



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

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DRAFT-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013 WAIKIKI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Finley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.; **with a quorum of nine (9) members present.** Note: This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action. Vice Chair Erteschik was thanked for chairing the November 2012 meeting.

Board Members Present: Jo-Ann Adams (Arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Les Among (Arrived at 7:16 p.m.), John Dew (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Louis Erteschik, Robert Finley, Walt Flood, Liz Larson (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), William 'Bill' Lofquist, Jeffrey Merz (arrived at 7:22 p.m.), John Moore, Michael Peters, Rachel Simmons, and Mary Simpson and Mark Smith.

Board Members Absent: Jeff Apaka, Richard Personius, and Jim Poole.

Vacancies: None.

Guests: Peter Young and Jennifer Barra (Ho`okuleana); Major Cory Okimoto and Lieutenant Dien Shearer (Honolulu Police Department, District 6-Waikiki); Toni Robinson (Mayor's Representative), Captain Alan Park (Honolulu Fire Department-Waikiki), Dominic Diaz (Board of Water Supply), Richard Sparks, Helen Carroll (CFLH), Francis Chun, Micah Munkata (Councilmember Stanley Chang's Office), Jan Bappe, Liane Hu and Travis Gray (Olomana Loomis ISC); C. Francis Chun (Royal Order), Lynn Fallin (Governor's Representative), Joey Cadiz (NAHHA), Lauren Easley (Senator Brickwood Galuteria's Office), Ron McQuad, Rick Egged (Waikiki Improvement Association), Nola J. Frank (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

7:02 p.m. Liz Larson arrived; 10 members present.

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD): Captain Alan Park reported the following:

- **February 2013 Statistics** – Included 9 fires, 127 EMS/rescues, 3 hazardous conditions, 5 service calls, 41 good intent calls, and 12 false alarm calls; totaling 197 calls for service.
- **Fire Safety Tip:** Although cooking at home can be a fun family activity, please adhere to the following fire safety tips to avoid accidents in the kitchen:
 - ◇ Do not leave food cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the heat and take a spoon or oven mitt with you to remind yourself of the food on the stove.
 - ◇ Do not become distracted. Attending to children, answering phone calls, watching television, and answering doorbells can have devastating results when the stove is on and unattended.
 - ◇ Keep ignitable items, such as dish towels, paper or plastic bags and curtains, at least three (3) feet away from the range top.
 - ◇ Learn how to use an ABC-rated fire extinguisher, and keep it properly mounted near the kitchen exit.

7:05 a.m. Board member Jo Ann Adams arrived; **11 members present.**

Honolulu Police Department (HPD): Lieutenant Dien Shearer circulated the written report, and highlighted the following Chronic Complaints:

- **Noise complaints** – 1 loud noise and 1 loud muffler citation issued.
- **General Peddling** – 4 citations issued and 5 arrests.
- **Liquor** – Sidewalks – 11 citations and 1 arrest; beach areas 1 citation and 1 arrest; Kapiolani Park – 2 citations; and zoo 4 citations.



- Nuisance – Pedestrian – 46 warnings, and 68 citations; Skate Boarding – 8 citations; Moped Violations – 8 citations; Criminal Littering – 3 citations; Bikes on Sidewalks – 4 warnings and 9 citations; park closure – 104 warnings and 28 citations; Parking Violations – 3 warnings and 332 citations.
- Morals Violations – Prostitution/Sidewalks – 2 arrests; Open Lewdness – 1 citation and 1 arrest.
- Traffic Violations – Blocking Intersection – 1 citation; failing to yield to pedestrians – 2 citations; Speeding – 4 warnings and 153 citations; Electronic Devices – 2 warnings and 56 citations; Parking Lots – 28 citations.
- Calls for Service – There was a total of 3,462 calls for service.

7:10 p.m. Board member Mary Simpson arrived; **12 members present.**

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Park Closures – Dew asked and it was noted that the drop in park closure warnings/citations might be due to campers in the park relocating. Citations are issued to people in the park after closure.
2. Loud Mufflers – Regarding one (1) muffler citation, Smith noted that loud mufflers are heard daily and questioned why. In response, it depends if the officer witnesses the violation or not.
3. Beat 657 – Lofquist asked if the drop in statistics in Beat 657 is due to better policing. Shearer replied there are no specific reasons.
4. Motorcycles – Moore asked and it was noted that the motorcycle noise is no more than normal. Smith reported motorcycle clubs driving through Waikiki on Sundays gunning their engines along Kalakaua Avenue. Follow-up will be done.

7:12 p.m. Board member Les Among arrived; **13 members present.**

. Board of Water Supply (BWS): Dominic Dias reported the following:

- Water Main Breaks – No water main breaks and no current work in the area.
- Water Meter Battery Replacement Project – Since February 2012, the BWS contractors have been working to replace approximately 60,000 water meter batteries throughout the island of Oahu. The battery replacement project, which will continue through April 2013, is necessary to allow the BWS to continue to conduct meter reads for billing purposes.
The BWS contractors, PAC Electric Company Inc. and Paul's Electric Contracting LLC, will be replacing the old batteries with new ones and cleaning out the meter boxes. Most meter boxes are located in the public right-of-way. However, some meter boxes may be located in private property, in which case property owners will be contacted prior to performing the work. Water service will not be disrupted and work will only be conducted during the daytime.

Employees from the contracted companies will be wearing fluorescent yellow PAC Electric or Paul's Electric shirts and will have identification badges. They may be on foot with pull-carts or in vehicles that are marked with a PAC Electric or Paul's Electric logo. Each worker will carry a signed letter from BWS as proof of his/her association with the BWS project.

For questions or concerns, call the Battery Change-Out office at 748-5462 or email at contactus@bws.org.

- Halawa Xeriscape Workshops – The BWS and Friends of Halawa Xeriscape Garden were recently recognized as one of Honolulu Magazine's 2013 Best of Honolulu winners. Upcoming scheduled workshops:
 - ◇ March 13, 2013, Creative Container Gardening
 - ◇ March 30, 2013, Decorate and Egg the Xeriscape Way
 - ◇ April 6, 2013, User Friendly Compost
 - ◇ April 27, 2013, Economical Aquaponics
- Contact Information – Call 748-5041 or visit the website at Website: www.boardofwatersupply.com

Questions, comments, and concerns: New Billing System – Dias noted a few small glitches and short billing depending on when the meters were read. However, there are no major issues.

Chair Homeless Update – Several members of businesses were contacted regarding the homeless. Senator Galuteria hosted a meeting on the issue at the Convention Center on February 22, 2013. There is an ongoing problem solving group.

RESIDENTS'/COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

1. Kalia Road, Ena Road and Ala Moana Boulevard Traffic Signal Timing – It was reported that the timing of the signal light at this intersection needs to be reset. Chair Finley noted that the City is out reviewing the situation.
2. Ala Moana Boulevard – It was commented that this road has been torn up multiple times. Chair Finley reported that the current project is a State Department of Transportation (DOT) project; the contractor is Good Fellows.
3. House Bill 40 – A member of the audience asked for support of this bill.

7:22 p.m. Board member Jeffrey Merz arrived; **14 members present.**

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative: Toni Robinson introduced herself and reported the following:

- Budget – Mayor Caldwell submitted the Fiscal Year 2014 Operating Program and Capital Improvement Program Budget to the City Council on Friday, March 1, 2013.
- Budget Highlights – The proposed operating budget is \$2.089 billion. This represents an increase of \$124.8 million (6.4 percent) over the FY2013 Budget. The budget increase reflects a one-time payment to the City of \$139 million from the sale of the City's affordable housing inventory. The increase is due to the rise in non-discretionary expenses; the size of government has not increased, and funding for the programs is flat. The budget was prepared with a view to meet the Administration's five (5) policy initiatives: 1) bus service restoration; 2) road repaving, maintenance and preservation; 3) parks improvement; 4) sewer and infrastructure repair and maintenance; and 5) build rail better.
- Fuel Tax Increase – The budget includes a 5-cent per gallon increase in the city's fuel tax, which has not been raised in 24 years. The increase will cost the average driver less than a nickel a day or \$20 annually and generate \$15 million, which the Mayor intends to use to fund bus service restoration and for debt service on bond funding for road repair and maintenance. The additional funds would go into the city's Highway Fund.
- Bus Route/Service Restorations – Starting March 23, 2013, service will be restored to CountryExpress Route C (Makaha to Ala Moana Center) and Route 14 (St. Louis Heights and Maunalani Heights).
- Road Repairs – The Mayor has budgeted \$150 million per year over the next four (4) years for road repair. View the road repaving update on the city website, including a full list of road repaving projects from now to 2017: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/ddc/roadrepavingupdate.htm>.
- DMV Cameras – To check how long the lines are at the DMV visit <http://www3honolulu.gov/csddlline/>.
- Homeless Follow-Up – The Mayor has recently hired Mr. Jun Yang, formerly of FACE, to be the city's Director of Housing. Jun will be working with the Department of Community Service (DCS) on homeless issues. The Mayor is aware of the serious homeless problem in Waikiki and this is a high priority for him.
- Status of Complete Streets – Deferred until next month's meeting.
- Road Erosion Fronting 2449 Ala Wai Boulevard – Work will be scheduled to be completed before the end of March 2013.

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. Paoakalani Street Sidewalks Request – It was asked if this request could be incorporated into the budget or added to the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list.
2. Ulunui Street and Kalakaua Avenue Sidewalk – A piece of plywood covering a hole with sandbags stacked over (about 1 year) was reported. It was asked what kind of hole it is.
3. Bus Route C14
4. Vacant Lots on Liliuokalani Avenue and Mountain View Drive – Dew reported that these lots have been empty for at least 20 years. Gates and some small type of structure (sheds) have been recently put up by the owners. Per contact with the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), no answers to questions were provided, such as if a permit was issued for the new structure(s). The lots are an eyesore and not

good for Waikiki. Moore added that he spoke with the contractor and sub-contractors and was told that the lots are being used to store equipment.

5. Homeless Camps at Hard Rock Café – Among suggested breaking the camps down, provide food and shelter, and move the homeless to a neutral zone with a working format to get the homeless involved. Lofquist agreed and mentioned that Waianae has a sector program.
6. Oahu Transit Service (OTS) – A member of the audience reported overcrowded buses, homeless blocking passengers from getting on a bus, and people with blue tags counting passengers at each bus stop. It was suggested OTS personnel ride the buses to see for themselves ongoing problems. It was noted that the problems are not recognized. Chair Finley noted he would request the attendance of the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) director at a future Board meeting.
7. Fuel Tax Increase – It was noted that the fuel tax increase is ridiculous since gas prices are high and makes no sense.
8. Ala Wai Sewer Repair – Lofquist requested an update.
9. Bus 13 – It was noted that time between buses may increase to every 15 minutes in April 2013.
10. Mahalo – Chair Finley thanked the Mayor for his letter of response regarding the Beach Walk high density pipe.

Governor Neil Abercrombie's Representative: Lynn Fallin reported the following:

- Introduction – State Homeless Director Collin Kippin was recognized, and reported that State and City agencies are working together and assembling stakeholders to discuss ending homelessness, which is not an easy task.
- Federal Sequestration – Governor Abercrombie recently announced plans to establish a Sequestration Impact Response Team to address federal spending reductions that could impact Hawaii. The Administration first mentioned the possibility of federal sequestration last September. Each department has been planning for the potential impacts long before the March 1 deadline:
 - ◊ In December, the Governor submitted the state's 2013-2015 fiscal biennium budgets with a contingency of \$25 million per year, specifically for the possible sequestration.
 - ◊ Last month, the Governor ordered all state departments to work with their federal counterparts to assess which areas will be impacted and estimate the amount of state funds needed to continue services and programs.As the state hears from federal departments and agencies about which funding programs and grants will be reduced, state departments will use the information to look for ways to sustain state programs over the next year.
- Education – On March 6, 2013, the state Department of Education (DOE) and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) jointly announced that the state and teachers' union negotiating teams will return to mediation to assist the parties in reaching an agreement on the teachers' contract.
- Elections Process – The proposal from the Governor to the legislature regarding mail-in voting did not move forward.
 - ◊ Increasing Voter Participation – House Bill 321 relating to elections, moved from the House to the Senate. If the bill passed, voter registration would be permitted on Election Day. House Bill 568 expands the duties of the Election Commission (appointed by the legislature).

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Same Day Voting Concern – Adams asked if the work shift would be shortened. Fallin reported that the matter would be discussed by each county clerk.
2. Lieutenant Governor's Office – Among asked and it was clarified that elections would be returned to the Lieutenant Governor's office this session.
3. E-Cigarettes – Peters relayed that e-cigarettes are being used on buses, in restaurants, bars nightclubs, etc., and are annoying and asked if there is any legislation on this issue. He stated that legislation is needed. Fallin replied that one (1) bill was introduced regarding age and use; health issues also came up. A comment was that e-cigarettes are smokeless with no effects.
4. Governor's Plan for Sequestration – Moore commented that Congress has not be able to pass a budget for the last five (5) years. Fallin noted that the Governor's budget starts in the summer, decisions will be made in October, which included the \$25 million. Moore pointed out that the Governor and legislators knew six (6) months to a year ago that sequestration was coming and did not inform the public. It was stated that if the Governor knew six (6) months ago, the public should have been informed.

Councilmember Stanley Chang: Micah Munekata circulated a report and highlighted the following:

- Smoking Bill –The bill banning smoking on Waikiki Beach is up for third reading on March 20, 2013.
- Homeless – Items removed from sidewalks by the Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) and Parks and Recreation (DPR) are put back the next day. A sidewalk nuisance bill was heard on February 26, 2013.
- Committee Meeting – Scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2013.
- Waikiki Pavilion – Power washing is lacking due to staff shortages.

Questions, comments and concerns followed:

1. Solar for Condominiums – Regarding solar, Moore noted that no action has been taken to move the process quicker by the city or legislative representatives.
2. Hobron Lane and Ala Wai Boulevard – Merz reported an increase of large tour buses using Hobron Lane as a shortcut to Ala Wai Boulevard. Agencies have been called informing them of the problem. It was asked why these buses are cutting through a residential neighborhood. Munekata replied that according to the Department of Transportation Services (DTS), tour buses are not allowed to enter the area. However, the signage is poor and Councilmember Chang is working with DTS to move the signs to a more visible location.
3. Comments – Among reported huge trucks using smaller area streets. He noted that he is glad that process has started to help the homeless. Among also mentioned that some apartment owners are charging a fee to look at an apartment blocking working families from finding housing. Flood added as a manager for years he knows of no fees charged.
4. Blocked Lanes – It was reported that tour buses are blocking lanes while picking up passengers for the Germaine's Luau.
5. Taxis and Trolleys – Adams reported significant traffic in Waikiki of taxis and trolleys trolling for riders; and asked if the Council has checked into creating taxi stands. Smith noted that one of the problems is traffic slows into Waikiki starting near Ala Moana Center.
6. Magazine Racks near the Hilton Hawaiian Village – Dew reported due to an increase of homeless, bicycle, and magazine racks blocking sidewalks, and an increase of trolleys stopping in the area to pick up passengers, make it impassable for wheel chair people to maneuver this narrow sidewalk. . Chair Finley noted that magazine racks are designated by City ordinance.

Senator Brickwood Galuteria: Lauren Easley distributed a written report and reported that Senator Galuteria is putting a network together to work on the homeless issue; and with a walk through Waikiki with state, city and business people at 2:00 a.m. Chair noted that the Board has a Homeless Committee and would inform the Senator when a date is set for the next meeting.

Representative Tom Brower: A representative was not present; a report was available.

Waikiki Improvement Association (WIA): Rick Egge reported the following:

- Homeless: WIA is working on the homeless issue discussing solutions and protecting public spaces.
- Sunset on the Beach – Date is forthcoming.
- Charity Walk – The event will take place on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. WIA Funding – Smith asked if WIA receives funding from the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT). Egged replied WIA does not receive funding from the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA); funding has been capped. The issue at the legislature to modify HTA's funding allowing for expansion.
2. Articles – Dew reported that Allison Schafer wrote four (4) fantastic articles about WIA.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2013 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES: Flood moved, Peters seconded Adopting the February 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes as amended, 14-0-0 (Aye: Adams, Among, Dew, Erteschik, Finley, Flood, Larson, Lofquist, Merz, Moore, Peters, Smith, Simmons, and Simpson). Corrections include:

- Page 4, Questions, comments, concerns should read, "...**US Postal Service**..."

BOARD BUSINESS:

Waikiki Scenic Byways – Peter Young did a power point presentation and highlighted the following:
Hawaii Scenic Byways Program is for:

- ◇ Roads that “tell a story” that is special; roads with outstanding scenic, cultural, recreational, and archaeological, natural and historic qualities; and roads that will benefit from coordinated strategy for tourism and economic development.
- ◇ “Waikiki’s significance is a place of history not destination.”
- ◇ Waikiki – Kauhale O Ho`okipa – Royal Center, Royal residences, visitor industry, natural/geological, socio-economic-political, military, and side trips.

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. Changes – It was asked and noted that current plans are to have scenic byways statewide, look into road issues and approach the (DTS). Funding is not available at this time; however other funding opportunities may arise.

Among moved and Merz seconded that the Waikiki Neighborhood Board No. 9 supports the Hawaii Scenic Byways Program. The motion was ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, 14-0-0 (Aye: Adams, Among, Dew, Erteschik, Finley, Flood, Larson, Lofquist, Merz, Moore, Peters, Smith, Simmons, and Simpson).

Aloha Nights Street Function – A representative was not present; a report was not available. Chair Finley will email Richardson.

REPORTS:

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Simmons reported a previous balance of \$764.81. February expenditures were \$79.96, leaving a balance of \$684.85. The report was filed.

District 1 Report: Adams had no report, but highlighted that the formation of the PIG to evaluate the City Permitting Process and asked other Board member if they would like to join.

Sub District 2 Report: Flood reported receiving phone calls and emails regarding the 2121 Kuhio Avenue project no having senior housing. A fence will enhance the neighborhood, while people living on the other side of the building would the view of the ocean. Plans are to sell two (2) to three (3) bedroom units at the market price.

Sub District 3 Report: No report.

Legislative Issues: Erteschik reported that a report was circulated at last month’s meeting. House Bill 535 was not discussed. However, the matter of night parking in public parking lots is moving. The one-way ticket home bill did not crossover. Bills relating to noise, mopeds, complete streets, and bicycles are moving.

Questions, comments, and concerns:

1. Mahalo – Erteschik was thanked for his hard work. It was mentioned that money from Transit Accommodation Tax (TAT) could mean money for the hula show and benefit the Waikiki Community. It was noted how much funding the Hawaii Tourism Authority receives.
2. House Bill 865/Senate Bill 237 – A Board member asked the affects to the public, schools to lease public land to private entities. Concern was raised that Jefferson Schools would be targeted. Follow-up will be done.

Hoku Awards – The Hoku Award Winners will be performing in Waikiki.

Chair Report: Chair Finley reported the following:

1. Neighborhood Board Election Voting – Voting starts on Friday, April 26, 2013, either electronically or by telephone. Computers will be set up at Honolulu and Kapolei Hale and assistance will be provided.

2. Anniversary – The Neighborhood Board System will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year. Board members were asked to help with the event. More information is forthcoming.
3. Tapa Grill – In celebration of his late father Alfred Apaka's birthday, Board member Jeff Apaka will be performing this Sunday at the Tapa Grill from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2013 Waikiki Community Center, 310 Paoakalani Avenue at 7:00 p.m.
- Broadcast: View this meeting on Olelo Channel 49 at 9:00 p.m. the 4th Tuesday of each month; and on Channel 54 at 6:00 a.m. the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. View on line at: http://olelo.grancius.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Nola J. Frank, Neighborhood Assistant

Reviewed by: Kazu McArthur, Neighborhood Commission Office staff; and Robert Finley, Chair