



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2007
WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:00 p.m.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present. Chair Finley reported that members Apaka and Chen would be absent.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Helen Carroll, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Robert Martin, Richard Personius, Bert Benevento, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters, Mark Smith.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Apaka, David Chen.

VACANT SEATS: None.

GUESTS: Mary Cowing; Capt. Jeff Richards, Officer Leland Cadoy, Sgt. David Baenett, Officer Dason Toma (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), George Melenka, Helen Carroll, Capt. Ryan Young (HFD-Waikiki Station), Candace Van Buren (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Representative Scott Nishimoto, Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Corey Dillman, Bill and Helen Sweatt, Mitchell Nakagawa (Hawaii Bicycling League), Joan Naguwa, Laura Millman, Carol Weatherly, John Silberstein (Department of Land and Natural Resources, Enforcement), Anne Stevens (Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11), Carl Middleton (Downtown Neighborhood Board No. 13), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristy Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Col. John Torres (15th Airlift Wing, Hickam AFB), Bob Farrell (makakilo.com), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported for the month of July, the Operating and Publicity Account showed expenses of \$88.55 leaving a balance of \$4051.45, and the Refreshment Account showed no expenses leaving a balance of \$120.00. The report was accepted as read.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley reported Merz is requesting to attend a Conference on Infrastructure next month, as doing so will be of benefit to the Board. The cost of attending the meeting is \$55. Chair Finley noted the Board needs to authorize this expenditure. **Adams moved and Flood seconded to add "Board authorizing expending \$55 for the Conference on Infrastructure attendance fee." The motion carried unanimously.**

BOARD AUTHORIZING EXPENDING \$55 FOR THE CONFERENCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE FEE – Adams moved and Flood seconded that the Board authorize expending \$55 for the Conference on Infrastructure fee. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Young reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to: 1 structure, 1 brush, and 1 rubbish fire; 101 medical emergencies, and 3 search and rescue calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: "As August is the start of a new school year, be careful while driving near schools and mindful of students crossing the street. Take the time to teach your children how to cross the street safely and remind them to call 911 for emergencies."

Questions, answers and comments followed:



1. Gruntz suggested the Governor be contacted to request air tanker planes be brought in from the Mainland to fight brush fires, such as the one on the North Shore. Follow up will be done.
2. Carroll reported she was stuck in traffic on the North Shore caused by the brush fire. Capt. Young had no specifics on the traffic management plan, and noted there are 20 companies fighting this fire.
3. In response to Martin, the cause of a fire in the Kaiolu Street and Kuhio Avenue area has not been determined.
4. In response to Flood, the Department's Fire Prevention Bureau can be contacted about a possible fire hazard with a vacant building at Kalaimoku Street and Ala Wai Boulevard that has been vandalized and has squatters in it.

Capt. Young was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Officer Cadoy reported the written report previously distributed includes statistics, and noted there were 4,137 calls to 911. The statistics show a decrease in thefts, and unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, and an increase in liquor law violations on the beach and DUI.

Officer Toma reported there were 16 citations for loud music, 6 citations for loud mufflers, 180 citations for liquor law violations on the beach, 28 citations for skateboards on the sidewalk, 24 moped violations, 59 citations for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, and 200 illegal camping violations.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Gruntz, work is being done on handling the new no smoking law violations to assure that cases brought to court are not dismissed, which could weaken future cases. Warnings and citations are being issued.
2. Among reported drivers are driving on the sidewalk between driveways creating a hazard to pedestrians such as in the area of Eggs and Things, and Moose McGillycuddy's, in the early evening hours. Follow up will be done.
3. Smith, Bill Sweatt, and Flood reported "the basketball man" street performer is creating a hazard as pedestrians have to walk in the street to get around him and spectators. Officers noted they are aware of him, and citations have been issued.
4. Carroll noted loud music coming from within a club at Lewers and Kalakaua Avenue.
5. In response to a resident, officers are creating a presence in the area of a Seaside Avenue bar at closing time to prevent problems, and will follow up on a noise complaint.

Capt. Richards, Officer Cadoy, Sgt. Baenett, and Officer Toma were thanked for attending the meeting.

7:21 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – No representative from the Board of Water Supply was present. A written report was received by Chair Finley.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MALFUNCTIONING TRAFFIC LIGHT – A resident noted a malfunctioning traffic light at Kuhio and Liliuokalani avenues. Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, will follow up.

TRASH PROBLEM – A resident and Merz noted a trash dumping problem Cleghorn Street. Rollman will follow up.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Rollman reported the following:

HURRICANE FLOSSIE – Hurricane Flossie is being monitored; and predictions are that it could reach Oahu by 6:00 a.m. tomorrow. Emergency service agencies are on stand-by duty. Everyone is encouraged to monitor news reports for new information.

WASTE WATER MEETING – The City is hosting an informational meeting tonight at Ala Wai Elementary on the EPA possibly requiring the City to treat sewage to the secondary level, and the City's position that secondary treatment is unnecessary and its resources should be spent on improvements to the collection system.

ALA WAI BOULEVARD BICYCLE LANE – Ala Wai Boulevard resurfacing has been completed, and single line marking the bicycle lane painted, not two lines to more clearly define the parking lane from the bicycle lane as the Board has suggested. Follow up will be done. Smith expressed thanks for the resurfacing and noted driving was much smoother and as a resident living next to the street there's less traffic noise because according to studies road surface and tires are important factors in traffic noise.

Rollman responded to questions from past meetings as follows:

1. TheBus stops along Kuhio Avenue have been cleaned.
2. Regarding the use of the future Aloha Drive park as a contractor's baseyard for the sewer improvement project, the temporary by-pass project is approximately 85 percent complete; a permanent new line is a four to five year project.
3. There are no plans to restore a TheBus stop at Kuhio Avenue and Ohua Street that was removed as part of a realignment project.
4. The Board of Water Supply (BWS) reports that the pH of the water supply in Waikiki is 7.28 – 8.11, within EPA limits, the water is not acidic. The chemistry lab can be contacted for more information.
5. Signage on the former Jack in the Box restaurant at McCully Street and Kalakaua Avenue was checked, illegal signs and banners have been removed.
6. Regarding a request for additional signs in the area of Kuamoo Street and Kalakaua Avenue to clarify the 'bus only' lane, signage and lane markings will be revised.
7. Regarding a request for a mid-block crosswalk on Hobron Lane, the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) reports that such a crosswalk is not warranted.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Carroll disagreed with the DTS denying requests for a mid block crosswalk on Hobron Lane, as it is too far for some residents who shop at the Food Pantry to have to walk to the nearest intersection. She also noted she saw DTS personnel checking the site, and suggested they check the area at different times of the day. Rollman suggested residents can continue to pursue this matter with DTS, but that one of the reasons for denial of the request was for pedestrian safety reasons. Poole, Carroll, Among, and Smith provided additional comments on the DTS decision.
2. Sweatt reiterated the trash problem on Cleghorn Street. Rollman noted part of the problem is residents ignoring the bulky item collection schedule.
3. Sweatt noted some clean up has been done on the Aloha Drive park site being used as a contractor's baseyard for the sewer project, and noted plans for the park have been prepared and suggested there be a presentation on it at a future meeting.

4. Cowing opposed the City's mass transit plan, saying it will not improve traffic.
5. Adams suggested that there be some type of compromise on a mid-block crosswalk on Hobron Lane, such as it being used only for certain hours of the day. Carroll noted her belief that crossing mid block is safer, as intersections have more complex traffic patterns.
6. Adams requested information on when Kuhio Avenue will be resurfaced. Rollman will follow up.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

7:47 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Lori Wingard, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. Among requested assistance from Councilmember Djou's Office on the Hobron Lane crosswalk matter.
2. Merz and Carroll thanked Councilmember Djou for introducing a bill that would increase the fee City employees pay for parking at the Civic Center and provide a free bus pass. It was noted the bill would increase the parking fee such that it would be significantly cheaper to buy a TheBus pass. Benevento noted a similar bill was introduced in 2003, was opposed by employees, and did not pass. Erteschik noted the City Council has the authority to vote on this bill.
3. Flood noted a recent newspaper article that it is not illegal for someone to occupy a TheBus stop with no intention of taking the bus, and suggested there be a bill to address this. Follow up will be done.

Wingard was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Chair Finley reported Governor's Office representative Marsha Weinert is on the Big Island due to Hurricane Flossie, and is unable to attend the meeting.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported this monthly report includes a list of hurricane shelters, and that the State has grants up to \$2100 to individuals who make a safe room or fortify their homes to resist wind damage.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

A resident reported a problem with parking valets in the Prince Kuhio Hotel racing up and down the parking decks screeching tires and honking horns. Smith noted the State Department of Health does not address this type of noise, and that such noise problems should be reported to police so a record exists. Follow up will be done with the HPD officer still present.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER – Chair Finley reported Representative Brower is out of town.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Representative Nishimoto reported the following:

1. The annual community clean-up is scheduled for October 13, Kaimuki High School parking lot, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Recyclable materials will be collected; arrangements can be made for a truck to pick up materials from residents' homes by calling his office.
2. A community meeting to discuss the State Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) plans to rezone a parcel of land at 548 Kapahulu Avenue to permit commercial use, will be held August 22, Kapahulu Senior Center, 7:00 p.m. The community has advocated the site be used as a parking lot for customers of area businesses.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Peters, the lot at 548 Kapahulu Avenue is currently being used for parking on a month-to-month lease by the Kapahulu Business Association. One proposal is to repave the lot, and operate it with meters or an attendant.

In response to Merz, DLNR is seeking the rezoning to permit commercial use, up to a four-story building could be developed on the site.

8:10 p.m.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – Rick Egged was unable to attend the meeting. Chair Finley noted in response to a question from last month's meeting, the stars on Kalakaua Avenue, between Royal Hawaiian Avenue and Seaside Avenue, are on private property.

PRESENTATIONS:

AIR FORCE WEEK, SEPTEMBER 9 – 15 – Col. John Torres, commander of the 15th Airlift Wing, Hickam Air Force Base, reported Honolulu is only one of six cities hosting Air Force Week to mark the Air Force's 60th anniversary. During the week there will be a variety of events including the September 15 performance off Waikiki by the Thunderbirds flight demonstration team. This location provides an opportunity for more people to see than if it were held elsewhere, such as at Hickam. There have been six months of preparations for the Thunderbirds' performance by numerous agencies, including the Flight Standards Office, Coast Guard, DLNR, HPD, HFD, and Emergency Medical Services. Assuring safety is a high priority, during the performance no swimmers, boaters or surfers will be allowed in the water in the performance area, no air traffic within five miles will be allowed – airlines have rescheduled flights. A security plan is in place, community outreach is being done. For more information call 448-0238.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Poole expressed thanks for the performance being held off of Waikiki, and noted wind conditions there create challenges.
2. Gruntz noted a past arrival by the Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team created a disturbance.
3. Col. Torres noted the Thunderbirds will be doing a tribute, with a flyover of the Arizona Memorial on the Thursday before the performance and there will be a separate practice session.

Col. Torres was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:27 p.m.

HAWAII CENTURY BIKE RIDE – Mitchell Nagagawa, Hawaii Bicycling League, provided a brief background on the League which has educational programs, advocates bicycle riding, works on trail access, and that the September 30 Ride is their major fundraiser. Approximately 4500 riders are expected for the event which begins at Kapiolani Park at 5:30 a.m. for the starting ceremonies, start runs from 6:00 – 7:00 a.m. to get all riders on their way. Special duty police officers have been hired for traffic control. The number of special duty officers and volunteers has been increased from last year. Out of state riders are required to attend a safety seminar on rules of the road.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Merz commended the work of the League and the event.
2. Mitchell reported that for the 2009 event, there may be some changes to street closings in the Kapiolani Park area. The League will meet with City officials following this year's event.

3. In response to Finley, riders will be advised about rules of the road, including riding single file.

Nakagawa was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:25 p.m.

PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORTS:

SECOND FLOOR SIGNAGE – Peters reported the group has met with representative of businesses interested in making changes to existing laws and the next meeting will be held before the Board's September meeting.

HOMELESS ISSUES – Benevento reported the area problem has been identified and a report and suggestions made at the October Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE JULY 10, 2007 REGULAR MEETING: The following correction was made:

Page 1, under Members Present, add "Robert Martin".

The minutes were approved as corrected.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported a sunshine law training workshop was held today at City Hall. Board members who attended a training workshop within the past two calendar years do not have to attend a training workshop until 2009. Other members will have to attend an upcoming training workshop.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Waikiki Residents Association meeting is August 15, Paki Hale.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant