



MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:06 p.m., Chair Paul Holtrop called the meeting to order with ten members present and introduced the members of the Manoa Neighborhood Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Chun, Eric Eads, Tom Heinrich, Paul Holtrop, Dwight Jackson, Brandon Mitsuda, George Nakano, Rose Niimoto, Nadine Nishioka and Glen Tanaka. (Seventeen seats, two vacancies. Quorum is nine members).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Andersen, Francisco Figueiredo, John Kim, Milton Ragsdale, and Nathan Say.

GUESTS: Larry Reifurth (Governor's Representative); Lt. Egami (Honolulu Police Department); Jim Manke (University of Hawaii); Representative Kirk Caldwell; Councilmember Ann Kobayashi; Hubert Minn (Department of Customer Services); Patricia Johnson (Hawaii Bicycling League); Art Kurosu; Cori Hiraki; Bob Kern; Grace Furukawa; Captain John Whalen (Honolulu Fire Department); Bryan Mick (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF VACANCIES: The Chair asked if there were any persons interested in filling any of the two vacancies in Subdistrict IV. No one was. Heinrich said he had one inquiry from a resident, but unfortunately they lived on the wrong side of the road. An audience member asked if people living in the University dorms are eligible. Holtrop said that the on campus dorms do fall within the board boundaries.

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Captain Whalen reported for the month of April, there were only medical responses except for one car accident.

Fire Safety Tip: The risk of wild land fires increases as summer approaches. Make a 30-foot wide fire break by clearing vegetation and clutter around all structures. Some wild land fires could force the evacuation of neighborhoods. Have an emergency preparedness plan ready in case of such an event. Consider the route you would take and other preparations you could have in place if you need to evacuate your home due to an emergency. If your property borders an area where a wild land fire could occur, consider the need for fire department access in case the fire approaches your home.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Mitsuda asked that if residents want tips on fireproofing their homes, should they call the fire station. Whalen said they should call, and the truck will come and perform an inspection. Mitsuda asked how long the inspection takes. Whalen explained it varies on the size of the property, but they recently inspected a large property in about an hour.
- 2) Heinrich asked if there were places in Manoa that HFD has problems accessing, such as the portion of Manoa Road where it becomes extremely narrow such as the last four blocks of University Avenue. He added that DTS is evaluating creating a no parking zone in the morning on East Manoa Road between Kolowalu and Doris Place. Whalen said his personal opinion would be cars accessing Mid-Pacific Institute should be made to use Oahu Avenue rather than University Avenue to eliminate left turns into the School. Also part of the park should be converted into a turn out. He doesn't think the part of Manoa Road up to Doris Place is bad, it's bad once you make the turn onto University Avenue.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) – Officer Egami distributed his report. For the month of April compared to March, Manoa Valley had 15 burglaries (+5), 8 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV) (-2), and 29 thefts (+6). Egami mentioned that attached to his handouts were tips on home security as well as contact information for the community policing team.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Heinrich commented that some residents want to start up the citizen's patrol. He will follow up with Officer Kahapea who would advise on such things.
- 2) Tanaka asked what laws apply to the lunch wagons on Lowery and Woodlawn Avenues which are parked in one place for weeks at a time. Egami said that they talked to the owners about the abandoned vehicles law, and since then he moves them every few days which prevents HPD from issuing any citations. HPD will check to see if he has stopped moving them every few days.
- 3) An audience member asked what the difference between a burglary and a theft was. Egami explained that a burglary means something was stolen from a house. Theft is something taken from anyplace else.
- 4) Mitsuda asked if homeless people are trespassing if they cut thru resident's yards in order to get to public areas. Egami said yes, and people should call 911 if this occurs.
- 5) An audience member asked what the roles and responsibilities of officers are at a construction / road work site. He saw two cars almost collided, with the officer doing little to intervene. Egami said their role is to keep traffic flowing safely as best they can and added once a situation is occurring there is little an officer can do.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi reported that 1) The Council is continuing its hearings on the train. Two more bills relating to technology were introduced today, but she thinks they are unlikely to pass and steel on steel will be the final selection. 2) The budget is still being worked on, there will be money earmarked in it to fix up parks and to repave roads including Lowery Avenue.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Holtrop commented that there are lots of barricades along Lowery Avenue with little work being performed as best as he can tell. He heard there were some work order changes to the project, but would like the barricades to be removed so street parking is available until the work is ready to be resumed. Councilmember Kobayashi replied she will look into this request.
- 2) Heinrich asked that as part of the budget formation, the Manoa Valley District Park should have its electrical capacity evaluated. Councilmember Kobayashi agreed that needs to be done. Heinrich also asked that the proposal to lengthen some of the left-turn markings on University Avenue be evaluated. Councilmember Kobayashi said there was no money in this budget for that, but it could be part of the following budget.
- 3) Councilmember Kobayashi commented that there recently was a bad accident near the Manoa Starbucks. She is getting together with Representative Caldwell and Senator Taniguchi Thursday morning to look at the area and will consider asking DTS to evaluate it. Residents are welcome to join them. It's a dangerous area with all the cars turning in and out of multiple roads/driveways and lots of pedestrian activity.

- 4) An audience member commented that H-power closes on Saturdays at 2 pm. It has been requested for this to be adjusted, has it been. At the McCully Neighborhood Board meeting, someone from Honolulu waste disposal said H-power was unreliable in its closing times. Councilmember Kobayashi said a letter has been sent to H-power. She thinks new technology needs to be looked at. But the Mayor wants the current operator, Convanta, to be retained and a third boiler added. The third boiler will use the same technology. At some point the two current boilers will break down, and if it's at the same time we are really in trouble as garbage that cannot be processed by H-power is sent directly to the landfill.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Hubert Minn, Senior Advisor, Customer Services Department (CSD) reported that 1) DCS handles abandoned vehicles complaints. An inspector is sent out to mark the tires and to follow up, but the current law only requires a vehicle to move six inches to avoid being declared abandoned. 2) DTS has provided resident June Hee with the information and petition document to try and remove the parking stalls near their house on 2245 Oahu Avenue. Once she has her neighbor's signatures, then it comes to the Neighborhood Board for their opinion, and then it goes to DTS. 3) DTS has investigated the request to ban parking from 6:30 – 8:30 a.m. on University Avenue between Metcalf Street and Maile Way and to modify the current "No Parking 7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m." to "No Parking 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.", makai of Metcalf Street. Regarding the metered parking area between Seaview Avenue and Maile Way, DTS field checks did confirm a brief period in the morning when traffic queued on University Avenue, mauka bound, on its approach to Maile Way. However, the level and duration of the queuing, which is primarily caused by the merging of two lanes to one, revealed that the installation of a "No Parking Anytime-Tow Away Zone 6:30 – 8:30 a.m." restriction is not necessary at this time. The field investigation also confirmed that the tow-away zone restriction currently established is from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the Koko Head side of University Avenue between Sinclair Oval and Seaview Avenue. DTS also said they will be implementing an AM peak tow-away zone restriction for a portion of the Ewa side of East Manoa Road between Kolowalu Street and Doris Place to improve the traffic flow. DTS will be sending your neighborhood board a copy of the plan indicating the tow away parking restriction zone. DTS also said they would need to further evaluate the proposal to change the turning options on the outbound lanes of East Manoa Road – some residents want a right turn only lane onto Kolowalu.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Mitsuda commented that residents think the fork at Triangle Park is dangerous for cars that are stopped coming out of East Manoa road. Other cars have to veer in order to follow the road. They request DTS investigate implementing safety measures. They also feel that cars attempting to turn left onto East Manoa Road from Kamehameha Road just before the fork create a dangerous situation. They would like the line to be solid so they can only turn right.

REPRESENTATIVE KIRK CALDWELL – Representative Caldwell distributed his report. He mentioned that the legislative session is pau. This is a supplemental budget year, and in the face of declining revenues the Legislature did a good job of employing a fiscally conservative view. The goal was to not put next year's Legislature in a position of having to eliminate programs. There are three areas of accomplishment he would like to highlight. 1) Energy. A bill was passed to require solar water heaters on new houses. Another allows photovoltaic panels on lower grade agriculture lands. Bills were also passed to encourage incentives for residential photovoltaic energy and net energy metering. A special energy permit facilitator was created to assist renewable energy firms to move their projects along more quickly. 2) Environment. Steps were taken to increase biosecurity at our ports and airports. Tax incentives were created for landowners who commit their land as private, special conservation lands to be held forever as open space. 3) Land use. A bill was passed that allows a land owner who classifies 85 percent of a given area as important agriculture land to develop the other 15 percent of the parcel if the county plan allows for it. Another bill places responsibility for important public agriculture lands under the State Department of Agriculture. In other areas that this Board is interested in, a bill allowing certain exemptions to the Sunshine law for Neighborhood Boards was passed. This allows a larger number of Board members to attend public meetings being put on by other groups. Senator Taniguchi got \$8 million in the budget for Stevenson Intermediate School improvements. A bill to allow seniors to purchase drugs overseas was

vetoed by the Governor, but the Legislature overrode the veto. Money was also provided for measures to increase pedestrian safety.

Questions, answers, and comments:

An audience member commented that you do not get money for net metering, but rather credit to your account. Additionally, there is a cap as to how much credit you can receive. He thinks that cap needs to be higher.

SENATOR BRIAN TANIGUCHI - Senator Taniguchi's report was available.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT – Larry Reifurth, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), distributed the Governor's report and mentioned that informational flyers on Varroa mites was available tonight. These mites feed on honey bees and are a threat to our local bee populations. The Governor will spend the next month reviewing all the bills passed by the legislature and considering her options. So far she has signed sixty-three and vetoed eight. Please send any comments you have on the remaining bills to her office. By June 23, she must provide a list of potential vetoes, and by July 8 she must actually veto.

Questions, answers, and comments:

An audience member mentioned that the Governor must release the funds earmarked for Stevenson Intermediate School. Should Manoa residents call her office to request she do so? Reifurth said they should.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – Jim Manke reported that a) Tomorrow is the last day of classes. Commencement will be on May 18. On May 16, a party will be held at Andrews Amphitheater. This is free to the graduates and faculty, five dollars for everyone else. b) A test of the emergency communication system was performed on April 15. Text messages were sent out, but right now only 2,000 students have joined the system. The option to join will soon be added to the admission forms. There were a few bugs in the software, so a second test will happen on May 9. The public will eventually have the option to join the system as well. Outlying University areas such as Lyon Arboretum are covered by this system. c) Security officers are on duty 24 hours a day. A new patrol for the parking structure at the Hawaiian Studies building has been formed. Cameras have been ordered as well. The requested funds to provide additional lighting was not authorized. d) The University does not maintain a waiting list for parking passes, but they estimate about 600-700 people who want passes are unable to obtain them every semester. e) The University does not have a master bike plan at the moment. The Long Range Development Plan may address this. f) Cycle Manoa is sponsoring a bicycle buy back day. They will buy and bike for \$20, fix it up, and sell it for \$15 at the start of the next semester. g) A Honolulu Advertiser article is available tonight which covers the Legislature's budget appropriations for UH Manoa. h) The landscaping improvements at the Varsity gate have begun. Getting water into the area is the biggest challenge. i) Residents were complaining about the noise from an air conditioner at the astronomy building. It was fixed within ten days, which is lighting quick by most government operations.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Mitsuda thanked the University on behalf of the residents who live near the astronomy building.
- 2) Heinrich suggested that the Board could assist with the Varsity gate improvements by passing a resolution in support and by showing up for any volunteer days. Manke asked if the gate was within the Manoa's Boards geographic boundary. Heinrich said technically no, but he knows the Board would like to help as will the McCully/Moilili Board number 8.

RESIDENT CONCERNS – 1) Grace Furukawa said she was passing around a petition to place a measure on the ballot to ban rail. 2) Patricia Johnson announced that 400 cyclists are going to participate

in a ride to work day on May 16. They will stage at Tamarind Park between 7:30 and 8:30 am. Several convoys will be formed to ride to the staging area. Manoa's will meet at McDonalds at 7:00 am. The convoy leaders will make sure a safe route is used to get downtown. Please join us. After work, a social gathering will be held at Gordon Biersch. 3) Johnson announced that the Oahu Bicycle Master Plan is going thru its ten year update. Workshops are being held to allow for public discussion. On May 15, one will be held at Blaisdell from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. 4) Johnson also said a 'Ride of Silence' will be held in memory of those who lost their lives while cycling. This is a national event. It will start at Kakaako Park. Holtrop asked if Gordon Biersch has a place to store bikes. Johnson said they did.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY (BWS) – Heinrich announced a pamphlet was available tonight explaining the power cost adjustment to everyone's bills. Its also detect a leak week, tablets are available tonight. Eads commented that the extra charge is related to the price of oil. Lots of the topics discussed tonight such as renewable energy and cycling are related to that as well. Former board member Harwood said that BWS should place photovoltaic panels around all their structures. This would stabilize the power charges, unlike what the fluctuating oil prices do to it.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Niimoto reported that the operating account balance stands at \$451.06, the publicity account balance is at \$1,033.36, and the refreshment account balance stands at \$120. \$34.74 was expended to print and mail out the agendas and minutes in April. Heinrich added that the \$120 in the refreshment account balance is a lose it or use it type of thing. However, the Commission is thinking about throwing a system wide party to celebrate the Boards being founded 25 years ago along with the adoption of the new plan. To do so, they may need to utilize some of the Board's refreshment funds.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES – Nakano said this is a fifteen member board with two vacancies that struggles to make quorum every month. It's unfair to the members who do show up and to the public that attends when meetings are cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The cancellation of the February meeting caused the March meeting to go to 11:00 pm. Members need to commit. Heinrich reminded everyone that they were elected or appointed to represent their neighbors, and said he would compile an attendance list for the past year. Part of the New Revised Neighborhood Plan will require the NCO to keep a log of member's attendance. The lack of quorum in February caused the University to have to repeat a presentation. Absences do happen, but please communicate with the Board and the NCO. June's agenda will have election of Board officers on it, perhaps the July agenda could include declaring some seats vacant.

UPDATE ON DRAFT REVISED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN – The draft is still being reviewed and is not official yet. When adopted, one month would be added to the current Board members terms to bring the Board calendar in line with the City's fiscal calendar which starts on July 1. The Commission is intending to hold a conference of chairs – this will include the vice-chairs as well. The City Council did cut \$20,000 from the NCO's proposed budget.

VIDEOTAPING AND BROADCASTING POLICY ISSUES FOR RESEARCH – Heinrich said there are several issues relating to this that have not been discussed by the neighborhood Boards or the Commission. Perhaps a permitted interaction group (PIG) should be formed. At one meeting, there was no quorum but the meeting preceded and was videotaped. It was never broadcast though. This raises the question as to who own the actual tape.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOARD MEMBERS – Heinrich encouraged the members to become involved in various community events. On October 11 a large recycling event is planned. Please mark your calendars.

PRESENTATION:

LANAKILA PACIFIC – Mitsuda explained that he worked at Lanakila Pacific and would be conducting the presentation. They recently added ‘Pacific’ to the name of the organization as they want to expand beyond Hawaii. The basic purpose of Lanakila Pacific is to help those with challenges to become independent. This includes seniors and people with physical and mental disabilities. Lanakila has three major programs, meals on wheels, workforce resources, and TLC which stands for teaching and learning centers. TLC provides day services for those with mental and physical services such as educational and recreational programs. The workforce program partners with the private industry and places interns in positions where they are highly supervised. This allows them to gain the skills and experience to move on to outside employment. The ‘meal on wheels and more’ program doesn’t just provide food, but also nutritional education. It is aimed at our Seniors Citizens. Physical activity is encouraged as well. They try to match the client with an appropriate program/activity. In addition to these, Lanakila Pacific has started up two new programs. One is Lanakila Social Enterprises. This has two divisions. Lanakila Production Services offers an array of contract production services for local businesses, including silk screening, embroidery, mailing, sewing, packaging, shrink wrapping, and more. Lanakila Maintenance Services provides fully-licensed grounds and custodial services for commercial and government properties throughout Oahu. The other new program is Xpress Chefs. This features fresh produce and ingredients in healthy food prepared for retail sales, catering services and meal programs. Lanakila’s clients work in the certified kitchen and all proceeds goes to fund meals on wheels. If anyone has questions, please call Mitsuda at 531-0555 or visit www.lanakilapacific.org

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Nishioka commented that the food from the Xpress Chefs program is very good. Holtrop asked who prepares the food. Mitsuda replied there is a full kitchen with staff as well as the trainees; who are also clients of Lanakila Pacific.
- 2) Harwood asked what position Mitsuda holds at Lanakila Pacific. He explained he is the Deputy Director of the meals on wheels and more program.
- 3) Heinrich commented that the Legislature did appropriate funds this past session for Lanakila Pacific.
- 4) Minn commented that his child is handicapped and has used services from Lanakila Pacific. He thanked the organization for the work that they do. One of the biggest challenges a parent faces is when their handicapped child graduates. Lanakila Pacific provides programs for those children to become involved in after they have graduated from high school.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2008 MINUTES – The following corrections were offered:

- 1) Page 6, Line 20 – Manke said the plans are to increase the ~~(amount)~~ number of security guards.

The minutes were unanimously adopted as amended 10-0-0. (Aye: Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Holtrop, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Tanaka.)

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2, 2008 MINUTES – The following corrections were offered:

Page 7, Line 33 – **The motion that the Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 express its strong opposition to City Council Resolution 07-379 (related to term limits for Neighborhood Board members) was ADOPTED by UNANIMOUS CONSENT (11-0-0) 10-0-1 (Aye: Andersen, Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Holtrop, Jackson, Kim, Nakano, Niimoto, (Nishioka), Ragsdale. Abstain: Nishioka.)**

The minutes were unanimously adopted as amended 10-0-0. (Aye: Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Holtrop, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Tanaka.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY – Heinrich reported that DPP held a hearing yesterday on the Conditional Use Permit (Major) Application regarding 2212 Wilder Avenue for a group living facility. The applicant had presented to the Neighborhood Board twice, but the Board did not take a position on the application. About fourteen people attended, with six others submitting testimony. Most of the testimony was in opposition. A decision is expected by June 15. It can be approved, denied, or approved with conditions.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO SIGN INTO LAW HOUSE BILL 2730, HD1, SD1, CD1 - RELATING TO LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETINGS– Heinrich moved that the Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 expresses strong support for enactment of the proposed amendments to the Sunshine law and respectfully urges Governor Lingle to sign Bill 2730, HD1, SD1, CD1 into law. Jackson seconded. Heinrich explained that the Bill proposes a new part of HRS 92 as it relates to Neighborhood Boards or other similar entities should other Counties implement similar programs. It allows meeting to be held without quorum, but does not allow any votes to occur. It also allows less than a number equal to the quorum of a board to attend public informational meetings conducted by other entities. **The resolution was adopted unanimously 10-0-0.** (Aye: Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Holtrop, Jackson, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Tanaka.)

The agenda item to consider a resolution requesting a conference of chairs was deferred.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE MANOA AREA – Heinrich said this is a continuing agenda item. He has started to compile the list. He welcomes suggestions, but warns there is not much room in the budget for late items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Nishioka announced she was selling tickets for the Manoa Waioli Lions Club breakfast on June 1 from 6:30 a.m. till 10:30 a.m. at the Manoa Elementary Cafeteria. Tickets are five dollars. Funds collected stay in our community. The Manoa Waioli Lions Club used some of the funds to lay concrete on the Mustang Field in areas that were always muddy near the stands and dugouts.
- 2) The Chair said the Office of Elections had asked the following to be read “Office of Elections is seeking Precinct Officials to assist voters in the community on Saturday, September 20, 2008 (Primary Election) and Tuesday, November 4, 2008 (General Election). Please contact Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683), ask for Precinct Operations, or sign-up online at www.hawaii.gov/elections. Stipend provided.”

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bryan Mick, Neighborhood Commission Office Staff