



# KILAUEA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 328 KILAUEA, HAWAII 96754

**President:**

Yoshito L'Hote

Meeting Minutes for: February 3, 2015

**Time:** Meeting started 7:00 pm ended 9:00 pm

**Vice President:**

Alvin Castelo

**Location:** Kilauea Neighborhood Center classroom

**Secretary:**

Thomas Pickett

**KNA Directors present: President:** Yoshi L'Hote, Alvin Castelo, Thomas Pickett, Gary Pacheco, Scott Mijares, Beryl Blaich, Bill Troutman, Tim Kallai, Charlie Martin, Carrie Souza, Ron Paul, Joi Bonaparte, Mike Latif.

**Treasurer:**

Gary Pacheco

**Community Attendance: 55**

**Sergeant-at-arms**

Scott Mijares

**I. Call to order** President Yoshi L'Hote called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**II. Treasurer's Report** Gary Pacheco reported after expenses and income the KNA checking balance is 8624.06 .

**PTSA Rep.**

Tricia Padilla

**III. Committee/Community Reports**

a) KCOP; no report

b) Seniors; no report

c) PTSA; no report

d) Communication Committee; Tom Pickett reported that the town sign is beginning to weather and peel and the board should start considering a plan for a sign that will last longer.

e) Ag. Park Committee; Yoshi L'Hote reported that the Kilauea Agricultural park complex should receive a funding check from the County of Kauai for 80,000.00 this coming week. There will be a meeting of the board members for the complex in late February.

f) Access Committee; Tim Kallai reported that during the county open space committee meeting there was some disappointment expressed concerning Mr. Somers lack of communication and participation with the county planning department, the public access committee and the KNA. He said the committee chairman suggested that the P1 estuary easement should have been marked by now so that community members could begin using it. Tim also reported that there was a recent meeting of the Na ala hele Kauai Chapter. They had a visit from Lisa Hadway of the DLNR. She explained why funds allocated originally for research on alalaoa trails never materialized. The Na ala hele committee suggested that with cooperation from the county open space committee and the office of Hawaiian affairs would the DLNR help with the research and surveying if funds were provided for them. Tim said Lisa Hadway said the DLNR would encourage that.

g) Somers Committee; Ron Paul reported following up on Somer's compliance with his obligations to the county per his building permits. Two things in particular were a conservation plan and an annual report due to the planning commission documenting details of his compliance with the permit requirements.

**Directors:**

Mike Latif

Beryl Blaich

Bill Troutman

Tim Kallai

Ken Carlson

Charlie Martin

Carrie Souza

Joi Bonaparte

Ron Paul

### III. Committee/Community Reports cont'd

He concluded that the planning commission was not happy with Somers lack of completion of those documents. He said more would be learned at the next planning commission meeting on Feb. 24th.

Ron said Beryl Blaich made an appointment with Somer's attorney Max Graham on Feb. 11th. to meet with committee members to discuss the options for public access on, across or around his property. Beryl suggested the KNA write a letter to the planning commission. She pointed out that the planning commission was not happy with Mr. Somer's compliance with his "native" landscaping interpretation and his illegally placed greenhouse. Shannon Smith from the Fish and Wildlife department commented that Mr. Somers has been participating in plans to improve the access to the shoreline via Kahili Quarry road.

Upon motion duly made by Tom Pickett, seconded by Bill Troutman and carried unanimously the board voted to send a letter to the Kauai planning commission with cc's to the public access committee insisting the Mr. Somers be required to fulfill his obligations and promises to the county regarding his building plans and permits.

h) Beautification Committee; Bino Castello reported further progress working with Talia Abrams in designing and soliciting assistance and funding for an edible garden design for Kilauea. Once they finalize their plans and layout they will present them to the County and the Mayor and seek approvals so they can begin implementing their plan with help and funding from the KNA and the Lion's club.

### V. Old Business

a. Hunt group's Kilauea Lighthouse Village update; Jose Bustamante and Steve Colon announced they had signed the Sullivan group to a lease agreement for a 10,000 sq ft grocery store. They reported that the next steps will be attracting more businesses to lease space. They are seeking a bank, a fitness center, food vendors and other mixed retail tenants. They will be working on the various permits and approvals and hope to break ground for eleven buildings in 2015 and open in 2016.

Roger Wall, Sullivan group representative, recapped his company's 66 year history in Hawaii. He said the Kilauea store would be called, "The Market at Kilauea" and would be a full serviced grocery store just slightly less than half the size of the Princeville store. He said they plan on hiring up to 50 employees. Mr. Colon re-iterated that they had participated independently and with the past KNA transportation committee to improve the traffic flow during and after the development. He said that the Hunt group will finance 20% of the new Kilauea entrance that comes in from the highway across from the Kilauea mini-golf course and enters Kilauea at the "post office" road. He said that they had taken it as far as they could and that progressing towards getting that new road was now in the hands of the KNA, the county and the state. Community discussion and questions focused on the inevitable increase of traffic down Kilauea road, safety, speed and the disruption that Kilauea neighbors may face during development and after the center opens. Mr. Colon assured the community that during construction the area of the proposed new Kilauea entrance across from the Kilauea mini-golf course will be used as a construction road and there will be no significant impact to the traffic on Kilauea Road during construction.

b. D.O.T.: A report on the Kuhio highway Albisia tree control project on the east side of the Kalihiwai bridge and on the traffic calming plan for the entrance to Kilauea. Ray McCormick, district engineer for Kauai and D.O.T. engineer Donald Smith reported with Willie Ortal standing by.

Regarding the trees Ray outlined the problem. On the slopes east of the bridge grow 2500 large and brittle Albisia trees that hang over the highway and represent a danger to motorist' and vehicles because of the trees tendency to drop large branches and whole trees during periods of high wind. The state has signed a contract with the companies Maui Cutters and Earth Works construction to clear the trees during a period of approximately 18 months beginning as soon as 2015. The job will be conducted during regular, daylight business hours and will result in significant traffic delays for an extended period of time. The project is projected to take 9 months to clear the trees and another 9 months to re-plant the hillsides with less invasive species of foliage. The project is projected to cost 4 million dollars.

## V. Old Business cont'd

### b. D.O.T. report:

Questions and concerns from the audience included;

- Can the work be done at night? (no because of the danger of cutting trees in the dark and of disturbing the endangered Shearwater birds with artificial light.)
- Is this a permanent solution or will it have to be repeated? (It is a permanent solution)
- Can you do it in stages, like three days a week to lessen the impact of travelers? (no)
- Will you post the schedule of work on public media? (Yes)
- Can you use multiple companies? (No)
- How long will be the waits? (15 to 45 minutes)

Regarding the traffic calming and safety plan for the entrance to Kilauea Ray and Donald reported that they have the traffic in and out of Kilauea in mind for study and engineering that will conclude with actions taken in the next three years to make driving in and out of Kilauea safer and more convenient. They outlined the problem; the steady increase of traffic on the state highway and its feeder roads. on the on the traffic calming plan for the entrance to Kilauea.

Currently 18,000 cars a day pass Kilauea on the Kuhio highway and that number is increasing at 2% per year. The traffic in and out of Kilauea town is increasing too as the village grows and a planned shopping center is built. Some of the options that are being considered are speed limit changes, turn lanes and a stoplight. After community discussions they said they would also consider a round about and the addition of the planned new entrance to Kilauea. Some of the questions and comments include;

- Will they implement a temporary solution including a temporary light until a final solution is found?
- Is the possible stoplight going to be fair for drivers moving in all directions?
- Ray said a signal would be the modern upgraded variety that is programmable for traffic in all directions.
- We like the temporary light used a few years ago.
- Donald Smith said, "All solutions work when there is no traffic and no solutions work well when the roads are filled to capacity.
- Several members discussed the un-even speed limits before and after Kilauea, pointing out specifically an area of 50mph just before entering Kilauea. Someone suggested changing them to make them limited to 40mph outside of town just before dropping them upon entering town.
- It was pointed out that contrary to common sense there was no turn out lane as drivers enter Kilauea yet upon entering from the east drivers have to pass a county bus stop just yards before turning right, the exact spot that could be a turn out lane.
- It was suggested that the striping of the highway is poorly visible and should be repainted on all three Kilauea exits/entrances.
- Although many residents exclaimed their approval of roundabouts over traffic signals Ben Wellborn reported on recent research he had done and recited a list of facts related to the superiority of roundabouts.
- There was discussion about the long term town plan and the planned new entrance to Kilauea.
- Donald Smith said that if the new entrance is constructed before the DOT's plan is finish it will change the dynamics of the entire problem.
- Residents asked that the striping and speed limit changes be completed quickly.
- Ray replied with a "yes".
- Ben suggested the KNA had a traffic committee that had already done a significant amount of work on the problem and suggested the committee be re-established.
- He suggested that the committee could include all the factors involve like the Kilauea/Princeville bike path plan and the real steps needed to change the entrance to Kilauea like getting the project added to the state and county planning agencies like S.T.I.P. (state transportation improvement plan).
- Donald Smith shared the email address of the new County highway engineer, mmoule@kauai.gov.

#### **IV. New Business**

Shannon Smith from the Kilauea Point Fish and Wildlife reserve introduced Mike Hawkes as her temporary replacement as she transitions from managing the reserves on Kauai to a new job in Washington DC. Mke announced that the CCP, (Comprehensive Conservation Plan) is just about ready for public review and comment and should be available on 2/12/15. She said there is a 30 day comment period that will include two public meetings, on one 2/24 from 1-3 pm at the Kilauea neighborhood center and one on 2/25 between 6 and 8 pm at the Kilauea Elementary school cafeteria.

**Announcements;** Felicia Cowden announced a pending vote on house bill 849 to amend the “Right to farm act”. Felicia stated her arguments for a vote against the bill. There was brief discussion and a motion made.

Upon motion duly made by Scott Mijares and seconded by Tom Pickett the board voted unanimously for the KNA to write and deliver a letter to state legislator’s arguing for a no vote on HB 849.

Gary Pacheco announced that the deadline for applying for North Shore Lions college scholarships is March 31. Bill Troutman announced a need for the P.A.L. basketball scholarships.

Upon motion duly made by Tom Pickett and seconded by Mike Latif the board voted unanimously to fund one whole teams worth of scholarships for a total of 250.00

Ben Wellborn, bringing up a previous discussion regarding the past transportation committees current relevance to the Kilauea traffic issues suggested the board make a motion to re-instate the committee. Ben also volunteered to chair that committee.

Upon motion duly made by Beryl Blaich and seconded by Mike Latif the board voted unanimously to re-instate the KNA Transportation committee.

#### **V. Approval of minutes**

Upon motion duly made by the Yoshi seconded by Gary and carried unanimously, it was resolved to approve the January 6 2015 minutes of the KNA board meeting.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Yoshi, seconded by Gary and carried unanimously it was resolved to adjourn the February 3 rd 2015 KNA meeting at 9:05pm .