



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 MARCH 13, 2007 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jo-Ann Adams, Les Among, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Carol Sword, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Bob Finley, Walt Flood, Kevin McDonald, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Norman Duncan, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Myers.

MEMBERS' SEATS VACANT: None.

GUESTS: George Melenka, Stefan, Emily Reed, Dorothy Strander, Nancy Hall, Jerry Habel, Lori Wingard (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Lt. H. Kim Han, Capt. J. Richards, Sgt. Nihei (HPD-District 6, Waikiki), Bill and Helen Sweatt, Capt. Norbert Pokini (HFD-Waikiki Station), Helen Carroll (WRA), Jim Sullivan, Terri Law, Anne Stevens, Jenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Lorna Johnston and Bill Cooper (Hobron/Ena Road Organization for Safety), Gary Omori, Christine S., Daniel Chun (Governor's Office), Daisy Murai, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Gordon Trimble's Office), Corey Dillman, Kathy Watanabe, Mark Smith (Citizens Against Noise), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: A quorum was present.

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chair Finley announced the following:

1. Anthony Len, a guest at last month's Board meeting, has died. Honolulu Police Department representatives will be available outside of the meeting room to meet with residents on matters related to Len's medical emergency at last month's meeting.
2. The State Department of Transportation is not able to send a representative to the Board's meeting at this time.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The following correction was made:

Page 2, under Honolulu Police Department, questions, answers and comments, add a new item number 9, to read "Gruntz presented the officers with a gift of a pair of handcuffs."

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

The Board recessed in December.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The following correction was made:

Page 6, under Councilmember Djou, questions, answers and comments, add an item number 16 to read "Gruntz asked Djou, Is'ent it a fact that DPP could go before the Council and request higher height limits in Waikiki. And the answer was yes.

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.



CITY AGENCIES:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Pukini reported the following:

1. Last month the station responded to: 3 structure, 1 rubbish and 1 vehicle fire, 121 medical emergencies, 3 search and rescues, 11 miscellaneous alarms. There were no major incidents.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is: Brush fires cause great damage in our communities and use resources that could be better utilized elsewhere. Now is the time to prepare for brush fire season. Be responsible and extinguish fires properly. Even small sources of fire, such as cigarettes and charcoal, can cause immense destruction. Formulate plans and communicate with family members and neighbors to create a safer community. Report and remove hazards. Maintain a 30-foot wide firebreak by clearing vegetation surrounding all structures.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

No details were available about whether or not one of the medical response cases was a drug related death.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Richards introduced himself and was available for questions.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. They are aware of problems with the homeless and other matters at a vacant building in the Kuhio Avenue and Kaiolu Street area. Residents noted their appreciation of HPD's attention to the matter and requested continued monitoring. Capt. Richards reported they are working with the owner to allow police onto the premises to check for problems and take action.
2. Apaka referred a letter about a missing person to Capt. Richards.

Sgt. Nihei reported statistics for February compared to January included: 21/33 sex offenses, 5/10 robberies, 33/47 burglaries, 180/211 thefts, 60/66 unauthorized entries into motor vehicles, 10/18 motor vehicle thefts, 45/45 assaults, 20/25 harassment, 37/30 property damage, 12/16 drug/narcotics. Also, citations issued including 83 for loud music, 11 for loud mufflers, 1325 for jaywalking, 60 for moped violations, and 66 for riding bicycles on the sidewalk.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz requested Sgt. Nihei to explain the 200 foot rule when crossing from a marked crossing. He and others were unclear on the law. Sgt. Nihei reported it is legal to cross a street at an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection that is more than 200 feet from a marked crosswalk. It is not legal to cross Hobron Lane other than at a marked crosswalk, no mid-block crossing is allowed. Sword, Among, and Carroll requested that a mid-block crosswalk be installed as the existing crosswalks are too far apart. In response to questions from Erteschik and Carroll, there is no special enforcement to single out persons jaywalking on Hobron Lane, the education program is island wide.
2. A resident expressed thanks for attention to problems at a half-way house.
3. A resident expressed thanks for attention to problems at the vacant building noted earlier.
4. Stefan requested police support the legislation relating to loud vehicle mufflers.
5. Hall expressed thanks for the attention to problems on Lemon Road, but drug and alcohol problems persist.
6. A resident noted problems with trash dumping at the vacant building noted earlier. Rollman, representing the Mayor's Office, will follow up.

7. Smith noted his appreciation for the reporting of citations for noise violations.
8. Smith noted drivers are racing on Ala Wai Boulevard on Saturday and Sunday nights after 11:00 p.m. Follow up will be done.
9. In response to a question about the homeless, their occupying some places such as the covered tables along the beach, and church running a soup kitchen; citations can be issued for illegal camping, sweeps are done, but it is not illegal to be homeless and laws limit what police can do.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – A written report was received and made available for interested persons to review.

7:25 p.m.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

BOARD MEETING STARTING AND ENDING TIMES ON AGENDA – Gruntz noted that the ending time of the meeting should not be on the agenda as the meeting should not end at a required time, but when its business is completed. Chair Finley noted the Board is required to vacate the meeting room and premises by a specific time, therefore the ending time is on the agenda.

OCTOBER 14, 2007 DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES MEETING REPORT – Gruntz requested a report on the meeting attended by Chair Finley who reported he will submit a report.

WAIKIKI SEWER PROJECT – In response to a comment from a resident about the sewer project taking too long, and it taking a long time just to complete one of two tunnels under the Ala Wai Canal, Chair Finley reported there is no exact scheduled completion date for the project.

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Rollman reported the following:

1. The sewer project is behind schedule, one factor was the tunneling phase encountered unexpected problems.
2. The homelessness problem is difficult to resolve, it is wide spread. The State is developing housing as part of the solution.
3. Regarding a question from last month's meeting on the estimated 700 foot distance between crosswalks on Hobron Lane, the applicable State law provides for no pedestrian crossing within 600 feet of a marked crosswalk in locations such as this. Enforcement of jay walking violations is for pedestrian safety as there's been an increase in pedestrian deaths and injuries this year.
4. In response to a question from last month's meeting, traffic light timing is adjusted for special events such as the block party on Kalakaua Avenue. Timing changes include additional green time for both main and cross streets. Traffic is monitored during the event and adjustments to light timing made as appropriate.
5. In response to a question about City departments shopping at big box stores, City departments do shop at Costco using purchasing cards. The Department of Parks and Recreation shops at the Waipio Costco, but other Costco locations do not accept the purchasing cards.
6. Apaka noted he and residents have repeatedly requested a left-turn traffic signal from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street, the Department of Transportation Services has reviewed the request, and does not recommend a left-turn phase at this time as it would delay traffic on Kalakaua Avenue.

7. In response to a question from last month's meeting, the pedestrian crossing signal across Kuhio Avenue at Paoakalani Avenue is pedestrian-activated, it is not automatic like other intersections.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz requested repainting the lines on the walkways of Magic Island.
2. Gruntz noted the Department of Education does not shop at big box stores.
3. McDonald suggested individual stall markings be installed on streets, including Ala Wai Boulevard that don't have them. Drivers are parking on the grass along Ala Wai Boulevard.
4. McDonald requested trees along Ala Wai Boulevard be trimmed.
5. Apaka requested replacement of street lights on Kaiolu Street.
6. Erteschik, Apaka and residents requested additional signs, enforcement, etc., to better advise drivers of the 'bus only' lane in the Kuamoo Street and Kalakaua Avenue (Keo's restaurant and ABC store) area. It was noted some drivers may not see the existing signage if they are following close behind a bus.
7. It was previously reported that the bike path displaced by the sewer project could be restored. A more specific date was requested.
8. In response to a question from Stefan, Rollman reported that the City did request the State Department of Transportation send a representative to the Waikiki Neighborhood Board meeting.
9. A resident reported a better job needs to be done in patching potholes and questioned the method he's seen being used.
10. A resident noted the City needs to do a better job in recycling. Rollman noted the City is working on improving recycling and that it is a complex matter and that the H-Power plant removes recyclable materials.
11. Duncan noted problems with the traffic light timing on Kuhio Avenue during a recent parade did not provide enough time for left turns onto side streets.
12. Apaka noted participants in the Honolulu Festival parade this past weekend started assembling too early, blocking traffic. Duncan noted large gaps between units in the parade.
13. Simpson noted the lack of public restrooms. Rollman acknowledged the problem and that work is being done to address it.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:00 p.m.

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

1. The owner of Lemon Road has been identified as Henlu Corporation, with Cedric and Calvert Chun as executive officers.
2. The Council has received the budget for the next fiscal year from the Administration. The budget is the largest ever, \$2.36 billion, and the capital improvement project budget the largest ever, \$724 million.
3. Councilmember Djou has introduced legislation to prohibit companies with a criminal record of bribery or corruption from being awarded Honolulu's mass transit contract.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Persons with questions about the ownership of Lemon Road and other matters can call her.
2. Peters noted his opposition to a bill in the legislature that would allow public funding of city council candidates.

Wingard was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – No report. Copies of the Governor's weekly report were made available for interested persons.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. The session is at the halfway point, with the only legislation passed is to pay for the legislative session.
2. The legislature is working on spending the estimated \$734 million budget surplus for costs such as employee pay increases.
3. At a State Department of Agriculture a meeting he questioned the authorizing of importing avian flu virus samples and its use at the UH medical school which is in a shoreline inundation zone as too much of a risk.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz suggested the budget surplus be used to pay off debt service.
2. Among noted Senator Trimble's teaching in China, and Senator Trimble noted he also taught in Hawaii.
3. In response to Stefan, the law requires the State refund the budget surplus to taxpayers, it doesn't specify an amount, and the status of bills relating to noisy mufflers and mopeds was not available at this time.
4. In response to McDonald, a laboratory to handle material such as the avian flu was once planned in the Waimano Ridge and another area other than in Kakaako.
5. In response to Merz, the size of government only decreases when there is full employment and a growing economy. However, the size of government locally has been increasing.
6. In response to Sword, there are approximately 88,000 government employees and less than 600,000 other persons in the labor force.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

8:17 p.m.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER – No report, Representative Brower or a staff member were not present.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO - Jenny Kaya, from Representative Nishimoto's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. There was a community graffiti paint out day this past Saturday in the McCully-Moilili area.
2. Representative Nishimoto attended the ceremony to reopen Paki Hale last month.
3. Area State legislators and City Councilmember Kobayashi held a successful town meeting last month.

4. March 8 was the crossover of bills between the House and Senate.

There were no questions from the Board or guests.

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

1. Requested forwarding of information to him on crosswalks discussed earlier for possible support by the WIA.
2. Egged also noted support for the left-turn signal from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street.
3. Jaywalking is a pedestrian safety issue.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The Honolulu Festival parade this past weekend was shorter than previous year's parades. The gaps between units should have allowed for cross traffic to get through.
2. Stefan stated he believes the signs at Kuhio Avenue and Kuamoo Street for the 'bus only' lane are adequate.
3. Sunset on the Beach is March 23-24. Plans are to remove the boardwalks by the movie screen.
4. In response to Erteschik, House Bill 569, relating to establishment of a temporary economic district task force to study ways to revitalize a part of Waikiki, was held in committee.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

Adams arrived during the above portion of the meeting.

8:27 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

WEST WAIKIKI TRAFFIC – William Cooper and Lorna Johnston, from Hobron Lane/Ena Road Organization for Safety, reported they have been working with developers of the Allure, Watermark, and Waikiki Palms, and is attempting to meet with the City Department of Planning and Permitting, and Transportation Services, on traffic conditions in this area and these projects impacts on that traffic. Johnston reported the Organization has studied traffic conditions and proposed solutions for the area bounded by Ala Wai Boulevard, Kalakaua Avenue, and Ala Moana Boulevard. Informational material on the proposals that add or modify turn lanes was distributed to the Board. The Watermark project developers did not support the Organization's proposed solutions and the Waikiki Palms project developers are making traffic improvements. Cooper and Johnston reported organization also proposes adding crosswalks and under grounding utilities.

Flood moved and Among seconded that the Board support the concept of the Hobron Lane/Ena Road Organization for Safety. Discussion followed where it was noted the support of the concept is because the Board members may support the ideas, they are not engineers. It was also noted the developers of the Allure project supported some of the Organization's proposals. **The motion carried unanimously.**

8:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATIVE – Erteschik reported that at its special meeting, the Board discussed and voted on a number of bills before the legislature. An information sheet on the status of the bills at this time was distributed.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2007 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: The following correction was made:

Page 5, the last paragraph, delete the entire paragraph except for the last line, which should read "Due to a medical emergency, Chair Finley recessed the meeting..."

The minutes were approved, with Gruntz opposing.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: The minutes were approved with Gruntz opposing.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Finley reported the following:

1. Troy Barbosa Fun Run, May 25.
2. City Council meeting, March 14, 10:00 a.m., agenda items include the City's intra-island ferry plan, property taxes, and the budget.
3. City Council meeting on Neighborhood Board Task Force, April 4, City Hall, 4:00 p.m.
4. Office of Information Practices meeting, March 15, State Capitol, Room 423, 5:00 p.m.
5. Liquor Commission meeting, March 29, applications for: 123 Store, 430 Lewers Street, transfer of license for package sales, and Ala Moana Hotel, 410 Atkinson Drive, transfer of hotel general license; April 26, applications for Coco Cove, 2284 Lewers Street, retail general license, Kai-Wa, 226 Lewers Street, retail general license, Golden Pond, 444 Niu Street, retail general and package sales license.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant