



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 9, 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.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Jack Myers, Bert Benevento, Norman Duncan, David Chen, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters, Carol Sword (appointed at this meeting).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin McDonald.

MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT: None.

GUESTS: Corey Dillman, Mary Cowing, L. Johnson, Chris Novak (Kuhio Village), Gary Dymally (Olelo), Michelina Mayer, Cindy McMillan (Communications Pacific), Ben Orgeta (Fifield), Joe Farrell (Architects Hawaii), Dawn Chang (Ku'iwalu), James Nadj, Lillian Russell, Nancy Hall, Jan Bappe, Keith Kurahashi (Kusao and Kurahashi), Mike and Tomoko Malaghan, Patrick McMillen, Emily Reed, Daisy Murai, Jim Morris, Lee Thomas, Laura Millman, Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Councilmember Charles Djou, Joan Nagawa, Pat Lee, Linda Wong (Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board), Michelle Matson (Waikiki Residents Association), Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Elizabeth Truong and Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Trimble's Office), Jenny Kaya, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Marsha Weinert (Governor's Office), Neil Bates, Carol Ohmura, Rex Saunders, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Lee Thomas, Acting Captain A. Silva (HFD-Waikiki Station); Sgt. K. Saito, Sgt. N. Nihei, Sgt. R. Lamontagne (HPD-Waikiki Station), Diana Schneider, Representative Tom Brower, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ELECTION TO FILL VACANCY IN SUB DISTRICT 1 – Chair Finley noted the vacancy was created by the resignation of Tom Brower, who was elected to the State House of Representatives. **Among nominated Carol Sword. Gruntz seconded the nomination.** There were no other nominations. Sword provided a brief background on herself at this time. **Sword was unanimously elected.** Neighborhood Assistant Chu administered the oath-of-office to Sword.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chen reported for the month of December the starting balance was \$2875.93, there were monthly expenses of \$74.26, leaving a balance of \$2825.93, and the Refreshment Account balance is unchanged at \$120.00.

APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE OF REFRESHMENT FUND – Chen moved and Myers seconded that the Board approve the expenditure of the refreshment fund for the November meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley announced the following:

1. The City Council is considering Resolution 06-369, relating to increasing building height limits in the primary urban center (Pearl City to Waiialae).
2. The Board is required to end its meeting in a timely manner so that the meeting location can be locked up by 10:00 p.m.
3. A statement was received from Marsha Weinert, representing the Governor's Office, updating her November report about KSSK's use of a generator during the October power outage.



CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Acting Captain Silva reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 8 structure fires, 4 rubbish fires, 107 medical responses, 2 search and rescue, and 7 miscellaneous calls.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: fire, building, and U.S. Postal codes, along with City ordinances, state that all property owners shall place their house numbers in such a manner as to be readily seen from the street. The numbers should be at least half an inch wide by two inches high. Having your address plainly visible and legible from the street or road fronting your property will assist the Honolulu Fire Department and other first responders to locate you more quickly in the event of an emergency. Call 723-7161 for more information.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

New Year's Eve was not particularly busy for the station.

Acting Captain Silva was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Sgt. Saito and Sgt. Nihei were present, Sgt. Saito reported statistics for December and November included: 11/18 sex offenses, 14/6 robberies, 45/36 thefts, 199/195 thefts, 74/73 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 21/17 motor vehicle thefts, 41/43 assaults, 19/25 harassment, 34/32 property damage, 11/13 drug/narcotics, 11/10 family offenses, 10/18 DUI, 28/24 liquor law, 101/87 misc. public cases, 183/178 vehicles towed, 129/109 motor vehicle collisions, 178/238 arguments family, 274/240 nuisance complaints, 150/139 parking violations, 154/119 suspicious circumstances, persons, vehicles, 369/425 miscellaneous service calls. Last month there were 20 loud music, 16 loud muffler, 15 skateboarding, 30 moped, and 30 bicycles on the sidewalk citations,

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Myers noted the drug case statistics seem low. It was noted that the Narcotics/Vice Division may be doing operations, etc., which are confidential.
2. Myers suggested the department establish more K-9 units to locate drugs, and also suggested the formation of private K-9 units to address the drug problem.
3. Among noted the use of illegal aerial fireworks in the area of the convention center. It was acknowledged there is a problem with illegal aerals and some citations were issued.
4. Lee Thomas expressed concerns about the homeless taking over the tables along the beach, urinating and defecating in the sand on the beach, illegal drinking and use of drugs, etc., making the area unsuitable for the public's use, and suggested the use of foot patrol and bicycle patrols to better address this problem than car patrols. It was noted undercover officers, officers on all terrain vehicles and bicycle patrols to monitor the area. Police need to be called if problems are seen, need to witness incidents, and need witnesses to provide statements to police officers. Citations can be issued for illegal camping and warrant checks can be made of persons, put persons cannot be removed just because they are homeless.
5. Merz also suggested more use of foot patrols.
6. Moped violations include traffic violations.
7. A resident expressed thanks for police attention to problems at his 200-unit complex.

8. A resident suggested the use of more security cameras. It was noted that there are six or seven cameras in operation, others need repairs, and use of the cameras has made cases.
9. A resident thanked officers for work on Lemon Road in dealing with a number of ongoing problems.
10. There are 10 bicycle patrol officers on duty.
11. Flood noted homeless persons at Kuhio Beach Park and suggested the park be designated as closed at night as are other parks. It was noted that Waikiki is different from other areas as parks and beaches are open 24-hours a day to accommodate visitors.
12. A resident expressed concern about pedestrian safety due to skateboarders, bicycle riders and Segways being used on sidewalks. It was noted that skateboards and bicycles are illegal in Waikiki and citations are issued.

A resident also suggested bicycles have license plates on the back so if a violation occurs, the number can be taken and reported to police. It was noted police officers have to see violations and witnesses need to make statements to police.

Among noted seeing bicyclists riding the wrong way on streets.

13. Wong noted bicycles with advertising panels on them are being locked in bicycle racks. It was noted these bicycles are not illegal, they are licensed, and the advertising on them is not illegal.
14. Myers requested crime statistics from 2004 – 2006 for comparison purposes.

Sgt. Saito and Sgt. Nihei was thanked for attending the meeting.

7:32 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Chair Finley noted a written report and calendars were received and available for interested persons.

CITIZENS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

Chair Finley deferred the agenda to take up a Presentations item at this time. There were no objections.

PRESENTATIONS:

FAMILY COURT MOVE TO KAPOLEI, TABLED MOTION TO SUPPORT CREATION OF NEW 4TH CIRCUIT COURT - By consensus the motion was taken off the table for discussion and vote. Chair Finley reviewed the motion, "**Erteschik moved and Flood seconded that the Board supports the creation of a new 4th Circuit Court in Kapolei with a proportionate number of judges to Honolulu.**" Discussion followed where Adams noted if established, cases could be heard either at the new 4th Circuit or another District at the parties' choice and judges would move from court to court to hear the cases. **The motion carried, 13-1-2.** Adams opposed, Peters and Merz abstained.

The order of the agenda resumed.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Keith Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. The sewer project is approaching the micro tunneling phase. When the tunneling begins there should be minimal impacts to the surrounding area as work will be done underground.

2. The area of Ala Wai Boulevard Diamond Head of the sewer project is being scheduled for resurfacing; no definite date was available at this time.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Regarding a previous suggestion, placing license plates on the rear of bicycles would likely require a change in the law.
2. Apaka suggested there be marked parking stalls along the Ala Wai Canal as there are problems with drivers parking on the grass, etc.
3. There is no new information on a request for a left turn from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street.
4. Gruntz suggested lines be painted on Magic Island sidewalks to separate pedestrians from bicyclists, etc.
5. Gruntz reported recently seeing office lights illuminated on multiple floors of the Fasi Municipal Building on a Sunday.
6. Peters suggested signs prohibiting loitering, gambling, drinking, etc. be posted by tables along the beach.
7. Myers suggested the formation of more K-9 units for Waikiki, checking cars, etc., to deal with the illegal drug problem.
8. Adams noted a pot hole on the mauka side of the zoo, and noted better street maintenance is important to the visitor industry.
9. Adams questioned if there are specifications for parking stalls as the ones at the McCully Shopping Center seem too small. Sword noted there are requirements.
10. Poole suggested there be more street decorations in Waikiki for Christmas. It was noted that in the Downtown area, a public-private partnership is responsible for the Christmas decorations. Chair Finley noted the Waikiki Business Improvement District will be discussing this matter.
11. Merz requested the location of a crosswalk at Lewers Street and Beachwalk be checked as it seems improperly located.
12. Wong noted that marked parking stalls on Ala Wai Boulevard would result in there being less space available. Chair Finley noted a plan he has seen includes marked parking stalls.
13. Cowing suggested the Ala Wai Boulevard resurfacing would be a good time to remove the landscaped bulbouts. Chair Finley noted the plans he has seen includes retaining the bulbouts.
14. A resident expressed thanks for the Ala Wai Boulevard street cleaning which has removed abandoned vehicles, and also suggested removing the bulb outs.
15. A resident noted the need for better planning, there is too much development occurring.
16. A resident suggested restoring the bicycle path lost due to the sewer project. It was noted the area is still an active construction zone.
17. A resident questioned if the ownership of Lemon Road has been determined and believes property taxes are not being paid.
18. Gruntz noted the increase in real property assessments and that for many the increase falls below the threshold where a property owner can appeal the assessment. It was noted the Mayor has proposed creation of a new property tax category for owner-occupants as the other counties have, and that the City Council sets the tax rate.

19. Erteschik noted a meeting was held with residents and City officials regarding concerns about Lemon Road, and was not satisfied with the outcome of the meeting as residents were not treated appropriately. It was also noted that some of the matters Lemon Road want addressed can only be addressed by revising the Land Use Ordinance which requires a change to the law.
20. Matson reported the Waikiki Residents Association is seeking an appointment with Henry Eng, Director, Department of Planning and Permitting, but has not been able to secure one. Merz requested to be included in the meeting.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:10 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Councilmember Djou reported the following:

1. The locally preferred alternative for the mass transit system was approved by the City Council. He opposed the legislation.
2. Resolution 06-369, proposes to allow building height increases in the City's primary urban core, Pearl City to Waialae. Doing so is provide an alternative to urban sprawl developing raw land to meet the need for housing units, approximately 3,000 units per year to meet population growth needs.
3. He has introduced a vicious dog bill to require doctors to notify the police department and Hawaiian Humane Society of dog bites requiring medical treatment. No procedure currently exists to identify such dogs.
4. The sewer project includes a beautification project.
5. He opposes property tax increases and has proposed a cap of either 10 percent or equal twice the rate of inflation a year. He believes the City should be able to live with a tax increase of 10 percent a year.
6. Lemon Road is privately-owned, and the owner has been contacted and is not interested in dedicating it to the City. He has requested City agencies to address problems with the hostels, and some violations have been found.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz opposed the resolution to increase building heights. It was noted Waikiki is a special district, which has its own height limits. Changes to the district regulations would require a change in the law.
2. Sword noted property tax relief measures are needed, such as limits on annual increases in assessments.
3. Djou did check out and supports the HOT lanes used in Tampa, Florida, be used in Honolulu, and noted that it would be difficult to change to this system as legislation for a rail system has already passed.
4. In response to Adams, Djou reported the City Council was aware of a 12,000 home project in the Ewa when it voted on the locally preferred alternative bill.
5. Adams supported a limited increase in height limits and the need for developments to preserve a community concept as has been done in some projects.
6. Adams noted that in Washington state, they don't increase property taxes, rather they freeze the budget. Councilmember Djou noted a bill to require the City have a ceiling on spending passed the Council, was vetoed by the Mayor, and the Council was not able to over ride the veto. He will pursue this legislation again.

7. Myers opposed the resolution for increasing building heights substantially, but supported small increases, such as from two to three stories, but not to 300 feet. It was noted improvements to infrastructure to support small height increases is unaffordable, but affordable for large height increases by large developers.
8. In response to Myers, the State collects the increase in the general excise tax for the City, but imposes a 10 percent charge.
9. In response to Benevento, the amount of height increases would vary from area to area.
10. In response to a question about population control, Djou noted the only time population increases declined was during an economic recession.
11. Erteschick expressed concern that if height increases are allowed elsewhere, it would be possible for there to be increases in Waikiki.
12. A resident expressed frustration with ongoing problems on Lemon Road, and the City not resolving them. It was noted a sting was done at the hostels regarding illegal alcohol sales, and a violation was found, but only the bartender was cited, not the property owner.
13. Matson expressed concern that increasing height limits would result in increases in property values for surrounding areas.
14. A resident expressed the need for limits on development. Councilmember Djou noted there is shortage of housing and the alternatives are more urban sprawl into undeveloped areas, or increasing height limits in developed areas.
15. In response to Wong, increasing homeowners exemptions would achieve the same results as a new homeowners category such as proposed by the Mayor.

Djou was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:55 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Marsha Weinert, representing the Governor's Office, reported the following:

1. The beach sand replenishment project in Waikiki has been completed with some 10,000 cubic yards of sand added to the beach.
2. Diamond Head Crater will be closed to visitors on January 17, 19, and 24, beginning at 1:00 p.m. each day to allow for inspections for rock fall damage.
3. The report by the Governor's Task Force on Emergency Communications, has been completed, copies are available.
4. Regarding the October earthquake and power outage, KSSK did not have to siphon gasoline from cars to power their generators.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Follow up will be done if the State is getting any reimbursement for the contractor for the Hilton Lagoon project use of space in Ala Wai boat harbor, and questioned the night time removal of dredged material.
2. Sword questioned if there is a low inventory of hotel rooms, and it was noted that a number of rooms are unavailable due to renovations.

3. Cowing raised questions about the conversion of hotel rooms to time share units, and it was noted that this matter is under the jurisdiction of the City.

Weinert was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble introduced members of his staff and reported the following:

1. He is serving on the Energy and Environment, and the Tourism and Government Operations committees. Opening day for the session is January 17, 2007.
2. Work is being done this session: a) on tax relief, including increasing personal exemptions, b) making Hawaii more energy independent, c) improving preparation for natural disasters, d) noise abatement, and e) the public can help get bills passed by testifying at hearings.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER –Representative Brower reported the following:

1. He is serving on the Finance, Tourism and Culture, and the Agriculture committees.
2. He is working on legislation on noise abatement, tax relief. Suggestions are welcome.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Gruntz suggested implementing a loitering law such as New York has broad coverage. Representative Brower noted that are enough laws, but there is a lack of will to enforce those laws.

Representative Brower was thanked for attending the meeting.

9:12 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – Representative Nishimoto was not present at this time. A written report was made available.

WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION – Rick Egged, from the Waikiki Improvement Association, reported the following:

1. The beach sand replacement project has been completed, positive comments have been received. In some areas where there was no beach left, in others it is was narrow, and is now 40 to 60 feet wide. There is concern about beach erosion off of Kapiolani Park and the Gray's Beach areas. A \$1 million study is being done and is being funded by half by the State, one-fourth each by the City and private sources.
2. The Pro Bowl Festival will be held in Waikiki, February 8.
3. Repaving of Kalakaua Avenue is being requested.
4. Work is being done on installing more security cameras.
5. Work is being done on street decorations for Christmas.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Poole, Outrigger still owns and manages the Beachwalk project. In response to Apaka, it was noted it has a breakfast bar that is open to hotel guests only.

2. In response to Myers, the Waikiki Improvement Association has not taken a position on the Council resolution to increase height limits.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

FAMILY COURT MOVE TO KAPOLEI, TABLED MOTION TO SUPPORT CREATION OF NEW 4TH CIRCUIT COURT (CONTINUED) - Adrian King, who spoke on this matter at the last Board meeting was recognized. Chair Finley advised her of the Board's action to support the creation of a new 4th Circuit Court in Kapolei with a proportionate number of judges to Honolulu.

ALLURE PROJECT – Ben Orgeta, from Fifield, and Dawn Chang, cultural consultant, provided an update on the hotel project at Ena Road and Kalakaua Avenue, on the site of the former Wave nightclub. Chang reported on work with the families that once lived on this site. Comments received at the last meeting were considered and some revisions to the project made. The site includes 30 percent open space, and on the Ena Road side there will be a privately maintained, but publicly accessible park landscaped with native plants. Taro was once grown on the site, and a taro motif will be incorporated into columns, railings, and taro may again be grown on the site. Work is being done with the family on a name change that may include the Allure name. Other parts of the project include the open ground floor lanai, use of earth tone colors for the building, and providing the space for an additional traffic lane on Kalakaua Avenue.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Myers, the extra traffic lane is for a right turn only from Kalakaua Avenue to Ena Road.
2. In response to Myers, the name of the restaurant in the commercial space cannot be released at this time, they can only say that it will be a high end restaurant.
3. Among opposed the project, preferring that this space be made into a park.
4. Gruntz expressed concern about whether or not a bar like the Irish Rose might occupy commercial space.
5. Merz, Sword, Poole, Apaka, a resident, and Egged expressed support of the changes.
6. A resident expressed concern about the project's impact on traffic. Kurahashi reported the traffic study, done by a consultant, reported the project would not impact area traffic, as the same level of service (A, B, or C), would be maintained during the morning and afternoon peak hours.
7. Matson supported the changes and questioned the status of a City study on the area's carrying capacity to accommodate this project. Kurahashi reported they have received approval for the sewer and water services and have not received adverse comments from other utility companies.
8. In response to a question from a resident, Chair Finley noted that an update on this project was provided to the Waikiki Residents Association last month, and the Board has not met to discuss this project since it was last presented to the Board.

Everyone was thanked for their participation on this matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CANDIDATE PROFILE WITH NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD ELECTION BALLOT – Erteschick reviewed a motion for the Board to urge the Neighborhood Commission to reconsider its position and to include profiles of all candidates running for the Neighborhood Boards along with the ballots which are to be mailed to all registered voters. **Erteschik moved and Myers seconded that the Board adopt the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Finley deferred the remainder of the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant