



PALOLO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 6

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rachel Orange called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm; a quorum was present with 10 of 13 members. Chair Orange welcomed everyone and offered refreshments and snacks for tonight.

Members Present – Chris Bennett, Traver Carroll, Tom Eisen, Paul Holtrop, Greg Hutchings, Darlene Nakayama, Rachel Orange, Greg Pentecost, Earl Shiraki, Dawn Tanaka, Michael Weinstein.

Members Absent – Gladys Gerlich-Hayes.

Guests – Stephen Maybir (Honolulu Community Action Program), Anna Bower, James Nekota (Palolo Council), Bryan Gallagher (Board of Water Supply), Joanna Auiga, Sina Auiga, Keefelynn Aipia, Sandi Yahiro (Governor's Representative), Ma Atiga, Capt. Stuart Minchen (Honolulu Fire Department), Evan Tector, Julia Allen, D Synan, Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Stacia Baek, Representative Calvin Say, Martin Okabe (Mayor's Representative), other guest who did not sign in, Marie Richardson (Neighborhood Commission Office).

BOARD VACANCIES: There was no interest from the public to fill the vacancy in Sub district 3 (encompassing Pakui Street, Pukele Avenue and Kalua Road). The Chair asked tonight's audience and Olelo viewers to spread the word to anyone living in this sub district. Should you have any questions regarding the sub district boundaries, contact the Neighborhood Commission Office at 768-3710.

CITY SERVICES:

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – No report.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Capt. Stuart Minchen reported: 1) No concerns to report on from the previous month. 2) There was 1 structure, 0 wildland, 0 rubbish, 1 vehicle fire, 22 medical, 0 search/rescue, 6 miscellaneous emergencies and no major or unusual incidents. 3) Safety Tip: a) Dried Christmas trees, wreaths, and other natural decorations are extremely flammable. So, consider removing them as soon as possible and recycling your tree. b) Leave the fireworks to the pyrotechnic professionals offered by various communities on New Year's Eve. c) Residual fireworks are potential fire hazards. For safe disposal, call 911 and an officer will be dispatched to help collect your unused fireworks.

Questions, comments and concerns: 1) As compared to the past, fewer fireworks permits were issued this year. 2) Capt. Minchen said fireworks noise is heard often in the valley. HFD's approach is from a reactive stand point, whereas HPD's approach is more from a proactive standpoint. 3) It is the belief that due to recent budget cuts, HFD is taking a harder look at request such as the air conditioning or other types of devices at this time.

Board of Water Supply (BWS) – Bryan Gallagher reported: 1) No main breaks reported for December 2008. 2) General Water Announcements: a) The new 2009 Water Conservation Calendar is out. This year's theme is "Makamae Ka Wai (Precious is the water)...use it wisely. Calendars are available in the lobby at BWS Beretania location or at BWS website at www.boardofwatersupply.com. b) The 31st annual poster contest was launched and opened to students, K thru 6th grade, and a brand new poetry contest, opened to student's, grades 7-12. This year's theme for both contests is "Ola I Ka Wai – Water Gives Life." The winning and honorable mention posters and poems will be used in the 2010 Water Conservation Calendar. The contest deadline is Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Entry packets are available at BWS Beretania Street headquarters, at all satellite city halls and at www.boardofwatersupply.com. c) Calendars and the entry packets were made available at the sign-in table. d) BWS and all of their employees and family would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. 3) Follow-ups: 1) Drainage issue at Holomua Place – The site was investigated and saw that the water had detergent in it which indicated that it is not a BWS leak or issue. The matter was forwarded to Environmental Services for follow-up. BWS does have steel plates there and are monitoring the drainage. 2) Water Service back in the Valley – Those resident's are encouraged to come in and request connection to the BWS system. 3) Fire Hydrant on



Waiomao Road – BWS is aware the fire hydrant is not working and a work order has been submitted to fix the hydrant.

Questions, comments and concerns: 1) A status report was requested for the BWS project at the end of Waiomao Road. Gallagher was not certain of a BWS project there, but will look into it. 2) Gallagher explained that the detergent issue could have originated from a number of sources such as surface runoff from the roads, etc. Martin Okabe will report the follow-up.

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) – Steven Maybir reported: 1) HCAP celebrated the grand opening of the Learning Center in November 2008. 2) The next HCAP meeting is Tuesday, December 16, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. 3) This year, HCAP will be working with the Toys for Tots effort, December 20, 2008. 4) Anyone in need of services should call HCAP 732-7755 for applications and job opportunities. 5) December 4, 2008, the Kaimuki Christmas Parade was a huge success. 6) Everyone including HCAP are going through budget cuts; please contact them if you wish to volunteer your time and service.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor's Report – Martin Okabe reported: 1) Water seepage at 2416 Holomua Place – The Department of facilities Maintenance (DFM) cannot determine the origin of the water seepage. It appears to be coming from the abutting property; however, abutting property owners allege the source is from the Palolo Chinese Home (PCH), at the rear of their properties. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) investigated improvements to mitigate the seepage. However, DDC were informed by PCH was considering installation of a French drain system at the border to minimize the water seepage. A timetable for improvements has not been provided, and repairs to the pavement will follow the completion of the drain. Environmental Services was able to find the seepage to take a sample; and the ENV laboratory confirmed it was not sewage, and therefore not coming from the sewer system.

2) Left turn signal at 10th and Waiialae avenues – As reported previously, the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) annually evaluates priority of these types of traffic signal installation and modification due to funding limitations. DTS understands the safety concerns of the motorist and pedestrians however, due to other signal priorities, the earliest DTS can schedule installation is FY09.

3) Repaving of Palolo Avenue – The entire length of Palolo Avenue, from Waiialae Avenue to 10th Avenue, has been programmed for resurfacing by contract as part of a larger Rehabilitation of Streets, Phase 4 project. The date when resurfacing work will commence has not been determined at this time. The project will be administered by DDC and contract documents are in the design stage. DDC has informed DFM that the project is tentatively scheduled to be advertised for bids from interested contractors in mid 2009; contact DDC for additional information regarding the status. Meanwhile, the Division of Road Maintenance (DRM) will continue to patch potholes and provide minor pavement repairs, as needed, until Palolo Avenue is resurfaced.

4) Fire hydrant on 2296 Waiomao Road – Residents may call 748-5010 to report broken mains and fire hydrants. Community representative Moani Wright Van-Alst has been informed of the situation.

5) Resurfacing of 8th Avenue – The entire length of 8th Avenue, from Alohea Street to Pukele Avenue, has been identified in need for resurfacing and will be programmed for resurfacing by contract pending availability of funds or by DRM in-house resurfacing crew pending availability of resources. The actual date when the work will be done has not been determined at this time. Resurfacing will also depend on clearances for possible conflicts with planned underground utility projects. Meanwhile, DRM will continue to patch potholes and provide minor pavement repairs, as needed, until 8th Avenue can be resurfaced.

6) Link for complaints on Opala.org website – The Department of Information Technology (DIT) thanked for the notification and has taken corrective action on the website.

Questions, comments and concerns: 1) A comment that all the roads in Palolo are bad and the request was for an overall master plan for the Palolo area. Okabe would check if there rehabilitation/resurfacing plan exist for Palolo; especially noted in poor condition was 9th Avenue and Waiomao Road. 2) Okabe reiterated on the left turn signal at Waiialae and 10th Avenue is on the books for FY 2009. However, the Board is requesting more specifics about the project. 3) There was a request for more information of the Palolo Avenue repaving project (Phase 4) or a time frame when the work will commence. 4) A suggestion was to better smooth over the patch work when patching potholes; Okabe acknowledged that perhaps tamping down the patch could be done better. 5) A previous report acknowledged that Waiomao Road is bad and that DFM is working with DDC. Meanwhile first aid repairs will be

done, but the question was when it is scheduled to commence. 6) A question was is there a purpose for the dips on both sides crossing over Waiialae at 8th Avenue and is it necessary. Okabe indicated that these dips are used mostly for drainage and although there are other solutions, it is more costly and whether those funds are available.

7) Relating to the left turn traffic signal at 10th and Waiialae avenues, budgeted for FY 2009, the question was whether there are dangers of the project not happening. Okabe noted that the project is scheduled for this year; and has emailed the department for specifics on the project. 8) It was last reported that DFM is working with DDC and acknowledging that the Waiomao Road conditions are poor, and is being scheduled for in-house first aid repairs. The question was when those first aid repairs are going to happen; and the area of concern, is 2660 Waiomao Road.

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi – Shiraki wanted to first thank Councilmember Kobayashi for representing Council District 5. Councilmember Kobayashi distributed her monthly report and highlighted: 1) The last Council meeting was December 3. There will be some reorganization come next year, and Councilmember Todd Apo has been named the new Council Chair to replace Councilmember Marshall. 2) Next month as a public citizen, she looks forward to continual service to the public, carrying on the values instilled by her parents. 3) December 3, a resolution was introduced to ban text messaging. HPD is not willing to testify for or against, for there are other problems besides cell phones. So, further discussion is anticipated. 4) There was also discussion whether to remove some language of an ordinance dealing Public Transit. The Councilmember voted against removing the language for it would have allowed more public input.

Questions, comments and concerns: 1) Councilmember Kobayashi noted that there are more bans against plastic bags, and Safeway Store has container units to collect your plastic bags. She will be following this piece of legislation. 2) A strong comment expressed the necessity to ban cell phone use in cars. There are many dangerous incidents and near misses, and text messaging is even more dangerous.

Chair Orange said Senator Les Ihara is out of town and Representative Say will give his report upon arrival.

Governor's Report – Sandy Yahiro presented the Governor's Administrative Five-Point Economic Action Plan: 1) Increased tourism outreach and marketing; investing in improvements to our infrastructure and state facilities; lowering business fees and providing tax relief; attracting private investment, especially in energy and technology; and maximizing federal dollars and partnerships. 2) Yahiro also attended the open house of the learning center on behalf of the Governor; which she found neat and interesting. 3) Follow-ups to previous concerns: a) why the Hawaii Tourism Authority not do more for the presidential inauguration. In response, the Hawaii Visitors Bureau coordinated with Punahou Schools because they have been chosen to represent the state. b) Why the state does not turn the large empty building near Best Buy on Iwilei into a homeless shelter. In response, the Department of Transportation believes the structure referring to is the Pier 35 warehouse and used by Honolulu Shipyard. Although it may appear vacant, there are other tenants who occupy further back of the warehouse and part of the second floor. The property is slated for the University of Hawaii when they are relocated as part of the Harbors Modernization Plan, and therefore not an option.

Questions, comments and concerns: 1) Regarding the Pier 35 warehouse, Nekota said the report given was on the wrong building. Yahiro asked that a more specific location or exact address be submitted. Chair Orange will forward the information to Yahiro. 2) A question was whether the Governor and Lt. Governor, while on their trips, tried working with the airline industry because of the 30% cut of seats coming to Hawaii which is a big impact. Yahiro said efforts were made while on their second trips (Korea), each had more than one meeting with various airlines to permit additional flights and/or seating. 3) In response to the question when both the Governor and Lt. Governor are both out of town at the same time and something happens, who is in charge. The reply was the Attorney General is then the Acting Governor. 4) A question was whether the document (item 4) about attracting private investment in energy and technology, is available on the website for perusal and is it a done deal or are there aspects of the initiative open for public input. Yahiro will have to check.

Representative Calvin Say – Representative Say wished all Happy Holidays, distributed the Hawaii Digital TV Transition and reported on the following community concerns: 1) a number of stealing in the 1900 block of 10th Avenue; 2) a complaint of people popping fireworks in the open area near the intersection of New Jersey and Kalua Street during the evenings; and a recurring battle with the number of feral chickens in the neighborhood which Rep Say has referred to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Questions, comments and concerns followed: 1) The majority package for the State House should be completed by the first or second week of January. 2) A major issue affecting everyone is the global meltdown;

the concerns that are happening statewide and the signals that our global economy is not functioning properly. The Legislature is preparing to address those concerns affecting our local communities and future generations. 3) Representative Morita, Chair of the Energy Committee, played a part in coming up and coordinating a policy with the Governor and federal government on the clean energy initiative. 4) Rep. Say emphasized the need to look sustainability and energy alternatives.

RESIDENTS' ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Jarrett Middle School 2009 Budget Cuts – Steve Maybir reported that the 2009 projected budget cut is \$200,000 and includes two line cuts of a counselor and a librarian/video production teacher; and a slash in supplies/materials budget to prevent further line cuts. Ways you can help your school – by assisting in support roles on campus, attending monthly School Community Council meetings, and volunteering your time if you have a skill and are willing to volunteer. Ways you can help in your community – by volunteering, staying informed, continuing to ask questions and being involved, adopt the “village” mindset, continued vigilance and promote awareness to recognize drug abuse, etc. A question was whether the cut included the 20% mandated by the Governor; Maybir will have to find out.

Fireworks Concern – Chair Orange had a long conversation with a resident, who is keeping a log about fireworks and how they go off all the time. This is a plea to realize how it is affecting your neighbors and pets, and to cease and desist.

Speeding Concern on 10th Avenue – A concern that the 2100 block of 10th Avenue, had four accidents within the last year. Though there were no fatalities yet, it is getting very dangerous. Motorists are racing to get out of the valley and are not paying attention. A reminder is that this is a school zone and caution should be exercised. A suggestion encouraged City Council support to request CIP funding to assist with such measures as signage, speed bumps, rumble strips, enforcement, etc. The traffic calming measures installed on 10th Avenue is said to be a death trap.

OLD/OTHER BUSINESS:

Skate Park Update – No update.

NEW BUSINESS/PRESENTATIONS:

Roots Rhythm Foundation (RRF) – Chair Orange announced that Matthew Ing was unable to attend tonight's meeting, but sent an email which she read in part introducing this not-for-profit organization using music for a positive social change. RRF will be staffing Palolo Elementary School's ukulele program for third and fourth graders during the 2009 Spring semester. The curriculum is part of the “Plant a Seed” program that offers support for music programs in Hawaii's public schools during a time when music programs are being cut from school budgets.

The program has been laid out but there is a need for a few more volunteers to give one or two hours a week (Tuesdays and/or Fridays, 1 to 2 pm) next semester. If interested, call Mathew Ing, Chief Executive Officer, Roots Rhythm Foundation at 808-463-0868 or email matthewi@rootsrhythm.org.

B&B/TVU Resolution – Shiraki noted that the City Council approved 1,000 permits in Kailua to operate B&B/TVU rentals and asked Board consideration to support a resolution banning any B&B/TVU rentals in Palolo Valley to keep it residential. Councilmember Kobayashi added that discussion of Bill 6 is ongoing and many neighborhood boards introduced resolutions to keep their residential neighborhoods residential.

Discussion ensued with whether a problem exists in Palolo. However, Shiraki's idea of considering a resolution is a proactive stance before it becomes a problem. Although Tanaka wanted more information; if it comes to a vote tonight, Weinstein would vote against the resolution; first, to see if there is a problem and secondly, while traveling in Europe in his younger days, it was an inexpensive way of getting a place to stay and meeting good local people. Other concerns included operating commercially in a residential community, arguments that the City had no funding to enforce illegal B&B/TVU's, and it took rentals from local residents. Chair Orange suspended debate tonight and will agenda this item in February with a proposed resolution.

Noise Resolution – Board members had before them two resolutions talking about noise and targeting early mornings such as morning trash collection. This is something that other neighborhood boards had and to see if this might be something that this Board might want to think of perhaps amending the language for this Board's own

purpose. A consensus or thoughts of members would give the Chair an idea whether the topic is of importance at this time or not. She read the resolution regarding early morning trash collection adopted by the McCully-Mo'ili'ili NB No. 8, BE IT RESOLVED, the McCully-Mo'ili'ili NB continues to support the quality of life for it's neighborhood during the early morning hours; BE IT RESOLVED, that this ordinance be adopted to preserve early morning peace for our neighbors and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that refuse companies have all been dumpster bin collection operating within the City & County of Honolulu and shall operate and collect dumpsters only between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Discussion ensued with a thought that there might be a law in place already (6:00 a.m.). A concern mentioned the hours of operation of the landfill and H-Power and transporting time of the refuse companies, also needs to be taken into consideration. The Chair does not recall collection in her area earlier than 7:00 a.m. Tanaka said the issue, occasionally is when the refuse truck is denied access because someone is parked where they shouldn't be and blocking the way which then, causes the driver to blast their horn; so, that in itself is another issue. The general consensus was that it was not something that the Board wanted to take action at this time. The Chair was open to bringing the matter back should that becomes an issue at a later time.

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

- 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 December 17, 2008 (3rd Wednesday of every month).
- The Board will **recess in January. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 11, 2009.**
- Contact Rachel Orange at rachel.orange@hawaii.edu with agenda item requests.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2008: The November 12, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as amended:

- Page 4, Residents' Issues and Concerns, under Prepare for Emergency Conditions, should read, "...the shortage of emergency shelters spaces on Oahu is 100,000 spaces"; delete 1,000 spaces.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The November 2008 report was not available, and deferred to February's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.; there were no objections.

Submitted by

Marie Richardson
Neighborhood Assistant