



## MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2007 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 7:03 p.m., Chair Pro Tem Brandon Mitsuda called the meeting to order with ten members present and introduced the members of the 2007-2009 Manoa Neighborhood Board.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Andersen, Rodney Chun, Eric Eads, Francisco Figueiredo (arrived 7:09), Dwight Jackson, Brandon Mitsuda, George Nakano, Tom Heinrich, Paul Holtrop, Rose Niimoto, and Milton Ragsdale. Seventeen seats, five vacancies -quorum is nine members).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nadine Nishioka.

**GUESTS:** Hubert Minn (Mayor's Representative); Representative Kirk Caldwell; Senator Brian Tanaguchi; Jim Harwood; Larry Reifurth (Governor's Representative); Susan Miyao (Senator Taniguchi's Office staff); Richard Fassler (DBEDT), Kim Fassler (Honolulu Advertiser); Chris Lee; James Deutch; Lt. Lee, Sgt. Egami, Officer Kapaheka; (Honolulu Police Department); Captain Pablo (Honolulu Fire Department); Bryan Mick (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR-** Chair pro tem Mitsuda read the duties of the Chair and opened the floor for nominations. **Nakano nominated Paul Holtrop.** Holtrop said he would accept the nomination. Heinrich spoke in favor of Holtrop and added that he has been very active both in the community and at the State legislature. He added that it is important that the officer positions be filled by younger people who can be mentored by some of the members who have previously served as Board officers.

Francisco Figueiredo (arrived 7:09), eleven members present.

**Chair pro tem Mitsuda declared that Holtrop had been elected Chair by virtue of being the only one nominated.**

Mitsuda yielded the gavel to Chair Holtrop.

**FILLING OF VACANCIES:** The Chair asked if there were any people interested in filling the vacancies. Heinrich explained that Subdistrict one has two vacancies. Two candidates were interested and present at last meeting, but quorum was never achieved. One of the residents, Fred Lee, had his name come up for new kidneys. The surgery went well, and he continues to heal. He still hopes to serve on the Board at some point, but he won't be available for at least six months. The second resident was John Kim, who could not be present tonight. Heinrich hopes he can come to the August meeting and be appointed. Nakano asked if it's possible to appoint someone who is not present. Mick of the Neighborhood Commission office replied it was allowable. Heinrich said Kim would be a great Board member, but added the Board does not have to be in a rush to appoint. Nakano spoke in favor of Kim, and said he a good neighbor, a retired colonel in the Air Force, a retired Iolani School teacher, and very interested in community affairs. The Chair asked if there was a motion to appoint John Kim. **Nakano moved to appoint John Kim to the Board.** Eads spoke in favor of this course of the motion, and pointed out that having one more person already on the Board for the August meeting would increase the chances of achieving quorum.

**John Kim was appointed unanimously to the Board, 11-0-0. (Aye:** Andersen, Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale.)

The chair asked if anyone was interested in filling one of the vacancies in subdistrict four. No one indicated that they were.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD MEETING DAY, PLACE AND TIME:** Heinrich moved that the Manoa Neighborhood Board continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Noelani Elementary School Cafeteria. Nakano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0. (Aye: Andersen, Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale.)

**PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) –** Captain Pablo reported that for June, there was one structure fire, one brush fire on St Louis Heights ridge, one rubbish fire, and one vehicle fire. There were 26 medical emergencies and five miscellaneous calls.

**Fire tip of the month:** Take the time to childproof your home, especially since children are on summer vacation. Check for potentially dangerous situations, i.e., electrical shock, accidental falls, or poisoning from medications, cleaning fluids, and houseplants. Keep matches and lighters in a safe place and out of reach of small children.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Andersen asked if the cause of the fire on the ridge was known, and wondered if the homeless people who live up there were responsible. Captain Pablo said he was not sure, but hikers have reported a concentration of homeless people living on the ridge, so it's likely that a campfire or cigarette from them started the blaze.
- 2) Heinrich commented that this was one of the biggest fires in this area in the last 25 years. He asked if there was a wildfire management plan that includes community based concepts. Pablo replied no, but the Wildlife Forestry Division does have some plans. Heinrich said he asked because he remembers people requesting last year that such a plan be developed. Captain Pablo observed that the Leeward side does have these types of plans in place.
- 3) Mitsuda asked what the proper procedure for drivers to follow when a fire engine is approaching them from behind with their lights on. Captain Pablo said the car should pull over to the right. The Chair added that the Honolulu Advertiser recently had a extensive article on this topic.
- 4) Heinrich commented that future planning in Manoa, such as U.H.'s Long Range development Plan (LRDP) should take into account the possibility of fires by doing such things as identifying areas where the fire helicopter can stage during firefighting operations.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) –** Sgt. Egami distributed his report and added that there were many good tips on preventing and dealing with identity theft attached to the report. For the month of July compared to June, Beat 750 (upper Manoa Ewa) saw burglaries decrease (-3) as well as unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (-3), with an increase in thefts (+2), while Beat 751 (Upper Manoa Diamond Head) saw burglaries remain constant (1), while thefts (-4) and UEMV's (-2), decreased; and Beat 752 (lower Manoa) saw an decrease in burglaries (-3) and thefts (-5), and an increase in UEMV's (+1).

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Andersen mentioned that after hour activity like drinking and skateboarding is occurring in Manoa Valley District Park and wondered if the patrols could drive through the Park every now and then to try and deter this activity. Sgt. Egami said that this would be no problem. Heinrich added that if residents see after hour activity in any Public Park they should call 911 and the police to investigate.

- 2) Mitsuda said that he has been told by residents who walk on Woodlawn, Manoa, and East Manoa Road that drivers are still speeding. They would like to have the speed trailers brought back along with some enforcement exercises. Sgt. Egami explained that some stretches of those roads are not suitable places to place the speed trailers, such as fronting the shopping center and near the Tea Room. It would be possible to place them along other sections though. Officer Kahapea added that trailers can only be situated where there is a minimum amount of room due to safety concerns. Also, the trailers are solar powered, so they cannot be placed beneath trees which Manoa has a lot of. Eads offered them the use of his driveway during the day.

**SELECTION OF FIRST VICE-CHAIR** - The Chair explained that the Board has a first and second vice-Chair with identical duties. He then opened the nominations for First Vice-Chair. **Mitsuda nominated Heinrich.** Andersen commented that he did not like the sheet that Heinrich had passed out to Board members at the last meeting that had suggestions for who to fill what office. He wondered if this constituted a Sunshine law violation. **Andersen nominated Mitsuda.** The Chair said he could understand why Andersen might be uncomfortable with the document that Heinrich had prepared. Heinrich called for a Point of Information. He explained he prepared these notes after talking to every Board member. Sunshine Law allows for this type of discussion. And he added that these were just copies of his notes. Andersen asked if Sunshine law allowed for this. Neighborhood Assistant Mick indicated his understanding was that it was allowable. The Chair asked for the two candidates to each give a speech. Heinrich thanked Mitsuda for the nomination. He said that both Holtrop and himself were interested in serving as Chair. He pointed out that he had served as Chair for eight years previously, as well as vice-chair for two years. He is a regular attendee at the Neighborhood Commission meetings and can mentor the younger board members. Mitsuda said he looked forward to serving the Board and community in any capacity. Andersen commented that the last meeting was in chaos with the failure to achieve quorum, and that Mitsuda had handled it with elegance and grace and explained to everyone what would happen and how. A vote was taken with the following results: (**Heinrich:** Chun, Jackson, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, and Ragsdale **Mitsuda:** Andersen, Figueiredo, Mitsuda, Niimoto, **Abstain:** Eads.) No one was elected First Vice-Chair as 9 votes are required to elect. **Mitsuda withdrew his nomination.** The Chair declared that Heinrich had been elected first vice-chair as the only remaining candidate.

**SELECTION OF SECOND VICE-CHAIR – Andersen nominated Mitsuda. Mitsuda was elected second vice-chair by a vote of 10-0-1. (Mitsuda:** Andersen, Chun, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale. **Abstain:** Eads).

**SELECTION OF SECRETARY – Mitsuda nominated Eads. Eads said he would be willing to serve but encouraged anyone else who was interested to please run as well. Eads was elected Secretary by a vote of 10-0-1. (Mitsuda:** Andersen, Chun, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale. **Abstain:** Eads).

**SELECTION OF TREASURER –** There were no nominations. Heinrich commented that it was desirable for the Board to have one more officer. The issue of how budgets are formed for Neighborhood Boards is a hot topic at the Neighborhood Commission level. **Mitsuda nominated Niimoto. Niimoto was elected by a vote of 10-0-1. (Mitsuda:** Andersen, Chun, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale. **Abstain:** Eads)

**CREATION OF BOARD COMMITTEES – Heinrich moved that the Board form a committee on Planning, Transportation, and Public Safety.** Andersen commented that the title of this committee describes what the Board already does, and felt this committee would be redundant. Heinrich relied that the Board only meets a maximum of 12 times a year and that's not enough time to deal with all the issues. Committees and Permitted Interaction Groups can do some of the legwork and report back to the whole board. **Jackson seconded the motion.** Eads asked if there was any utility to having a certain number of people on a committee. Ragsdale agreed that committees save the Board a lot of time, especially when it comes to deciding who should attend meetings of other entities. Heinrich added that

more than two people should serve on this committee. Mitsuda had earlier indicated he was willing to be the vice-chair of this committee. Other committees can be established at future meetings. **The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1. (Aye:** Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, Ragsdale. **Abstain:** Andersen). Andersen asked if the term Public Safety was part of the committee name since that was not part of the name listed on the agenda. Heinrich said he made his motion based on his notes, not on what was put on the agenda. The Chair appointed Heinrich as Chair of the committee and Mitsuda as the vice-chair. The Chair asked if there were any other motions to form committees. Heinrich said he did not have any right now, but said in the future he would want to form one to deal with videotaping issues.

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2, 2007 MINUTES** – The minutes were adopted unanimously. **11-0-0. (Aye:** Andersen, Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, and Ragsdale).

**COMMUNITY INPUT:**

**COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI** – Councilmember Kobayashi was not present but her report was available on the table.

**MAYOR’S REPORT-** Hubert Minn, Special Advisor, Customer Services Department (CSD), explained that everyone was invited to Saturday’s Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Workshop and a flyer had been distributed with more information earlier. This will be held at Leeward Community college and feature several experts from around the county on TOD as well as a chance for public input. Please disregard the July 6 RSVP deadline on the flyer. The periodic update on transit pamphlet “Honolulu on the move” was available tonight as well. Minn wanted to report back on some previous questions: a) Mitsuda has asked about the replacement of the leptospirosis warning signs, and the Department of Health said they would take care of that very soon. b) Mitsuda had asked about the replacement of a bench near the Pony Field. It has been replaced with a bench made from recycled materials. c) Mitsuda had asked that the effect of wild ducks in the stream be investigated. The Department of Facility Management (DFM) dispatched someone to look into this, they observed eight to ten ducks, and did not observe any damage to the vegetation as a result of the ducks’ presence. They did find a dead wiliwili tree which will be removed.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Andersen asked if the tree had died as a result of wasps. Minn was not sure, but thought that was the likely cause.
- 2) Heinrich commented that he has been talking with Steve Minn from the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) to get the benches along the stream replaced. He added that Senator Tanaguchi’s office has also been getting calls about the feral ducks.
- 3) Mitsuda thanked Minn for the answer tonight and asked if the Board could get an update on Lowery Avenue’s repaving. Minn replied that the bid for that job has been issued. Heinrich added that a recent joint flyer from Councilmember Kobayashi, Representative Caldwell, and Senator Tanaguchi included details about this project, and best case scenarios is that the project will be complete before the end of the year. It also explained that the project cover the side streets around Lowery Avenue.
- 4) Minn provided his contact information as 523-4590 and [hminn@honolulu.gov](mailto:hminn@honolulu.gov) and congratulated the new Board members and new Board officers.

**REPRESENTATIVE KIRK CALDWELL** – Representative Caldwell thanked to Board for their hard work and congratulated the new officers. He mentioned that his newsletter was quite large as it contained information on the Governor’s vetos and the legislature’s subsequent overrides on many of those vetos.

In deciding which ones to override, the overall impact of the bill was taken into consideration. One of the overrides was to provide money to let the sustainabilities group complete its work. It included an accountability section, and allows modifications to the program to be made as it progresses. One was a bill that required advance notice for employees when a company plans to close. Another override was a bill to impose a one dollar fee on containers entering our ports with the money being used to fight invasive species. Another override was to provide money to increase pedestrian safety. The Governor objected to the Highway fund being used to fund this effort, but the legislature felt that was an appropriate source of money.

**SENATOR BRIAN TANAGUCHI** – Senator Tanaguchi congratulated the Board officers and thanked everyone for their service. His office has investigated the feral ducks and counted 40-60 of them in the valley. People complain that they are noisy at night. His tip of the month is ‘Don’t feed the ducks.’ Some of them are Koloa, some are mallards, and some are mixes of the two. Since the Koloa’s are protected, their presence makes it hard to do anything about the population. A bill on honey labeling was vetoed by the Governor. He had worked on this bill for over two years and was surprised by the veto. It would have created a labeling system for honey to certify that it was made here in Hawaii, sort of like Kona Coffee. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) had been consulted during the drafting of this bill. The word is that the Attorney General had some Constitutional worries about this bill in relation the free flow of commerce. The bill will be revisited next year, and the problem with the mites attacking the Bee’s on Oahu can be addressed as well. His contact information is 586-6460 and [sentanaguchi@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentanaguchi@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Questions, answers, and comments:

Andersen asked if the flower population will be threatened if the bee population declines. Senator Tanaguchi said that is likely since the bees do a lot of the pollination. He added that the DOA has been given money to fight the mites that attack the bees, and they hope to prevent the mites from spreading to the Big Island where the majority of the honey producing bees in Hawaii are located. Andersen replied that the bill only addressed labeling issues and should have addressed threats to the overall ecosystem. He would like to know if someone will be advocating for a study on this. Senator Tanaguchi responded that DOA already has. Representative Caldwell pointed out that this bill was drafted before the problem with the mites was known, so that can be addressed in future legislation. Former Board member Harwood explained that the mites do not kill the bees, but they make it impossible for the bee keepers to use miticide and still use an organic label. He also wonders about the ecology of the ducks on Manoa and if there are any positive benefits to their presence. He hopes a study is done before any action is taken against them. Tanaguchi apologized for talking so much about the ‘birds and the bees.’

**GOVERNOR’S REPORT** – Larry Reifurth, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), distributed the Governor’s newsletter. He wanted to bid a fond goodbye to Senator Tanaguchi who is moving to the Senate Judiciary Committee and off of the committee that DCCA deals with primarily and wishes him good luck with his new assignment. The Governor vetoed twenty seven bills, eleven of which were eventually overridden. She made some tough decisions on which bills to veto. Two bills which DCCA opposed were had their vetos sustained. Reifurth received a call from a resident who said they heard gunfire above their property. At first the Department of Land and Natural Resources was skeptical. Then it happened again, and HPD was called. Predictably, an argument ensued as to whose land the gunfire was coming from, the State’s or City’s.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Heinrich commented that there are lots of jurisdictional issues in the valley, and things like the recent brushfire shows that they need to be proactively addressed. He suggested the Board take up some resolutions on this topic at a later time.

- 2) Andersen commented that there is still a lot of talk about what will happen with Olelo and if another organization will be taking it over. He asked if there was any new information about it. Reifurth replied that the cable advisory committee meets tomorrow. The Request For Proposals (RFP) has not yet been issued; the end of the month is the likely time frame. He was not sure of the schedule in the RFP – there are separate contracts for the four counties. Andersen asked if whatever takes over will resemble Olelo. Reifurth said yes, the RFP will require whoever bids to provide the same service that Olelo currently provides to the communities.

**SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON KAMANELE PARK** – Heinrich mentioned that these updates had been supplied by Board member Pearson who chose to not run for the Board again. He is interested in taking over and following up with the Board of Water Supply and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Pearson’s last report indicated the Park clean-up should be done by the end of this month. Andersen said that Kamanele Park is a contraction of the name of the Princess for whom the Park is named, and the Board and community ought to use the Park’s full name when talking about it. The Chair asked if Andersen knew the full name. He replied he was not sure. The Chair appointed Heinrich to be responsible for providing the Board with updates on Kamanele Park.

**UPDATE ON MANOA LIBRARY-** Heinrich reported that the Legislature has previously adopted a bill requesting the Department of Education (DOE) to identify what site would serve for the relocation of Manoa Library during its two year reconstruction. It also suggested that the DOE place two portable classrooms at Noelani Elementary to serve as the temporary location of the library during the reconstruction and that those classrooms be given to Noelani once the Library is able to move into their permanent home. This year’s budget included \$600,000 for those portables as well as \$1.3 million for the renovation efforts. Heinrich said he would meet with the librarian and try to plan the date for the next community meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**CUP FOR GROUP LIVING FACILITIES (FOR STUDENT HOUSING) UNDER SECTION 21-5.290 LUO** – The applicants were not in attendance. Neighborhood Assistant Mick mentioned that they were present at last month’s meeting, but unable to give their presentation as the Board failed to achieve quorum. It is his understanding that their effort may have satisfied one of their requirements to obtain the permit. Andersen asked if someone could find out the status of the permit. Mick said he would follow up. Heinrich added that if it was for a CUP major there would still have to be a public hearing where people could give testimony.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE AS DELEGATE TO UH LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND ALTERNATE** – Heinrich, Andersen, and Mitsuda all indicated they were interested in filling these slots. Andersen said he was an alumnus and was interested in all aspects of the University, such as how taxpayer money gets spent, the curriculum, etc. Heinrich said that this committee focuses on the campus master plan and the curriculum discussion is often absent. He served as the first Board representative to the LRDP back in 2003. The LRDP was dormant for a while, and it’s great it is being reactivated. They will be looking at two main areas, pending permits as it relates to the City, and future plans for the Manoa campus. Mitsuda said he was interested since Manoa is such a large part of Manoa valley. Students at UH participate in, and park in, Manoa all the time, and any future construction on campus will have a large impact on Manoa. **The Chair appointed Heinrich as the delegate and Mitsuda and Andersen as alternates.** Heinrich thanked Andersen for his previous work on Lyon Arboretum. Former Board member Harwood congratulated the delegates and alternates and asked that they please make sure the notions of sustainability and conservation are part of the LRDP discussions as these concepts are easily lost sometimes.

**TREASURER REPORT** – Niimoto reported that there for June, the last year in Fiscal Year 2007, \$10.04 was spent to print the agendas and minutes, \$42.23 was spent to mail them, and \$52.38 was paid to the

videographer. The Board ended the fiscal year with \$769.77 remaining in its allotted budget. For the current fiscal year, \$4,703 has been allotted to cover operating and publicity expenses. Andersen asked why the Board paid the videographer in June when the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The Chair explained there was still a fee if the videographer sets up and then the meeting is cancelled. Ivonne Cardones from Makakilo.com explained that the NCO allows for a 20 percent of the payment to be paid out in situation such as June's. Heinrich mentioned that the last month's mail out included copies of the DF-71 agreement the NCO uses to contract videographers, and item number 9 in it allows for a 25 percent fee to be paid out if the videographer is not given at least three hours notice of a cancellation. Andersen asked if the contract requires the archiving of the meeting tapes. Cardones said it does not, but when a copy of the disc was offered to the NCO they declined it. Heinrich added that Commissioner Ching often brings this issue up at commission meetings, and he is sure it will be discussed at future commission meetings. The Chair asked if there was a motion for the Board to contract makakilo.com to film the future board meetings. Heinrich commented that the NCO is responsible for advertising the bids for this contract, and he thinks they should be the ones to actually select the vendor. Neighborhood Assistant Mick said the NCO believes the selection of the vendor is a Board responsibility. Heinrich moved **"The Manoa Neighborhood Board appropriates the necessary funds from its publicity account to provide for videotaping of its regular meetings thru the December Board meeting."** Mitsuda seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. 11-0-0. (Aye: Andersen, Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Heinrich, Holtrop, Niimoto, and Ragsdale).

#### OTHER BOARD ISSUES:

- a) Heinrich said he would put together a tentative Board calendar to look at possible recesses and conflicts thru May 2009 soon.
- b) The Chair asked all Board members to get their contact information to Mick and to indicate what they would like posted on the website. Former member Hardwood warned that if you allow your e-mail to get posted, spammers will pick up on it and send you lots of junk mail. The Chair advocated members setting up an e-mail account used strictly for Board business so you can protect your primary e-mail account from spammers.
- c) Andersen asked Mick if it was the NCO still made business cards for Board members. Mick replied that they do, and order forms were included in the black folders that were distributed previously to Board members. An e-mail request can also be sent.
- d) Heinrich announced that they Neighborhood Board Audit task force set up by City Council meets every other Monday (July 16 and 30) at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council's Honolulu Hale committee meeting room, second floor.
- e) Heinrich announced that the next Neighborhood Commission meeting has not been scheduled, but late July or early August is likely. He explained that the Commission oversees the Neighborhood Plan and the system, but City employees such as Mick report to the Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission Office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bryan Mick, Neighborhood Commission Office Staff