



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES PALOLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

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

Members Present: Traver Carroll, Gladys Gerlich-Hayes, Paul Holtrop (newly appointed), Greg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Earl Shiraki, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

Members Absent: Chris Bennett (notified), Tom Eisen (notified).

Guests: Maile Nakamura, Shino Nakano, David Smith, Maelynne Arellano, Robert H., Angela Yonamine, and Marissa Chung (University of Hawaii, Nursing Program); James Nekota, Tina Yamemoto (University of Chaminade), Shinsuke Uehara; Act. Lt. Howard Ishida, Ofc. Jason Hendricks (Honolulu Police Department), John Brizdle (Stop Rail Now), Sandi Yahiro (Governor's Representative), Arlene Stone, Jimmy Lagunero, Aurora Muir, Fire Fighter Bradley Chong and Capt. Bernard Paloma (Honolulu Fire Department), Walter C. Jardine, Jr., Duke Bainum, John Gollner (Friends of Duke Bainum), Representative Calvin Say, Senator Les Ihara, Julia Allen, Tinkle Malama (Videographer), Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

BOARD VACANCIES: There were two vacancies in Sub District 3. One person expressed interest to fill a vacancy in the Sub District 3 area. Paul Holtrop introduced and gave a brief background – an attorney, and former member and chair of the Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7, who recently moved into the Palolo area. (Holtrop's address was validated prior to the meeting coming to order)

Hayes moved, Carroll seconded to appoint Paul Holtrop to fill one vacant seat in Sub District 3. The motion was ADOPTED by unanimous consent, 8-0-0. Aye: Carroll, Gerlich-Hayes, Hutchings, Nakayama, Orange, Shiraki, Tanaka, Weinstein. Holtrop was administered the Oath of Office by NA Richardson.

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – Ofc. Jason Hendricks:

- Introduced Actg. Lt. Howard Ishida and highlighted on the monthly statistic report with area break downs and comparisons for July and August. It indicated a slight drop, possibly due to a notice of increased or saturation patrol efforts to deter crime in designated areas.
- Also included was the District 7 website information: www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7 which is updated daily, and a listing of contact telephone numbers.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. The saturated police patrol varies in different areas of (upper and lower) Palolo Valley, and involves uniformed officers in blue and white police vehicles.
2. UEMV's are noticed to occur mostly in the late evenings or early morning hours, and burglaries have no actual trend locations or hours, and striking different areas randomly.
3. A lower Palolo resident reported being robbed while at home and is concerned that the saturation patrol efforts are not working effectively. She asked what else HPD is doing to promote awareness within the community. Hendricks noted that the saturation program is always work-in progress, and the community is encouraged to utilize District 7's website: www.honolulupd.org/patrol/d7 for updates highlights or call 911.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Fire Fighter Bradley Chong reported:

- 20 medical and 2 miscellaneous alarms; and no major or unusual incidents were reported.
- Fire Safety Tip: 1) Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire on October 8-10, 1871. On the 40th anniversary of that fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America decided that anniversary should be observed nationally to inform the public about the importance of fire prevention. Since 1992,



FPW has been observed the week of October 9. 2) The National Fire Protection Association has selected "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!" as the theme for FPW on October 5 -11, 2008. Did you know that most fire injuries and fatalities are caused by fires that occur in our homes?

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. A full crew at Palolo Fire Station consists of five fire fighters or a minimum of four; working ten shifts per month, a total of three watches rotating 24 hours from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m. the following morning.
2. Shiraki asked if the air conditioning unit had been installed in the kitchen. Chong replied it had not.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – No representative was present; no report was available.

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) – Darlene Nakayama reporting for E. Scanlan, Director, HCAP, Leahi District:

- Continued its case management efforts to provide employment services, emergency rental, electric assistance, provisions of food and basic necessities.
- Assisted 13 families through referrals to obtain financial assistance.
- Worked with Palolo Lion's Club on a food drive to help replenish St. Patrick Pantry to provide emergency food to families and individuals, and the homeless population in areas such as Kakaako, Ala Moana Park, and the Waikiki/Kapiolani Park.
- Developed a partnership with Mutual Assistance Association Center on implementing programs to help families become self reliant and providing educational programs on budgeting, nutritional education, employment readiness, and domestic violence awareness.
- Developed a partnership with the Youth Council Program to develop and implement activities to teach skill building experience in leadership.
- Is involved in a beautification project of painting and tree planting on Saturday, September 13.

Palolo District Parks Activities: Chair Orange announced activity program updates:

- The Fall Program began September 8 and runs through November 29, 2008.
- Kaimuki Halloween Costume Contest is on Friday, October 24, 2008, 6 p.m. at Kaimuki Park.
- Celebrate Kaimuki Kanikapila, Saturday, November 1, 2008, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kaimuki Park.
- Kaimuki's Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting will be Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.
- Palolo Pool's swim program registration is September 16 and 17.

Nakayama announced that the Parks Department said the warmers for the pool should be coming sometime this month and should be installed by the middle or end of November.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Martin Okabe announced having been away on business the past three months working on the H-Power expansion, and proceeded to respond to concerns from previous:

- Timing of the Pedestrian Crossing Signal Light – Request to reset the timing of the lights to allow seniors enough time to cross the street. DTS wants to remind everyone that pedestrians can only cross when there is a white man on the traffic signal and if the red hand begins flashing, the pedestrian should continue to cross if already in the cross walk. If you have not entered into the cross walk and the red hand is flashing, do not continue because this is against the law to do so.
- Left turn traffic signal at 10th and Waialae avenues – DTS annually inspects traffic signals and although it understands the concerns of the 10th and Waialae lights, the earliest they can begin work on it is fiscal year 2009.
- Palolo District Park Activities Report – A program flyer for park activities within the Diamond Head Complex, East Honolulu District, has been submitted and can be found at each recreation center. A program flyer will accompany various Mayors' representatives at the beginning of each program period, and the Parks Department is currently considering ways to post this information on the DPR website.
- Sidewalk and repaving update on 9th and 10th avenues – The Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) has completed the intended sidewalk repair work on 10th Avenue. No additional in-house projects are scheduled at this time. There may be ADA ramps being installed by a private contractor in the area.
- Timeline when Palolo Avenue repaving will be completed (and other streets in Palolo area) – The entire length of Palolo Avenue, from Waialae to 10th avenues, has been programmed to be resurfaced by contract as part of a larger rehabilitation of street projects. The contract documents are in the design stage and the project is tentatively scheduled to be advertised for bids from interested contractors by mid 2009.

The actual date when the resurfacing work will commence has not been determined at this time. Other roadways in the Palolo area identified as in need of resurfacing will be programmed for contract resurfacing as funds become available. The Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) will continue to patch potholes and provide minor pavement repairs as needed until the roadways are resurfaced.

- Air conditioning unit for Palolo Fire Station – These types of requests are normally submitted annually through the HFD Stations Improvement Budget Request process; and prioritized Department wide. It is likely at the time the request was made, it was deemed not high in priority and could have been delayed until a larger renovation of the station is scheduled. In the last two budget years, station personnel have not requested the installation of an air conditioning unit in the Kitchen/Day room area.
- Request for information from DTS regarding a traffic solution from July – There was no contact information of the resident who suggested the solution to a traffic situation at Waialae and 4th avenues. Board member Greg Hutchings was referred to assist with the follow-up.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. 7th and Waialae Avenue is one such example where the timing of pedestrian crossing is okay; and the Traffic Control division controls all the crosswalks on the island. Questions were raised and research was requested on: whether there is a minimum crossing time for the crosswalks; what are the standards; and whether DTS is changing the timing of the crosswalk signal. Another comment suggested possibly a timing change during peak hours.
2. A resident expressed concern about the overgrowth on the curbs where 10th and Palolo Avenue circles at the back of the valley, and also, on Palolo Avenue, makai ewa corner, of Jarrett Middle School. There has been unsightly trash dumped on the curbside that has not been picked up for a while. Perhaps Road Maintenance should be contacted to look at Waiomao and 10th Avenue next to the Bahai Center where illegal dumping had been spotted. Okabe suggested when the situation occurs, the best solution is to get the license plate numbers of the culprits and call HPD or report this to David Shiraishi with the Department of Environmental Services, Refuse Collection Division.
3. A resident expressed seeing this form of illegal dumping on La'i Road and had called HPD, but they said they did not see anything to verify this. Okabe suggested bringing this up with HPD, and that assisting with get a license plate number could be helpful as well. If more people report these incidents and the same license plates are behind this, it will be easier to prosecute.
4. The comment that residents on Oahu are spoiled with getting curbside trash pickups was not well received; the resident felt strongly that these services are provided through Oahu's taxpayer dollars.
5. Referring to the left turn signal light at 10th and Waialae avenues, Shiraki mentioned word that there is a possibility of installation by the end of this year.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – distributed her monthly report and highlighted the following:

- 5th Annual Community Clean-up – Will be held on October 11, 2008 from 8 am – 2 pm at the Kaimuki High School parking lot. She urged people to save their recyclable waste for this date as it will benefit Kaimuki High School, Kapahulu Center, and Moiliili Community Center.
- Annual Discover Mo'ili'ili Festival – Saturday, October 4, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Stadium Park. Join area elected officials in supporting the Mo'ili'ili community for food, arts and crafts, entertainment and keiki activities.

Representative Calvin Say – distributed his monthly report and highlighted:

- A concern from a resident sent a letter to Rep. Say about an individual who is cutting swath over the past few months in the La'i Road area that can be seen from the Carlos Long area. He was also concerned that this will cause problems with erosion should there be a major rain and that he was simply removing non-native species from his land and not violating any rules. Another resident suggested they refer this person to the building department. Some invasive species (plants and trees included) can actually be more harmful since they actually cause erosion.

Senator Les Ihara – No representative was present at this time.

Governor's Report – Sandi Yahiro distributed the Governor's Neighborhood Update and followed up on previous concerns:

- Whether dogs are allowed on state property – The response from Clayton Fujii of the Department of Education that schools do not promote dogs on campus but there is no state law on record.
- Reminded residents of Hawaii that those who did not file their 2007 fed tax return should do so by October 15, 2008 to get their stimulus.

A comment followed requesting that the Governor to support the Hawaii Superferry going to Kauai.

RESIDENT'S ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Dead Pig Carcass – Chair Orange was in conversation with a Lai Road resident, about the ongoing dumping issue, which has recently included dead pig carcasses and is now a health concern. The resident is already in contact with officials, and would like the Board to help get the word out that this happening in the valley.

Ugly School Fence at Jarrett Intermediate School – Traver Carroll shared a letter from Jack Gillmar, Lai Road resident, about the ugly six-foot high school fence on Palolo Avenue and Kalua Road between the school and the recreation center. The school principal indicated that the fence is there to keep cars from driving on the grass and that there are plans to extend the fence along Kalua Road, when money is available.

Totally Against Graffiti Event – Ron Lockwood announced and invited everyone to join the students of Kaimuki High School to this graffiti event on Saturday, September 27, 2008, from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Prince Kuhio School.

Good Neighbor Meeting – Tina Yamamoto, of Chaminade University, invited its neighbors to a “Good Neighbor” meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2008, 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Saint Louis School Cafeteria, Tredtin Hall, 3140 Waiialae Avenue. For more information, call 735-0497 or email kryan@chaminade.edu.

Fence next to Palolo Elementary School – Greg Pentecost received concerns from residents of Kiwila Street a notice of more break-ins and an increase of people traversing through private property along a break in the fence line and wondered whether something can be done to make that area more deterrent.

Candidate Night Forum – Hayes announced and invited all to attend the Palolo's Candidate Forum night on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. Candidates will include candidates running in the Mayor's race and the Board of Education. Acknowledgement was given to Julia Allen, in the audience, running for the House of Representatives.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update – No update.

Letter of Commendation to Principal Silberstein – Chair Orange read into the minutes a letter of commendation for Principal Silberstein for being nominated to represent Hawaii as the National Distinguished Principal. Hearing no objections or amendments to the context of the letter, it will be forwarded to Principal Silberstein.

In addition, Carroll commented and suggested recognizing Jarrett Middle School for their accomplishments as well; Chair Orange was open to that request as well; no objections followed.

Letter of Commendation for Palolo Pride – Chair Orange read into the minutes a letter of commendation to the Palolo Pride Planning Committee for the organization and successful Palolo Pride event. Discussion followed requesting that the letter be addressed to include the Co-Chairs and the Planning Committee. There were no objections to the inclusion; the letter will be forwarded as amended.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

Conference of Chairs Report – Chair Orange attended and represented Palolo Neighborhood Board at the Conference of Chairs meeting on Saturday, August 23, 2008 at the Ala Wai Clubhouse. Neighborhood board chairs were invited to participate and dialogue on issues relating to issues such as Sunshine Law and the impacts of Act 153, the Neighborhood Plan, Order and Decorum issues, etc.

Neighborhood Board Election Resolution – Chair Orange offered the opportunity to present a resolution on this topic since it was brought up at the last meeting. No motion was made.

The agenda went back to order to ELECTED OFFICIALS, Senator Ihara.

Senator Les Ihara – Senator Ihara arrived and was open to questions from the audience; no questions followed.

Stop Rail Now – John Brizdle presented that:

- Rail is too expensive.
- Rail will worsen the congestion, according to the city's own studies, does nothing.
- Rail is not energy efficient, ugly and not green.
- There are better and cheaper alternatives.
- Rail is a political problem, not a transportation problem.

Go Rail Go – Ken Wong presented that:

- The rail would relieve traffic congestion.
- Hawaii is number one in the nation in rush hour traffic congestion.
- Hot Lanes don't work, and are 25% larger than a regular lane, and would not work for buses because when exiting the Hot Lane, there is no room for them to go. There is a combination of toll roads and bus ways.
- Half a percent tax cannot be used for anything else; \$900 million in Federal funds will be allocated.
- Reduces pollution and is good for the environment.
- Gas prices will keep going up and estimated to be as high as \$6.00 in a year and a half.

The discussion continued at length as this issue was debated by both sides questioning the facts and statistics, and whether rail or HOT lanes would increase or decrease traffic congestion, and the impacts it would have on the local economy.

CHAIR'S REPORT, MAIL & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Orange highlighted the following:

- Office of Elections is seeking Precinct Officials to assist voters in your community on Saturday, September 20, 2008 and Tuesday, November 4, 2008. Please contact Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683), ask for Precinct Operations, or sign-up online at www.hawaii.gov/elections; stipend provided.
- Video of NB meetings is available online, see <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco/>
- 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
- Bulky Trash Pick-Up: Take out by the morning of Sept 17, 2008 (3rd Weds of every month).
- Contact Rachel Orange at rachel.orange@hawaii.edu with agenda item requests

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2008: The August 13, 2008 meeting minutes was approved with the following amendment; no objections followed:

- Page 1, under Members Present should reflect that Board member Greg Pentecost was present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Weinstein reported the current state of the Boards budget which reflected expenses for facility rental (\$88.64 for July/August), printing and posting costs for agendas/minutes (\$31.27 for July), and payment for Palolo Pride (\$75.00); videotaping for August was not reflected; and no expenses reflected in the Refreshment Account. Hearing no objections, the Treasurer's report was accepted for filing.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Marie Richardson
Neighborhood Assistant