoto, Sgt. Allan Rivers, Ofc. Jason Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department); Sandi Yahiro (Governor's Representative); Suzanne Jones (City Recycling Coordinator), Eric Takamura (Director, Department of Environmental Services), and staff persons (did not sign-in); Capt. Chris Toda (Honolulu Fire Department), Representative Calvin Say, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Senator Les Ihara, Ivan Hoe, Tinkle Malama (Videographer), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

BOARD VACANCIES: At this time there were no interested persons to fill the vacancies in Sub District 3. Chair Orange asked those present to spread the word.

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Officer Jason Hendricks (District 7, East Honolulu) distributed and introduced the area statistic report for July which included pedestrian crossing illustrations, an attachment with the breakdown of laws relating to pedestrian safety (Act 73, HB 438, HD1, SD1, and CD1, HRS Section 291C-72(a) Pedestrians' Right of Way in Crosswalks); and District 7, East Honolulu's telephone contact information and website address: www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7. It was encouraged that questions/concerns to be submitted online. And if time permits, there is a possibility that Board concerns submitted online can be responded to at the Board meeting. No questions followed for HPD.

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

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – No representative was present however Chair Orange read into the minutes that no main breaks were reported for July 2008; and the General Water Announcements: a) Our island has been blessed with a bountiful supply of clean, fresh water. But how does the BWS get that water from the aquifer to your tap? A handout that explains this process was distributed. b) BWS, along with the Department of Environmental Services and the Commission on Water Resource Management, has extended the Ultra-Low Flush Toilet Rebate program to at least June 30, 2009. If you are connected to the City's sewer or water system, and replace an existing non ultra-low flush toilet (3 gallons or more per flush) to an ultra-low flush toilet (1.6 gallons or less per flush), you could qualify for a \$100 rebate. For more details, visit www.boardofwatersupply.com. c) Did you know? a) That BWS pumps an average of 150 million gallons of water every day; and b) that BWS maintains a water system that includes approximately 2,000 miles of pipes, 4 shafts, 12 tunnels, and 84 well stations. The flyer, "How Does Water Get to Your Tap?" was available at the sign-in table.

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) – Darlene Nakayama, reporting for E. Scanlan, District Manager, HCAP Leahi District, announced: 1) There will be temporary emergency food assistance available on August 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; or call HCAP Leahi District at 732-7755. 2) Families needing school supplies should call 732-7755. 3) Call the Leahi District to participate in the assistance program for CFL light bulbs, solar water heater, water heating service or refrigerator; (one of each) will be given away based on income criteria. 4) It was noted that HCAP personnel are going through a rotation process in different districts; and that HCAP is open daily.

Weinstein arrived at 7:06 p.m. (10 members present).



The agenda went back to item 3B, City Services, Honolulu Fire Department.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Chris Toda (Palolo Station) reported: 1) a total of 29 medical calls, 2 structure, 2 wildland, 1 rubbish, 3 miscellaneous alarms. 2) Safety Tip: Some fires are allowed under State and City regulations; however, most fires investigated are unauthorized. If a fire is unauthorized, the Fire Captain will require that the fire be extinguished. If the fire is authorized, the Captain must determine if the fire is safe and properly contained, and not a nuisance to others. For more information, call HFD's Fire Communication Center at 523-4411.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Contact the Fire Communication Center at 523-4411 to be directed to the Fire Prevention Bureau or to refer inquiries about permitted burns.
2. Capt. Toda knew that one of the fire structure fires related to a stove burn and the other was related to a tree fire, where the owner wanted to remove a tree in his yard; no citation was issued in this case.
3. Capt. Toda noted that efforts internally are being worked on to get an air conditioning system for the Palolo Fire Station; in the kitchen area. Shiraki noted that a request was submitted five years ago; he would follow-up with the Mayor's representative. Pentecost suggested a "passing-the-hat" effort to raise the money for an air conditioner. Toda indicated there might be a process in which these types of donations are handled through Council.
4. Regarding the whereabouts on the priority list for Palolo Fire Stations renovation effort, Capt. Toda indicated that HFD is aware of the structural problems and efforts are being worked on.

The agenda resumed order.

Palolo District Park Activity Highlights – Nakayama is in communications with trying to resolve acquiring Palolo District Park's activity updates and highlights. On behalf of Joe Yasutake, Nakayama reported the following: 1) Yasutake: apologized as he was not able to attend tonight's meeting; thanked the Board and community for a successful Palolo Pride event, that it was much appreciated, and the turnout was tremendous; and announced that he would be retiring by the end of this year. 3) The Fall Registration for the Basketball Clinics and Pool Program begins August 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and August 26 and 27 from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Fall Program starts September 8 and runs through November 29. 4) Mark your calendar for the "Make a Difference Day"; the community wide cleanup, to include a partial stream cleanup, is planned for November 1, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Palolo Recreation Center. 5) A senior cooking class, sponsored by MAC, is starting up on Monday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Contact Milton Hutchinson with MAC at 737-9633 if interested. 6) Any questions regarding Palolo District Park should be referred to Joe Yasutake at 733-7363.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. A question asked for an update and explanation why the heater at Palolo Pool is out. A comment noted that repair is waiting for the parts coming from the mainland; Nakayama will refer this question to Yasutake.
2. Chair Orange noted that the Parks Department had previously stated that there are not sufficient funds to allow a representative to attend these monthly Board meetings. Chair Orange recognized Nakayama's efforts with opening the lines of communications.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Standing in for Martin Okabe was Suzanne Jones, with the Department of Environmental Services. Jones proceeded to report the one concern from July. The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) is requesting contact information of the resident who offered the solution to a traffic situation at the ewa corner of (Waiialae Shopping Center) on Waiialae and 4th avenues. The suggestion is at the crosswalk, makai Koko Head corner, there is a "No Left Turn" sign which if moved to the other side on the ewa corner, and cars turning right on Waiialae Avenue, do not have to be concerned with the pedestrians.

DTS spoke with Ms. Bonnie Trustin, the Board's neighborhood assistant, to get a better understanding of the situation; however, she was unable to make that clarification. So, DTS is requesting the contact information to speak with that person directly. Board member Greg Hutchings was referred to regarding the situation and his contact information was passed on to Jones (754-1378).

Chair Orange asked about responses from the previous months which were explained that the majority are City related concerns/responses that had been sporadic or missing for several months.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. A request that the pedestrian crossing traffic signal light be reevaluated and reset to allow more time for seniors to cross the street, curb-to-curb.
2. A request regarded the left turn traffic signal at 10th and Waialae avenues, makai bound. It was noted that this has been a back issue from way past that needs to be addressed. Jones would relay back to Martin Okabe, Mayor's rep, regarding the back issues.
3. A request was for an update regarding the air conditioning unit for the Palolo Fire Station (kitchen area). Shiraki indicated that it was submitted approximately 5 years ago.
4. An inquiry asked when the sidewalk repaving on 9th and 10th avenues going to be completed. Nekota said the sidewalk was left uncompleted and his suggestion was that the repaving be sped up or better planned.
5. A timeline was requested of when Palolo Avenue's repaving will be completed; as well as other streets in the Palolo area.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Distributed her newsletter and highlighted: 1) Today, the Executive Matters Committee addressed whether to have a Public Transit Authority to look over the rail project, and whether to put on the ballot, the question of having the steel-on-steel alternative. The petition was denied and the matter is now before the courts for a decision. 2) The next Executive Matters Committee will discuss an island wide question regarding jurisdiction of streets where ownership is unclear, and street repair is difficult when the ownership is questionable.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Councilmember Kobayashi is hoping to find a solution to the jurisdiction of streets issue, and trying to find a better working relationship with the state and private entities for solution to island wide issue. Meanwhile, a number of areas still suffer the lack of maintenance of these streets.
2. The Councilmember was commended for her courage to run for Mayor. Also, an appreciation of thanks was expressed for the many years of representing this Board in the Council District 5 area.
3. A question regarded the millions that will be spent on 20 miles of transportation. The Councilmember expressed frustration for not knowing the true cost of the project, the cost of the operation and maintenance, and not having any drawings for this \$5 billion project. The steel-on-steel technology has already been chosen by the Mayor and that there are alternatives less than half the cost which are not being considered.
4. A suggested thought of adding more buses to be more flexible; and encouraging more rider ship by offering free bus service, just to see how many people would use this service. The Councilmember noted that an ordinance was passed for a one year of free bus service to see what would happen; and if looking at the University of Hawaii when not in session, traffic is good.

Representative Calvin Say – distributed his monthly newsletter and highlighted on: 1) The Keiki Care Project, sponsored by HMSA and the State of Hawaii, to help those families who lost their health care insurance. 2) A request from previous, for a Con Con (Constitutional Convention) presentation, however, Rep Say instead has a report available that reflects the cost of having the Con Con is between \$2.2 million to \$11.8 million; depending on the number of participating delegates. This would be determined by the Legislature, if adopted on the November ballot. A seminar would be held in two weeks, sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Con Con flyers were available the sign-in table. 3) The House has been busy with hearings on the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation and the \$62 million deficit anticipated for 2009; and talks of regrouping and creating the Economic Momentum Commission because of what's happening with the slowed economy.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Regarding "random" drug testing for teachers, the contract negotiated by the State and Hawaii State Teachers Association is being interpreted differently. And the conflict or issue is who pays for the testing that is now in the hands of the courts.
2. The question on how soon will this be resolved; Rep Say indicated that the bigger issue are the concerns that negotiations for pay raises will be starting for the next two-year term.

Senator Les Ihara – No representative present at this time.

Governor's Report – Sandi Yahiro distributed the Governor's Weekly Update and reported on previous concerns: 1) Dogs on school facilities – a response is pending from the Department of Education. 2) Local residents of Kauai

would like the Superferry to return – the response was that those local residents should approach the Superferry directly with that support. 3) Issue regarding the bottle redemption program – the response from Carl Motoyama, coordinator of Solid Waste Management (DOH), was that the deposit beverage container (DBC) program requires that the exact scaled display weight of the DBC load be utilized in calculating the consumer refund value; and the exact amount of the calculated value be paid to the customer. The conditions were defined in deeper detail; Chair Orange will try to communicate the response to Board member Tanaka who raised the concern.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:

1. Board members attending Palolo Pride were appreciated. However, a suggestion for next year recommended a display or posting board members pictures up for people to see. The Chair noted at least four different handouts were available including a handout with board members names, contact information and what part of the valley they represent.
2. Regarding the lack of money for the Neighborhood Board elections, Shiraki suggested extending the term one more year to buy time to find the money. This suggestion would require a change to the Neighborhood Plan.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update – Hutchings reported that he contacted people connected to the Hawai'i Kai Skate Park and will be meeting with the City. There were concerns about graffiti, vandalism and break-ins at the Skate Park under the H-1 freeway. The new proposal has supporters, who promised to take care of the Skate Park.

Palolo Pride report on any observations – There were flyers with the Neighborhood Board members and phone numbers at the Neighborhood Board booth, but they may have run out.

NEW BUSINESS / PRESENTATIONS:

Curbside Recycling Roll-Out – Suzanne Jones, City Recycling Coordinator, announced the expansion of residential curbside recycling with a roll-out on November 3, 2008. Starting next week the Environmental Services Department (ENV) hopes to deliver bins to 40,000 households with instructional brochures on the bins. The green bins for green waste will be delivered first, the blue bins for mixed recyclables will be delivered next month and the gray bins for refuse will be delivered later. The first phase of the roll-out will include areas from East Honolulu to Manoa, Mililani, the North Shore and Kailua. The roll-out will continue to the rest of O'ahu every six months until November 2010.

In the pilot program in Hawai'i Kai and Mililani in 2007, Mililani had an option - For \$10 more a month, homeowners could purchase a second garbage pick-up. Other options included requesting extra green, blue, and/or gray bins at no extra charge. After the pilot program, the evaluation report was e-mailed and is available online. ENV found out that few people exercised the extra options and that Hawai'i Kai did better in recycling. Some findings included that most residents understood and implemented the system well and most people reduced the amount of refuse in the gray bins (which go to H-Power or landfills) by using the blue (recyclable) bins. ENV will continue to evaluate costs. Staff members will evaluate the program and notify the public if there are "corrections" needed.

Comments followed:

1. There were concerns about the space needed for three bins. During the pilot program, ENV found that there is flexibility, as some households did not have enough green waste for a green bin.
2. As to what goes in a blue bin, the brochure mentioned aluminum cans, No. 1 and No. 2 plastic containers and newspapers. Customers are encouraged to use the convenience bins at the schools and to still redeem their containers for HI 5¢. Color-coded bins work best instead of multi-use bins.
3. There are still areas where the automated trash collection system cannot go and the City still has manual pick-up service, which it will improve.
4. The public was reminded to remove the caps of plastic bottles, because they are made of a different type of plastic and they prevent the crushing of the bottle.
5. The rules are that the bins are brought out to the curb on the evening before the pick-up day and taken in by the end of the pick-up day.
6. Supervisors will be monitoring the roll-out for "corrections" that need to be addressed and for violators "dumpster diving" for recyclables. Call 911 to report illegal activity. For damaged bins, call the closest base

yard, which can be found at www.opala.org. Green waste does not now include coffee grounds, vegetable peelings or egg shells. There are plans to expand the program to condominiums and apartment buildings.

Medicaid QUEST Expanded Access (QexA) Program – Stephanie Ourada and Carl Richards reported on the Medicaid QUEST Expanded Access (QexA) Program, which will roll-out in February 2009. Currently, under the State Department of Human Services (DHS), the 37,000 population of aged, blind, and disabled persons, covered by Medicaid, are in a "fee for service" plan, where they can go to any doctor and the State will pay for it. Under the new plan, the population will be enrolled into one of two "managed care" health plans and have a primary care provider and a service coordinator.

Comments followed: Medicare/Medicaid - certified Palolo Chinese Home would benefit from this new program and there were concerns about retaining a primary care provider or specialist and long-term care. They would be covered, if they are Medicaid-qualified. For more information, call 1-(866) 928-1959.

Discussion to Hold a Candidates Forum in September – After a brief discussion, **the consensus of the Board decided to hold a Candidates Forum, tentatively in October 2008, after the Primary Elections and before the General Elections. There were no objections.**

The agenda went back to item 4D, Elected Officials, Senator Les Ihara.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Senator Les Ihara – highlighted on items such as: 1) A special session by the Senate to reconfirm a District Court Judge. 2) The Governor would call the Legislature back if a buyer for Turtle Bay is found. 3) Palolo Avenue paving – an email from resident, David Nagamine, was forwarded (Jay) regarding a time table for repaving of Palolo Avenue, Carlos Long and Kawila streets; Ihara will continue to follow-up; and 4) Senator Ihara will be Co-Chairing a Joint Legislative Committee with Rep. Marilyn Lee, a committee to look at ways of providing support for employees who are "sandwiched in" caring for elderly parents and young children. 5) Constitutional Convention (Con Con) – is planning to broadcast a pro/con debate about the Constitutional Convention.

Comments followed focusing on: 1) The repaving issue and getting information of a time line when the repaving would commence, and that a meeting was mentioned involving Mel Miyata of the City. 2) The Constitutional Convention being the citizens' Con Con.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Orange reported / announced the following:

- Expansion of H-Power – doing an Environmental Impact Statement; there will be an open house on Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 5 p.m. at Kapolei High School.
- Correspondence received regarding new parking restrictions to be implemented on Halekipa Place. A diagram was available; if interested see Chair Orange.
- Free seminar regarding the Constitutional Convention (ConCon) on Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the State Capitol Auditorium; a flyer was available at the sign-in table.
- Office of Elections is seeking Precinct Officials to assist voters in your community on Saturday, September 20, 2008 and Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Contact the Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683) ask for Precinct Operations, or sign-up online at www.hawaii.gov/elections; stipend will be provided.
- Video taping of neighborhood board meetings are also available online at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>.
- Olelo's Broadcast Slot for Palolo NB meeting is every Wednesday at 9 p.m. on Channel 49. Call 834-0007, extension 133 or email olelo@olelo.org for schedule times and information.
- Bulky Trash Pick-up: Take out by the morning of **August 20, 2008** (third Wednesday each month).
- Contact Chair Rachel Orange with agenda item requests at rachel.orange@hawaii.edu.

APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2008 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2008 were approved with the following amendment:

- Page 1, Determination of Board meeting Date, Time and Place: should read, "...the second Wednesday (delete Monday)...".

Hearing no objections, **the amendment to the July 9, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Weinstein reported for July 2008: The total expense for the Operating account was \$34.29 (printing/postage of agenda/minutes), leaving a closing balance of \$1,485.71. The Publicity and Refreshment accounts reflected no expenses in July, leaving the closing balances as \$2,500.00 (Publicity) and \$120.00 (Refreshment).

Discussion followed focusing on videotaping and facility rental that was not included in July's budget report. NA Richardson will follow-up on why it was not reflected.

AJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson,
Neighborhood Assistant