



## 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 APRIL 10, 2007 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Finley at 7:02 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jo-Ann Adams, Leslie Among, Ray Gruntz, Jim Poole, Mary Simpson, Carol Sword, Jeff Apaka, Louis Erteschik, Robert Finley, Walt Flood, Bert Benevento, David Chen, Jeff Merz, Mike Peters.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin McDonald, Jack Myers, Norman Duncan.

**VACANT SEATS:** None.

**GUESTS:** Lori Wingard and Anna Marie Preston (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Councilmember Charles Djou, Teri Lam (WCP), Jan Bappe, Cindy McMillen (Communications Pacific), Emily Reed, Grace, Jenny Kaya (Representative Scott Nishimoto's Office), Donald Wigen; Major R. Macadangdang, Capt. D. Chun, Sgt. LaMontain (HFD-Waikiki Station), Capt. Ryan Young (HFD-Waikiki Station), Joan Naguwa (Waikiki Community Center), Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Marsha Weiner (Governor's Office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Sue Ako (Senator Trimble's Office), Laura Millman (WRA), Corey Dillman, Mary J., Daisy Murai, Anne Stevens, J. Presti (CCG), Gary Omori, A. Smith, Kathy Watanabe, Lisa Gollin, Helen Carroll, G. Phillips, Joe Lopreski, Keith Rollman (Mayor's Office), Representative Tom Brower, Rolb Iopa (WCIT Architecture), Ernest Nishizaki; Executive Vice President (Kyo-ya), Greg Dickhen (Executive Vice President – Kyo-ya), Rob Iopa, President (WCIT Architecture), Barry Fukunaga (State Department of Transportation), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**ESTABLISH A QUORUM:** A quorum was present.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Chun reported for the month of March 2007, the Operating and Publicity Account balance was \$2136.63, and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Chair Finley announced the following:

1. Due to the length of the agenda, speakers were reminded to keep remarks brief.
2. He has heard from members McDonald and Duncan that they would not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

### **CITY AGENCIES:**

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT** – Capt. Young reported the following:

1. Statistics for last month included: 7 structure, 2 rubbish fires, 10 activated alarms, 107 medical calls, 1 search and rescue, 12 miscellaneous calls, 12 cancelled calls while in route.
2. The Safety Tip of the Month is "Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even for only a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum 2A 10BC) in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the fire extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired."

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Capt. Young was thanked for attending the meeting.

Adams arrived during the above portion of the meeting.



**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT** – Sgt. LaMontain reported statistics for March compared to February included: 10/21 sex offenses, 7/5 robberies, 31/33 burglaries, 214/180 thefts, 86/60 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 15/10 motor vehicle thefts, 12/19 drug arrests, 10/14 DUI/liquor law violations. There were a total of 3,755 calls for service last month. Other cases included 41 warnings and 48 citations for loud music, 23 warnings and 32 citations for loud mufflers, 1924 warnings and 200 citations for jaywalking, 98 warnings and 26 citations for skateboarding on sidewalks, 22 warnings and 58 citations for moped violations (including carrying a passenger), 40 warnings and 52 citations for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, 32 citations for illegal camping, 2333 parking violations, 16 warnings and 1 citation for blocking an intersection, 29 warnings and 47 citations for failure to yield to a pedestrian.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz added a request for the 2nd time of HPD to invite Date line NBC, Criss Wallace to come to Honolulu and set up his operation to catch pedophiles ,who on line induce our youth into sex.
2. A resident noted citations for loud mufflers are down, and Sgt. LaMontain said that this may be due to that the word is getting out that police will issue citations for loud mufflers in Waikiki.
3. In response to a resident, illegal camping referrers to evidence found of someone creating a habitation, such as a cardboard shelter. Some citations are later dismissed in court. It was also noted most complaints on this matter are received at night.
4. Warnings and citations for jaywalking are given, but resources limit enforcement. It was suggested notices about the law be posted in tour buses to advise visitors.
5. Carroll noted ongoing problems with vehicles with loud mufflers, such as on Hobron Lane and Ena Road between 10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.
6. Sword noted observing what appears to be illegal camping at the bus stop across Ala Moana Boulevard from the shopping center. It was noted that this area is under the jurisdiction of District 1 – Honolulu, and that officers do give out warnings and have the discretion on whether or not to issue a citation.
7. Wiggin noted ongoing problems with night time noise at the Food Pantry parking lot and people engaged in various undesirable/illegal activities, and early morning (5:00 – 7:00 a.m.) deliveries by vendors. Peters provided additional comments on the problems and will follow up with Wiggin.
8. A resident reported being hit by a car, but no citation was issued to the driver. Sgt. LaMontain noted more information is needed to determine why no citation was issued. Adams noted one reason could be a situation where a pedestrian walked out from between parked cars into traffic and was hit.
9. Resident noted problems with noise from bars and traffic.
10. Smith noted seeing a seemingly disturbed, homeless person shouting racist remarks; and when calling police, was not satisfied with the dispatcher's cavalier response. Sgt. LaMontain noted that if you are not satisfied with the dispatcher's response, you can ask to speak to a supervisor. In response to Gruntz, it was noted that this incident is not a hate crime.

Sgt. LaMontain was thanked for attending the meeting.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY** – Chair Finley reported a written report was received and available for interested persons to review.

Gruntz requested the Board of Water Supply address the sustainability of the water supply to meet increasing demand.

**CITIZENS' CONCERNS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**CLOSING OF THEBUS STOP AT KUHIO AVENUE AND AHUA STREET** – Phillips expressed concern about the closing of TheBus stop at Kuhio Avenue and Ohua Street as of April 18, noting it is needed as it is used by many residents. A petition drive opposing the closing is in progress. Sword noted this TheBus stop is close to the Waikiki Community Center and many persons use TheBus to get to the Center.

**CONVERSION OF APARTMENT TO HOTEL** – Grace expressed concern about the lack of notice to area residents by the City Department of Planning and Permitting about an apartment building being converted to a hotel. Notice was sent to the Board and nearby buildings, but not to area residents. Chair Finley noted the Board was not obligated to put this matter on the agenda, and that the City acted on this matter before the Board could address it.

**PUBLIC BROADCASTING** – Lopreski noted the possibility public broadcasting could end and interested persons were urged to contact Speaker of the House Calvin Say, the Governor, President of the Senate Colleen Hanabusa, and U.S. Senator Dan Inouye.

**DEFERRED MARCH RESOLUTIONS:**

**SUPPORT FOR HOBRON LANE CROSSWALK** – Chair Finley reviewed a draft resolution requesting the City and County of Honolulu to provide an additional crosswalk at 444 Hobron Lane. **Gruntz moved and Among seconded that the Board support the resolution.** Discussion followed. Carroll reported a petition drive is in progress supporting the crosswalk. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**SUPPORT FOR LEFT-TURN SIGNAL FROM KALAKAUA AVENUE TO LEWERS STREET** - Chair Finley reviewed a draft resolution requesting the City and County of Honolulu to provide a left-turn signal from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street. Discussion followed. It was suggested, and the consensus was for the resolution to be revised to include a right-turn from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street. **Apaka moved and Flood seconded that the Board adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

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

1. Resurfacing of Ala Wai Boulevard, excluding the area of the sewer repair project, will begin by the end of April. The project will affect on-street parking. Persons desiring modifications to the bicycle lane should make their desires known to the City at this time.
2. Regarding a request about installing marked parking stalls on Ala Wai Boulevard, the City Department of Transportation Services does not favor doing this as marked stalls would have to be a standard size resulting in a loss of approximately one-third of the available spaces.
3. In response to a question from last month's meeting, the completion of the sewer project's Emergency Phase I is anticipated to be August 31, 2007, major work and clean-up will be done by the end of September, it has not been determined when the large pipes in the canal will be removed. This portion of Ala Wai Boulevard will then be resurfaced.
4. In response to a request for tree trimming on Ala Wai Boulevard, the work will be performed under a contract to begin this month, in this area the work will be done in mid-2007. Tree trimming on the mauka side of the canal would be covered under a different contract.
5. Regarding a request for street lighting on Kaiolu Street, a light at Palm Street will be upgraded.
6. Regarding a suggestion for improvements to "bus only" signs in the area of Kuamoo Street and Kuhio Avenue, the Department of Transportation Services will be re-evaluating the signs.
7. The bike lane displaced by the sewer project will be restored by August 2007.

8. Regarding comments about pot hole patching, excavating the failed area would not provide an increase in longevity because the surrounding asphalt is deteriorated and the patch would fail around the periphery, also the time to excavate would cause traffic delays.
9. Regarding traffic signal timing on Kuhio Avenue during the Honolulu Festival Parade not allowing for left-turns to side streets, the Department of Transportation Services monitored the area and observed traffic making left turns were able to do so, and cross streets may have had longer waits for a green lights.
10. Regarding participants assembling too early for the start of the parade, and gaps between units; participants had to assemble by 2:30 p.m., those arriving too early were removed, and gaps occurred because units were performing at stages, work is being done to reduce gaps for next year's parade.
11. Regarding the lines on Magic Island paths, the State painted the lines before turning the park over to the City, the City will be resurfacing the paths, there are no plans to repaint the lines.
12. Regarding repeated requests for a left-turn from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street, the Department of Transportation Services has not changed its position, it does not recommend it as doing so would cause traffic to back up on Kalakaua Avenue.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Among, no comments could be made regarding the lawsuit against the City by a person claiming to be injured by the dumping of sewage into the Ala Wai Canal last year.
2. Peters and others expressed concern about the closing of TheBus stops and it was noted the petition will be forwarded to the City. Closing the one near the Waikiki Community Center would have an adverse impact to the numerous persons who use TheBus to attend programs at the Center.
3. Apaka reported tree root damage to a sidewalk at Kuhio Avenue and Uluniu Street, and sidewalks in the area needing cleaning; noting steam cleaning had been done in the past.
4. Apaka noted the lack of traffic signal lights on the left side of Kuhio Avenue, additional lights would be helpful when the view of existing lights is blocked by traffic.
5. Follow up will be done on the status of the flower baskets on street light poles on Kuhio Avenue.
6. Merz questioned whether or not Tusitala Street would be resurfaced when the building construction project there is completed.
7. Carroll suggested use of a better material to patch potholes and removal of the bulbouts along Ala Wai Boulevard as part of the resurfacing project. Rollman noted the bulbouts are not part of the resurfacing project and he has answered this question several times previously.
8. Watanabe noted ongoing problems with abandoned vehicles and illegal parking on Ala Wai Boulevard, between Ala Moana Boulevard and Kalakaua Avenue, and dissatisfaction with the way this matter has been handled by police.
9. Stefan suggested the problem with left-turns from Kalakaua Avenue to Lewers Street be addressed by removing the "no turn on red" signs to create a situation like that at Royal Hawaiian Avenue.

Rollman was thanked for attending the meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU** – Councilmember Djou reported the following:

1. Thanks were expressed to the police department for its pedestrian safety program.

2. Work is being done on reducing real property tax rates.
3. The City is proceeding with plans for curbside recycling, which he supports.
4. He supports allowing private trash collection companies shipping the trash out of state.
5. He introduced new staff member Anna Marie Preston, who will be filling in for Lori Wingard who will be going on maternity leave.

Questions, answers, and comments followed:

1. In response to Gruntz, Councilmember Djou noted the Waikiki Special District regulations will protect Waikiki from a City Council resolution to allow height increases in the Primary Urban Core. The resolution does not apply to Waikiki. Changing the Waikiki Special District regulations to allow height increases would be a long, involved process. Gruntz noted he does not believe that Waikiki is protected.

Erteschik provided additional comments, noting the Waikiki Special District regulations take priority, and will protect Waikiki.

2. Gruntz, urged, all City & County people who do inspections of any kind--to make bribery arrests when money is offered to them, such as the liquor inspectors.
2. In response to Adams, Djou acknowledged that there should have been long term planning by the City to meet EPA requirements for sewage treatment plants. He noted it would cost the City \$300 million to upgrade the Honouliuli plant and \$800 million to upgrade the Sand Island plant.
3. Adams noted the City spends a lot of money on consent decrees and lawsuits filed against it.

Djou was thanked for attending the meeting.

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

1. April 20 is the deadline to file State tax returns. The State Tax Office is open 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. On-line assistance is available at their web site.
2. The Governor will select the design for the Hawaii State Quarter by the end of the month. The public is welcome to comment on the five proposed designs.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Gruntz noted that the algae collected off shore by the suction machine by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, was dumped in an Ala Wai Boat Harbor dumpster which is paid for by boat owners. Follow up will be done.
2. In response to Sword about there being too many first class hotel rooms and too few moderate priced hotel rooms, follow up will be done on hotel occupancy rates and room rates.
3. There are changes to the local cruise ship industry with one ship being relocated to Europe.

Weinert was thanked for attending the meeting.

**SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE** – Senator Trimble reported today at the legislature there was debate on the budget, and noted that 40 percent of the budget is for education. The budget includes \$250 million for University of Hawaii fiscal plant upgrades.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. A resident noted that there are too many State government workers.
2. No specifics were available on a rebate to taxpayers from the surplus in the State budget.
3. Legislation relating to making changes to the Sunshine Law as it would affect Neighborhood Boards was not heard in Senator Inouye's Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

Among, Gruntz, and Simpson noted Representative Brower or a member of his staff have not attended this Board's meetings in months.

**REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO** – A written report was received and made available for interested persons to review.

**WAIKIKI IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION (WIA)** – Rick Egged, representing the WIA, reported the following:

1. He's willing to make a presentation about the homeless situation in the Waikiki area at an upcoming Board meeting. He noted a University of Hawaii department recently conducted a study on this matter.
2. Sunset on the Beach is April 14 and 15.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

In response to Gruntz, a past focus group meeting about Waikiki was not conducted by the WIA. Gruntz noted Chair Finley was invited and also wanted to attend a future meeting.

Egged was thanked for attending the meeting.

9:00 p.m.

**STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION** – Barry Fukunaga, Acting Director, State Department of Transportation, reported the following:

**WAIMEA BAY ROCK FALL** - The State has done, and is updating a study on rock fall hazards statewide. Due to last year's earthquake on the Big Island, a project there has been reprioritized.

At the Waimea Bay site, a 24-hour contraflow is in operation, temporary fencing will be installed in two weeks, then both lanes of the highway will be open to traffic. Work on a guardrail project on Kamehameha Highway in Kaaawa has been temporarily suspended to minimize traffic impacts in the area.

**ALA MOANA BOULEVARD RESURFACING** – The resurfacing of Ala Moana Boulevard has begun.

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY - TATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORATATION (DOT)** - Hawaii ranks fourth in the nation per capita in pedestrian fatalities according to 2005 statistics. This year there has been an increase in fatal pedestrian accidents, with half of them involving persons over age 55. Statistics show Waikiki has nine percent of pedestrian accidents in Honolulu, and two fatal accidents between 2003 – 05.

Addressing safety includes: a) a Five E's program, engineering, enforcement, education, emergency medical service and everyone else, a collaborative system, b) the Walk Wise Kupuna program, c) strategic highway safety plan, c) work by the State Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, d) new laws clarifying drivers yielding to pedestrians, e) reminding pedestrians to not enter a crosswalk if the don't cross light has begun flashing, f) evaluation of crosswalks and bus stop locations, g) use of LED – light emitting diode traffic signal lights which are brighter than conventional lights, h) countdown crosswalk signal lights, l) new signs with flashing lights than warn of pedestrian crossings ahead, and j) flashing roadway lights at crosswalks.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Apaka suggested, and it was noted that bilingual educational brochures are being developed.
2. Regarding bus stops, Fukunaga noted bus stops are under the jurisdiction of the City Department of Transportation Services, and DOT does coordinate with them.
3. Apaka noted street lane markings are hard to see in the rain, and the use of new products that improve visibility is being considered.
4. Other new products include new types of signs that are light by vehicle lights.
5. More enforcement was suggested to improve safety.
6. In response to Stevens, work is being done on the AARP study of crosswalk safety conditions at various intersections.

Fukunaga was thanked for attending the meeting.

**ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL/SHERATON WAIKIKI** - Gene Dickhens and Rob Iopa provided a brief historical background on the Royal Grounds and current plans to open up the makai view of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel from Kalakaua Avenue, and ocean views from the hotels. Plans include relocation of the motor court of the Sheraton which will improve the view of the Royal Hawaiian which is currently obscured by previous development. The Royal Hawaiian includes development of the amphitheater between the hotel and the shopping center, a new entry, improvements to the Monarch Room, and expansion of the pool area.

**Flood moved and Apaka seconded that the Board supports these projects.** Discussion followed:

1. Gruntz supported the project.
2. In response to Merz, some façade modifications to the hotels' parking garage are planned to improve its look.
3. In response to Apaka, renovations are being made to the hotels' rooms and public areas.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Among left the meeting at this time, Benevento left earlier in the meeting.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS, CONTINUED:**

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM BROWER** – Representative Brower distributed his monthly report and highlighted the following:

1. Today they passed approximately 141 bills, a list of some of them was included in his report.
2. He is serving on the Finance, Economic Development and Business Concerns, and the Agriculture committees.
3. He came to the Board's February meeting, but the meeting had already adjourned early due to a medical emergency at the meeting by the time he had arrived.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. In response to Gruntz, he noted that he opposed a bill for toll roads.
2. In response to Sword, he noted that bottle bill legislation to include larger sized drink containers is progressing. Additional discussion with Sword followed the meeting.

3. In response to a resident, he believes Kahuku Hospital did receive an emergency appropriation to continue to operate.
4. Regarding the No Child Left Behind law, the State has not received federal funds to help meet its requirements, and the Department of Education is trying to amend its budget to meet the requirements.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** No reports.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MARCH 13, 2007 REGULAR MEETING** – The following addition was made:

Page 1, under Announcements, item number 3, to read “Sword noted the passing of Ben Kama, former Executive Secretary of the Neighborhood Commission, and commended the work he did.”

The minutes were approved as corrected. Gruntz opposed.

**CHAIR’S REPORT:** No report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu  
Neighborhood Assistant