



MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 7

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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2008 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:07 p.m., Chair Paul Holtrop called the meeting to order with nine members present and introduced the members of the Manoa Neighborhood Board.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Chun, Eric Eads, Francisco Figueiredo (arrived 7:12), Tom Heinrich, Paul Holtrop, John Kim, Brandon Mitsuda, George Nakano, Rose Niimoto, Nadine Nishioka, Milton Ragsdale, and Glen Tanaka (arrived 7:14). (Seventeen seats, two vacancies. Quorum is nine members).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Andersen, Dwight Jackson, and Nathan Say.

GUESTS: Ron Boyer (Governor's Representative); Lt. Lumlee, Lieutenant Delima, Sgt. Medeiros, Officer Kahapea (Honolulu Police Department); Jim Manke (University of Hawaii); Representative Kirk Caldwell; Councilmember Ann Kobayashi; Hubert Minn (Department of Customer Services); Grace Furukawa; Captain Seto-Mook (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.

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Captain Seto-Mook reported for the month of June, there were 16 medical responses and 6 miscellaneous responses.

Fire Safety Tip: Summer is upon us, and our island will be at higher risk for fires due to wildland vegetation continuing to dry with the hot weather. Historically, wildland fires were referred to as brush fires; however, the term wildland fire is more nationally recognized. Please use caution when utilizing flame-producing devices, such as fireworks, matches, and/or lighters around wildland vegetation; the smallest spark and/or flame can ignite the dry vegetation. As a reminder, the law states that children under age 18 shall not possess or have access to fireworks, matches, and/or lighters, except under adult supervision. Flame-producing devices are not safe for young children. Always follow the directions on the manufacturer's label. As Independence Day nears, consider leaving the fireworks display to the pyrotechnic professionals and enjoy one of several public fireworks display events offered by various communities.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Heinrich asked that the Board be kept informed of any helicopter responses HFD makes this summer in the valley, as there have been several over the past few summers.
- 2) Eads said his children give him grief for lighting fireworks before July 4, and he wondered what the law is about what days it is permissible to light them. Captain Seto-Mook said the law allowed for individuals to set off firecrackers only between 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm on July 4.
- 3) Mitsuda said that Manoa seems very wet and asked if there are any particular areas that dry out and are at a higher risk for a wildland fire. Captain Seto-Mook replied that the sides of the hills are always in danger of drying out.

Francisco Figueiredo arrived at 7:12 pm, ten members now present.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) – Lieutenant Delima distributed his report. For the month of May compared to April, Manoa Valley had 12 burglaries (-3), 6 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV) (-2), and 27 thefts (-2). Officer Kahapea mentioned that attached to his handouts were tips on hurricane preparedness as well as contact information for the community policing team.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Holtrop asked if there were any details on the pedestrian accident earlier in the day. Officer Kahapea replied there was no information posted when he came on duty, which usually indicates that the accident was not extremely serious.

Glen Tanaka arrived at 7:14 pm, eleven members now present.

- 2) Heinrich commented that Manoa's elected officials met with the Director of the Department of Transportation Services, Wayne Yoshioka, near the Manoa Starbucks to discuss pedestrian safety concerns last week. The whole block needs to be looked at. Holtrop added that there were pedestrian safety handouts available tonight. These have safety tips as well as list the fines associated with traffic safety violations.
- 3) Niimoto asked where skateboarding is legal. Officer Kahapea said it's illegal on private property such as Manoa Marketplace. It is also not allowed in the parking lots of District Parks. Niimoto asked if sidewalks were allowable. Officer Kahapea explained that in Waikiki, it's not due to special zoning laws, but in Manoa it was.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi reported that 1) The Council passed the budget today. She voted against the operating budget. While there was no increase in the property tax rate, the homeowner's credit was reduced from \$200 to \$100. 2) The Council reprimanded Councilmember Rod Tam for his use of a derogatory term during a Council Committee hearing.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Holtrop asked for Lowery Avenue update. Councilmember Kobayashi that work was done on the gutters. This made a dramatic height differential between the gutters and the existing road, and was the reason the barriers were left in place. The rest of the work should be done soon and the differential corrected. Holtrop commented hopefully it's done before the rainy season is upon us.
- 2) Heinrich suggested that the Board start to work with on planning for the next budget as far as Manoa projects go. Councilmember Kobayashi agreed and said perhaps a meeting at Manoa Valley District Park (MVDP) could be planned.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Hubert Minn, Senior Advisor, Customer Services Department (CSD) reported that 1) During the design phase of Lowery Avenue repaving the City and Consultant could not totally assess the underlying road condition due to the existing asphalt overlay condition, therefore the contract was structured in such away that the Contractor was required to expose sections of the roadway in order to allow the City to obtain additional information and redesign as necessary. That phase of the work was completed and the revised plans have been forwarded to the Contractor including the request for a revised schedule. The assessment phase is the reason that delineators and no parking signs remain along Lowrey Avenue as the exposure of the existing gutter have caused vertical differentials up to 7-inches between the roadway and gutter. Because the Contractor is responsible and liable for roadway safety and damages, the roadway has remained barricaded, especially to warn the general public who may not be familiar with the area. 2) Department of Transportation Services (DTS) will be conducting an investigation into the board's request for a study at the intersection of East Manoa and Manoa Roads. The DTS will inform the board of the status of their investigation by September 2008. 3) Department of

Transportation Services (DTS) will be conducting an investigation into the board's request for a study at the intersection of preventing cars from turning left onto Manoa Road from Kamehameha Avenue. The DTS will inform the board of the status of their investigation by September 2008. 4) MVDP does not have full electrical capacity at the moment. There are funds in the upcoming budget to upgrade the system. 5) Minn said he would check on the status of Hualani Road before the next meeting.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Mitsuda clarified that he was actually asking that cars coming from Kamehameha Avenue be prevented from making a right onto Manoa road by crossing over East Manoa Road.
- 2) Minn commented that he had invited a few board members to attend a transit coffee hour, and if any other Board members were interested in attending future ones to please let him know.

REPRESENTATIVE KIRK CALDWELL – Representative Caldwell distributed his report. He also mentioned 1) Senator Taniguchi's report was available tonight and had information on Roosevelt High School's new athletic stadium. This is the only public High School field with AstroTurf, and is a positive thing for Manoa students. 2) There have recently been several accidents near Manoa Starbucks – that stretch of road is a tort waiting to happen. A meeting of elected officials and Wayne Yoshioka, Director for the City Department of Transportation Service (DTS) was recently held. DTS agreed to put up some signs ASAP – and they are now up. Other measures will be considered. Councilmember Kobayashi suggested making flags for people to hold when they use the crosswalks as a way to get motorist's attention. This is a good idea and DTS said they could advise on how to do such a project to be sure it was done in a safe and legal manner. 3) His report covered the State budget. A conservative approach was used as the projected revenue is a \$136 million decrease over the next two years.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Mitsuda asked if the discussion with DTS included installing a pedestrian activated light. Representative Caldwell said all options were on the table. There are lots of cars going in every direction along that stretch of road. Closing the makai entrance to Manoa marketplace to force cars to use the entrance near the gas station is another option to be looked at.
- 2) Heinrich commented the Board's planning, transportation, and public safety committee could take up the issue of safety improvements around Manoa marketplace. He asked if HB 2730 which would provide some exceptions to the Sunshine Law for Neighborhood Boards was still sitting on the Governor's desk. Representative Caldwell replied it was, and there has been no indication if she was going to veto it. People should let her know how they feel about the bill. It helps to keep Neighborhood Boards more informed.

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

GOVERNOR'S REPORT – Ron Boyer, Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), distributed the Governor's report and mentioned 1) The Governor is still reviewing all the bills that the Legislature sent to her. She is about halfway thru them. She already signed one bill which creates exceptions to the Sunshine law when the meeting place is not safe for the general public to be present. 2) The issue of PEG contracts having to go out to bid is still ongoing. A bill which would have exempted PEG contracts from the procurement law did not pass. Instead, a Resolution was passed asking DCCA to set up a task force charged with reviewing methods other than the procurement process for the PEG contracts to be awarded. Their report is due by the end of the year. 3) The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will be installing a boardwalk along Manoa trail. This will help hikers when it's muddy and help to stop erosion along the trail.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Holtrop asked what the best way for people to provide comments to the Governor was. Boyer said the website. You can also call 586-0034 or email governor.lingle@hawaii.gov

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII – Jim Manke reported that 1) 3,000 degrees were awarded at the recent graduation. Summer sessions have started. 2) The University's Athletic program recently received a \$5 million grant. This will provide for new office spaces and new practice fields. In honor of the donor, Cooke field will be renamed Ching field. A plaque will be installed to honor the contributions of the Cooke family to the University. 3) There are no major events in June. 4) The alumni magazine is available tonight and contains an article on the end of the centennial celebration.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Heinrich asked if the convocation will be the final event in the centennial celebration. Manke replied that homecoming in October will actually be the final event.

RESIDENT CONCERNS – 1) Heinrich mentioned that the Board of Water Supply (BWS) report was available tonight. It mentioned that everyone who receives a bill from BWS will be getting a water quality report mailed to them starting in June. The report can also be viewed on BWS's website. 2) Holtrop reported that the Board received notice from the Department of Planning and Permitting that Mid-Pacific Institute was seeking a variance for the height of their gym. Residents can call DPP's Lynn Kauer 768-8016 for more information.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Niimoto reported that the operating account balance stands at \$356.84, the publicity account balance is at \$1,033.36, and the refreshment account balance stands at \$120. \$39.24 was expended to print and mail out the agendas and minutes in May.

POSSIBLE EXERCISE OF POWERS UNDER REVISED NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN RULE 4-2.3 – Holtrop said tonight was a good example of why this was on the agenda. The meeting started late because quorum was not present at 7:00 pm. Only one of the members not present tonight called to inform the Board they would be absent. Heinrich said he passed out two sheets. One was pertinent notes. The other was a chart showing every current member's attendance history during the current board term. The Board has failed to have nine members present, the amount needed for quorum, twice this term. One of those times was the very first board meeting of the new term. Even when nine are present, it requires unanimous consent to get anything done. If an action requires a two-thirds vote, twelve members must be present and unanimous. That was only true for three board meetings this term. He commended Holtrop and Eads, who have been at every single meeting. He would suggest the Board send a letter to Nathan Say, who has not attended a meeting since the November, informing him that his seat will be declared vacant at the next meeting if he does not attend. **Heinrich moved and Nakano seconded that the Board send Nathan Say a letter in accordance with section 4.2.3 of the Revised Neighborhood Plan.** Kim asked if the letter would say that the seat will be declared vacant if there is no response to the letter. Heinrich said it would indicate the Board is moving in that direction. Nakano said even though declaring the seat vacant will not help the Board since there are already in vacancies in that subdistrict; the principle of the matter says the Board should act. NCO employee Mick said he thinks the form letter says the seat is now vacant. Heinrich said he thinks the notice must be mailed before the Board actually declares the seat vacant. It can go by first class and certified mail to be safe. Holtrop said he wants the Board to move cautiously as far as setting a precedent for when to declare a seat vacant. Eads said the frustrating thing with Say is his lack of communication to the Board. Holtrop said the minutes don't reflect when absent members have notified the Board, but he knows that Say never has. **The motion passed, 11-0-1 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka. Abstain: Niimoto.)**

DIRECTORY INFORMATION FOR CONTACTING MEMBERS – Holtrop asked everyone to be sure to provide contact information to the NCO. Heinrich added that if the Draft Revised Neighborhood Plan is adopted, everyone's term shall be extended by one month.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS –

Chair: Nakano nominated Holtrop, Kim seconded. Holtrop was elected by unanimous consent 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

1st Vice Chair: Mitsuda nominated Heinrich. Tanaka seconded. Heinrich was elected by unanimous consent 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

2nd Vice Chair: Heinrich nominated Mitsuda. Nakano seconded. Mitsuda was elected by unanimous consent 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

Treasurer: Heinrich nominated Niimoto. Mitsuda seconded. Niimoto was elected by unanimous consent 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

Secretary: Mitsuda nominated Eads. Nakano seconded. Eads was elected by unanimous consent 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 7, 2008 MINUTES – The following corrections were offered:

- 1) Page 5, Line 26 – Nakano said this is a ~~fifteen~~ (seventeen) member board ~~with~~ (including) two vacancies that struggles to make quorum every month.
- 2) Page 5, Line 29 - The cancellation of the ~~February~~ (March) meeting caused the ~~March~~ (April) meeting....
- 3) Page 3, Line 35 - They also feel that cars attempting to turn ~~left~~ (right onto Manoa Road by crossing over) ~~ont~~ East Manoa Road....

The minutes were unanimously adopted as amended 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY – This item was deferred.

NEW BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION CONVENE A COUNCIL OF CHAIRS– Heinrich explained that this idea is part of the new Draft Revised Neighborhood Plan. Each Board could send an additional member besides the Chair. The lack of communication between the Boards and the Commission has been a long standing problem. Since this is the month where all boards elect new officers, it makes some sense to have one of these conferences soon. **Heinrich moved that the Manoa Neighborhood Board No. 7 requests the Neighborhood Commission to Convene a Conference of Chairs Meeting. Nakano seconded.** Nakano asked when the draft Plan will be put into effect. Heinrich said that the Mayor and the Commission Office is putting pressure on Corporation Counsel to finish their final review. But the

Commission can hold one of these conferences before the draft plan is adopted if they so choose. **The resolution was adopted unanimously 12-0-0 (Aye: Chun, Eads, Figueiredo, Heinrich, Holtrop, Kim, Mitsuda, Nakano, Niimoto, Nishioka, Ragsdale, and Tanaka.)**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN THE MANOA AREA – Heinrich said he had distributed a sheet with outlines of various potential CIP projects. He grouped them by type, such as Public Safety, Educational Assets, Parks and Recreation, etc. The Board is allowed to weigh in on projects outside of its boundaries, which is why a few McCully items are on here. This should help the board lobby for the budget items. The next budget cycle starts on July 1. He would like to call attention to four items especially: 1) Manoa Valley District Parks lack of electrical capacity. 2) Stevenson Middle School improvements. 3) Manoa stream flood mitigation efforts. 4) U. H. Manoa. There is lots of information on all the items that needs to be pulled together, and then the board can take action at later meetings. Heinrich asked that the list be attached to the minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) Nishioka thanked everyone for coming to the Waioli Lions club breakfast. 2400 tickets were sold. This year's proceeds will go towards building better equipment sheds at the District Park and for fixing the Pony field.
- 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."
- 3) Heinrich announced there was a Totally Against Graffiti (TAG) Team event on June 21, from 8 am to noon. Meet at Washington Middle School. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club employees are participating.

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by:

Bryan Mick, Neighborhood Commission Office Staff