



MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD No. 7

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DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008 NOELANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:06 p.m. Chair Tom Heinrich called the meeting to order with nine members present and introduced the members of the Manoa Neighborhood Board. A quorum was present. The meeting was being videotaped for later broadcast on `Olelo 54.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Andersen, Grant Allison (arrived 7:50 p.m.), Rodney Chun (arrived 7:10 p.m.), Eric Eads, Tom Heinrich, Dwight Jackson, John Kim, Jennifer La`a, George Nakano, Nadine Nishioka, and Milton Ragsdale. (Seventeen seats, five vacancies. Quorum is nine members.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Francisco Figueiredo.

GUESTS: Larry Reifurth (Governor's Representative); Lt. Kurosu, Sergeant Hayamoto, Captain Wojack, Officer Tony Kahapea (Honolulu Police Department); Jim Manke; Senator Brian Taniguchi; Councilmember Ann Kobayashi; Hubert Minn (Department of Enterprise Services); Susan Miyao (Senator Taniguchi's office); Bob Kern; Representative Isaac Choy; Jimmy Lagunero; Robert Sloan; Captain John Whalen (Honolulu Fire Department); Dr. Makena Coffman, Ph.D.; Maile Sakamoto; Jim Harwood; Bryan Mick (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

PUBLIC SAFETY INPUT:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT (HFD) – Captain Whalen reported for the month of October, there was one structure fire, one vehicle fire, 19 medical emergencies, one animal rescue, and two hiker rescues.

Fire Safety Tips: (1) This holiday season, consider a fire-resistant, artificial Christmas tree. If you purchase a natural tree, choose one as fresh as possible, keep it hydrated, and keep it away from heat sources in the house. Use noncombustible materials for decorations. Choose only Underwriter's Laboratory-approved electrical decorations and follow manufacturer's instructions for installation and load. Do not overload extension cords. (2) Holiday family gatherings often include extensive food preparation and visiting guests. As a significant portion of home fires originate in the kitchen, do not leave cooking unattended. Have an ABC-rated fire extinguisher available near the kitchen and learn to use it. Turn off the heat if you must leave the stove, even if only for a few minutes. Never wear long, loose-sleeved clothing while cooking. Turn the handles on pots and pans inward to prevent accidents. Keep children away from the kitchen.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Andersen asked if the Manoa Fire Station will be participating in the Manoa Christmas parade. Whalen replied they always have; the parade organizers just need to send a request in to the Fire Chief. The Chair added that the East Manoa Lions Club is the sponsor, and Malama o Manoa will also have an entry in the parade.

Chun arrived at 7:10 p.m.

- 2) Eads asked if there were any dangers associated with deep fry cooking whole turkeys. Whalen said the oil can be dangerous; never add water to hot oil!
- 3) Nishioka asked who pays when people have to be rescued. Whalen explained the City pays for those costs. Nishioka said she thinks if people disregard warning signs they should have to pay

for the rescue. Whalen replied that laws are not written like that now. Nishioka asked the elected officials to take a look at this.

- 4) Captain Whalen announced this was his final board meeting as he was retiring. The board expressed its appreciation for his years of service, and a round of applause ensued.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) – Officer Kahapea distributed his report. For the month of October compared to September, Manoa Valley had 5 burglaries (-5), 12 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles (UEMV) (even), and 27 thefts (+4). The report has a food safety tips flyer attached to it. Anyone who wants to participate in the Community Policing Team can call Officer Kahapea at 529-3828 (akahapea@honolulu.gov).

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Nishioka also asked HPD to consider her request for the law to be changed to charge negligent people when they have to be rescued. Eads commented that we are all grateful that we have emergency services to rescue us in our times of need. But when a driver does something negligent, we don't charge the driver. So he doesn't think it's fair to single out just hikers and swimmers.
- 2) Andersen said he heard about a recent robbery on the UH-Manoa campus and wondered would that be under HPD's jurisdiction. Kahapea replied that HPD does respond to incidents on campus. Andersen asked why it wasn't reflected on the map that was handed out showing the location of incidents. Kahapea explained that violent crimes like a robbery are not shown on the map, as there are safety and privacy concerns; only property crimes are posted on the District 7 website and in the printed report. The Chair added that personal crime information is not shared with neighborhood watches for the same reasons.
- 3) Chun asked if there are any patterns to the thefts. Kahapea explained that summer sees a spike in thefts/UEMV as well as during the holiday season – don't leave shopping bags in plain view.
- 4) The Chair commented that speeding has been rampant at the Manoa Road/Lanihuli Drive intersection. Kahapea said he would pass that on and added that the speed trailers are rotated to various locations. Please help monitor them for any graffiti.

FILING OF BOARD VACANCIES: The Chair announced that Rose Niimoto (Subdistrict 2) has submitted a resignation letter to the Board by e-mail, and circulated a copy to the members. The letter was received after the agenda was filed, so the Subdistrict 2 vacancy cannot be filled at this meeting. At the end of the last meeting, Brandon Mitsuda (Subdistrict 3) resigned, which means that there are now five vacancies on the Board. He asked if there was anyone present who lived in subdistricts 1, 2, or 4 interested in serving on the Board. No one indicated that they were. The matter will be continued on the agenda.

ELECTION OF FIRST VICE CHAIR: Mitsuda had held this office, so nominations were now open. **Nakano nominated Eads. Eads was unanimously elected by a vote of 10-0-0 (Ayes:** Andersen, Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Jackson, Kim, La`a, Nakano, Nishioka, Ragsdale).

ELECTION OF SECOND VICE CHAIR: Eads had held this office, so nominations were now open. **Nakano nominated Kim. Kim was unanimously elected by a vote of 10-0-0 (Ayes:** Andersen, Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Jackson, Kim, La`a, Nakano, Nishioka, Ragsdale).

ELECTION OF TREASURER: Niimoto had held this office, so nominations were now open. **Nakano nominated La`a. La`a was unanimously elected by a vote of 10-0-0 (Ayes:** Andersen, Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Jackson, Kim, La`a, Nakano, Nishioka, Ragsdale).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The Chair asked if there were any objections to taking this item out of order, as a board member may have to leave the meeting early which would prevent the board from taking action. There were no objections. No corrections or amendments were offered. **The October 1, 2008 regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 10-0-0 (Aye: Andersen, Chun, Eads, Heinrich, Jackson, Kim, La`a, Nakano, Nishioka, Ragsdale).**

COMMUNITY INPUT:

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA– Jim Manke reported: (1) The Board of Regents (BOR) has appointed a search committee to conduct the process to find the successor to University of Hawaii System President David McClain, who will complete his term by July 2009. (2) The recent E-waste drive was a huge success, with over 1.5 million pounds of electronic equipment gathered statewide – the equivalent of 75 Matson containers. (3) Saturday November 15 will feature an open house on the Manoa campus aimed at high school students who are thinking about enrolling at UH. (4) There are five weeks left in the Fall semester. Commencement ceremonies will be on December 20 -- the first time they will be held on a Saturday. (5) May 22, 2009 will feature an alumni reunion for the College of Arts and Sciences. More information will be forthcoming, and board member Gary Andersen is helping to organize the event.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Andersen mentioned that a letter of appreciation for Dr. Jim McCarthy was circulating in the community. This spawned the idea that UH should display plaques of Dr. McCarthy and other outstanding teachers somewhere prominently on campus. Gavan Daws comes to mind. Manke asked if Andersen would be willing to serve on that selection committee and he replied he would.
- 2) The Chair thanked Manke for providing the UH-Manoa CIP list last month and mentioned that the Board is worried about the continuing roof leakage at Hamilton library – the library is still recovering from the 2004 flood.
- 3) The Chair stated that Jimmy Lagunero, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator at UH-Manoa, had provided for the board members a University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program book entitled “Homeowner’s Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards.” Copies are available to the public through Sea Grant -- telephone 956-7410 or email uhsgcomm@hawaii.edu.

GOVERNOR’S REPORT – Larry Reifurth, Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), distributed the Governor’s report and noted: (1) Mahalo to everyone who participated in yesterday’s election. (2) The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), DCCA, and Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) announced an agreement to be more aggressive than the law requires when it comes to using sustainable sources for energy production. The law says 20% by 2020, the new goal is 70% by 2030. The federal government is helping in this effort. Some of the energy will come from a wind farm on Maui, with the electrical energy transmitted to Oahu by an undersea cable. Also, fossil fuel generators will be converted to renewable fuel generators, and a prohibition is now in place on any new coal plants. The goal is to create a “smart grid,” and to decouple profits from kilowatts sold to help place the emphasis on conservation and sustainability. (3) All State departments now have a hiring freeze in place due to the economic situation and decline in tax revenues. (4) DCCA is preparing proposed bills to submit to the Legislature for the 2009 session. If you have any ideas or input on topics, please contact him at DCCA.

Grant Allison arrived at 7:50 p.m. Eleven members present.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) The Chair stated that the presentation later on the agenda will relate to the need for clean energy.
- 2) The Board will be looking at noise issues soon -- maybe that can be rolled into one of DCCA's bills.

- 3) The Chair asked if public hearings will be held in relation to the agreement with HECO. Reifurth said he expects both legislative and Public Utilities Commission hearings will occur as part of the process.

MAYOR'S REPORT- Hubert Minn, Deputy Director, Department of Enterprise Services (DES) reported: (1) His email is the same (hminn@honolulu.gov) but he has a new telephone number (527-5415) due to his transfer to DES from the Department of Customer Services. (2) The contractor has approached the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for permission for the continued use of Kamanele Park. The contractor has yet to provide DPR with specific terms of the proposal and must negotiate community benefits for the extended use of the park site. (3) There was a request to alter the signage at the retaining wall construction site at the northeast corner of University Avenue and Maile Way. The arrow board was relocated from the mauka end of the concrete barriers to the middle of the barriers further makai for better visibility. Additional signage, including a variable message board, will be placed on University Avenue mauka of the Metcalf Street intersection for better traffic control.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) The Chair announced that there will be a children and youth's "Fall Fair" held at the "old gym" at Manoa Valley District Park (MVDP), including carnival games. Call MVDP at 988-0580 for more information.
- 2) Andersen mentioned that an event at MVDP last Saturday featured amplified music. The event application form for MVDP does not have a section to address this, and perhaps it should.
- 3) Andersen asked if the City Store was still at Ala Moana Center outside of the Satellite City Hall. Minn replied no, the space now has informational boards including ones about TheBus system and schedules. There is no retail outlet for City themed clothes or items at the moment.
- 4) Minn asked where the crosswalk in need of safety measures was located that was mentioned last month. Allison explained it was at Manoa Road and Alihilani Place, between Nehoa Street and Pipers Pali near the Punahou School tennis courts.
- 5) Nishioka commented that the mid-street stop sign on the crosswalk warning sign on East Manoa Road between Manoa Safeway and Starbucks is jarring, and causes a lot of people to jam on their brakes. Audience member Jimmy Lagunero mentioned there is still discussion about moving the entrance/exits to Manoa Marketplace to make that area safer. The Chair said that there was earlier consideration of making a community bus center at Manoa Marketplace, and he noted that the project to revise the bus routes and schedules for Manoa, including community meetings, was at least four years behind schedule.
- 6) Audience member Jim Harwood said that the contractor using Kamanele Park seems to want to make it a permanent baseyard, which is unacceptable. He hopes the board keeps the matter on its agenda and asks the contractor and/or BWS to make a presentation to the board. The Chair noted that April 2009 is allegedly the new date for the contractor to be out of the park.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – Councilmember Kobayashi reported: (1) Her term on the City Council ends on January 2, 2009. (2) Congratulations to Hubert Minn for being promoted to the Deputy Director position at DES. (3) The City Council is about to take up bills relating to bed and breakfast establishments. This is similar to the adult residential care homes (ARCH) issue in Manoa and elsewhere, related to land use and zoning.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Eads commented that the Council seems to be leaning towards amnesty for all the illegal bed and breakfasts now operating. That's a roundabout way of doing things. Councilmember Kobayashi added that there aren't enough inspectors now to do the job, asking them to inspect and regulate hundreds more B&Bs will be problematic.

SENATOR BRIAN TANIGUCHI - Senator Taniguchi reported: (1) Please submit bill ideas for the 2009 legislative session to his office as soon as possible to allow time for research and drafting. (2) Congratulations to all who participated in a campaign. (3) Both the House of Representatives and Senate are currently organizing their leadership and committees. (4) There will be a special session of the Senate in mid-November to confirm a judge nomination for the Big Island District Court.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Nishioka asked if the Senator could introduce a bill making people who are negligent and have to be rescued financially responsible for the cost of the rescue operations. The Senator replied he would research it, but it was introduced before and didn't pass due in part to the first responders being against it. Kim asked that the Senator email the Board any specific objections to the bill that he is able to uncover from his research.

REPRESENTATIVE ISAAC CHOY – Representative Choy said he has been on the job since 12:01 a.m. today. For now, the best way to contact him is 988-5757 ext. 11. The Chair said it was likely that Choy would get former Representative Kirk Caldwell's telephone number. Andersen said Choy was the only CPA in the House, and in these tough economic times, it's important to have at least one in the assembly.

Jennifer La`a left the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ten members present.

RESIDENT CONCERNS – Robert Sloan stated that he is worried about the Manoa portion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Ala Wai Watershed Project. Many facets of this plan will have major impacts on the residents, possibly including eminent domain condemnation proceedings for potentially 150 streamside properties. The Chair replied that he attends monthly coordination meetings on the project, and will keep the board informed as the project proceeds. Anyone with questions may feel free to contact him at 551-4098 or jtomheinrich@hotmail.com. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has just established an email address for the project and will soon have a website with information posted on the project as well. The Chair explained that public comments are welcome to help determine the scope of the draft environmental impact statement, which may be completed by the first quarter of 2010. He added that everything is still on the table; no decisions have been made about any flood mitigation measures which may be implemented from this project. Harwood explained that the condemnations may only be for the portion of the stream owned by the homeowners. That's the only way to make changes to the stream – it's too hard to do anything with 150 separate owners.

PRESENTATION:

ACT 234 (2007) RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Dr. Makena Coffman, Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting: (1) Act 234 was passed in 2007 and will set policies to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to the best estimate of 1990 levels by January 1, 2020. (2) Greenhouse gases (GHG) act like panes in a greenhouse, trapping heat in our atmosphere and raising temperatures. (3) Some examples of GHG are carbon dioxide from gas and electric power sources, methane from landfills and livestock, and nitrous oxide from fossil fuel and biomass burning. (4) Effects of the warmer temperatures include rising sea levels, shoreline erosion and lowland flooding, saltwater intrusion into groundwater, ocean acidification and reef breakdown, more frequent and severe storms, drought, and a rise in the sea surface temperature. Hawaii is very at risk to all those effects -- for instance, Waikiki will become partially submerged if sea levels rise by a few feet. (5) Act 234 designated 2008 for inventory, 2009 for work plan formulation, 2011 for Department of Health rulemaking, and 2012 for implementation of measures. Most of

the changes will need to be made in transportation and in the use of electricity. (6) Act 234 will impact the costs of utilities and consumer goods, but also help to spur and expand new technologies. (7) Other benefits of Act 234 are the reduction of our dependence on imported fossil fuels, support for clean locally produced energy, incentives to spur investment in Hawaii, the positioning of Hawaii for expected national GHG laws, and helping us to demonstrate leadership in this area. (8) There will be an informational update and public hearing on Act 234 on Thursday November 13, 2008 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the State Capitol Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Questions, answers, and comments:

- 1) Kim commented that water vapor is also a GHG that no one talks about. He asked if Act 234 included that in the studies and projections. Coffman explained that water vapor is not a human factor and therefore was not part of the studies. Climate models do account for it, however. Kim pointed out that hydrogen production causes water vapor and therefore impacts our carbon footprint.
- 2) Eads commented that this sounds like moving towards a cap and trade system. President-elect Obama has warned us that energy prices are going to rise. Eads feels the human element in climate change is overestimated and he hates to see our energy sources limited. Coffman replied that hopefully measures like Act 234 will create cheaper sources of renewable energy. Eads commented he doesn't like it when government decides who the winners and losers are going to be in the marketplace, rather than let the consumers decide. Coffman pointed out that this does not pick one technology out for subsidies, but rather sets goals, and whatever technologies can best meet those goals will win.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING:

TREASURER'S REPORT – The Chair deferred this item. The current report is available through the Neighborhood Commission Office.

CHAIR'S REPORT – The Chair asked everyone to recruit candidates to fill the Board vacancies. He reminded everyone that the Board will recess in January 2009. He also reminded the board members that the recently adopted Neighborhood Plan, effective on October 20, 2008, extended their term by one month to June 30, 2009, and also changed the candidate filing deadline for the next election to February 20, 2009. He announced that the Neighborhood Commission is to meet on Monday November 10, 2008 to select what method the next election will utilize.

Questions, answers, and comments:

Andersen asked when hard copies of the new Neighborhood Plan will be distributed. The Chair said it's on the Neighborhood Commission website (www.honolulu.gov/nco) and hard copies will hopefully be produced in a month or two for distribution to each board member.

REPORT ON CONFERENCE OF CHAIRS: The Chair reported on the Conference of Chairs that was held on Saturday August 23, 2008 at the Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse: (1) Executive Secretary Joan Manke gave a brief report on staffing levels. The NCO Executive Assistant Michelle Kidani was subsequently elected to the Hawaii State Senate on September 20, 2008 (District 17: Mililani), and therefore one vacancy exists in the NCO. (2) Rachel Glanstein, NCO staff parliamentarian, gave a presentation on ways to streamline meetings. (3) Paul Tsukiyama, the Director of the State Office of Information Practices, gave a presentation on Act 153 (2008) related to amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 92 – the "Sunshine Law" – that relate only to neighborhood boards. One of the amendments allows boards to conduct meetings, but take no action, with less than a quorum of members present. It is interesting to note that the new part of HRS Chapter 92 added by Act 153 is not administered by OIP, and therefore inquiries relating to it need to go to the City Department of the Corporation Counsel through the Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Board System. Training sessions related to Act 153 and the rest of the Sunshine Law

are planned for the near future. (4) The new Neighborhood Plan was discussed, and a list of key elements was provided. (5) There was a roundtable discussion of concerns. (6) The next Conference of Chairs may be held in March 2009.

PLANNING OF FUTURE MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND TOPICS – The Chair asked all members and residents to submit suggestions to him. The Board can hold special meetings. Some recent suggestions have been to have representatives of the State Department of Transportation, City Department of Transportation Services, and the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization update the board on planning and project activities in our district. Another was for Punahou School to inform the board about their upper campus construction plans. Nakano suggested that the Board of Water Supply update the board on its various Manoa projects, especially as many roads are not repaved by the Department of Facility Maintenance because they are scheduled for BWS and/or underground utility work.

COMMITTEE AND PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG) REPORTS:

OCTOBER 22, 2008 CANDIDATES FORUM – Eads thanked everyone who helped with the forum. Several Board of Education candidates were present and took questions. Mayoral candidate Ann Kobayashi was present along with a representative for Mayor Mufi Hannemann. House candidates Isaac Choy (District 24, Manoa) and Della Au Belatti (District 25, Makiki) also attended. The board should do a candidates forum again in 2010 with more pre-planning.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – The Chair asked if anyone was interested in taking over for him as Chair of this committee. With the proposed rail mass transit project coming, it is a critical committee. No one indicated they were interested in serving as chair.

SUBDISTRICT BOUNDARIES & MEMBERSHIP PIG – Allison reported that the PIG had met on October 13 and talked about how many subdistricts there should be. Three or four seem to be a good thing as it allows the valley to be divided into quadrants like a plus sign and assure distributed representation. Eads added that the populations for the various possible subdistricts need to be looked at. Ragsdale added that the current subdistricts were drawn in 1975 and the demographics have changed. The 2010 census may be very useful in this effort. The Chair said he would ask the NCO if there is a deadline for the Board to submit its proposal in order to complete the process in time for the new subdistrict boundaries to be effective for the 2009 election.

NOISE RELATED ISSUES PIG – The Chair asked if anyone else wanted to be part of this PIG to please let him know. It will meet soon to prepare for the December 3 board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS – The Chair pointed out that there had been a few suggestions along these lines tonight. Maybe the Board could put together a package of proposals to submit to our district elected officials. An example of expected proposals relates to changing the candidate registration and withdrawal process in response to the July 22, 2008 candidate filing deadline sequence of events. Otherwise, everyone is free to submit their ideas directly to our elected officials.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE CIP PROJECTS FOR THE MANOA AND ADJACENT AREAS – The Chair noted that Manoa Valley District Park is being addressed -- on October 9 bids were opened for upgrading the electrical power system. This should be completed in January 2009, and was included in the FY 2009 budget. The winning bid was thirty percent lower than expected! As for other capital improvement project (CIP) needs, the Chair noted that a new pedestrian/bicycle bridge to connect the north and south portions of Pawaina Street is needed to replace the bridge destroyed by the October 30, 2004 Manoa Stream flood. Jackson commented that at one time, there was talk about creating a walk path along Manoa Stream from Woodlawn Drive to Dole Street. The Chair explained that Malama o Manoa restored the heritage trail along

the stream, but nothing beyond that was ever done. The possibility of using federal funds was explored, but then federal bridge building standards would apply, which was beyond the intent of the project.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Manoa Christmas parade will be on Saturday December 13, 2008 starting at 5:00 p.m. from Woodlawn Drive in front of Noelani Elementary School. The parade will proceed west on Kolowalu Street to East Manoa Road, north to Lowrey Avenue, west to Manoa Road, and north on Manoa Road to Manoa Valley District Park. The parade is sponsored by the East Manoa Lions Club.

ADJOURNMENT: Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Bryan Mick, Neighborhood Commission Office Staff