

*Membership Mail Box Committee Minutes
Monday April 16, 2018*

*Attendance: Mike Smith, Mary Couch, Alexa Von Alemann,
Kathy Crawford, (quorum) guest: Mayelin Stillwell*

Guest Speaker: Larry Brown

The meeting was called to order by Mary at 1:05 p.m.

Mike approved last meeting minutes and Alexa 2nd'd the motion

Guest Larry Brown spoke to our committee. He recently retired from the planning department for the county of Hawaii and was in charge of the community and regional Puna development Plan(CDP)

Highlights from his conversation were:

Puna was allowed to develop with no county plan, HPP is a byproduct of the neglect from the county. Mr. Brown has been a resident here for over 20 years. He commented that Puna is relatively cheap because there is no infrastructure. Puna is a bedroom community of Hilo yet it is more populous and covers more area.

There is really only one way in and out on this side of the island. There has been lots of discussion on planning alternative routes. Some suggest a major thoroughfare through HPP. Many feel there should be several roads that connect 130 to 11.

Pahoa did the work and developed a community (Village)plan. It is an example of government and multiple committees and agencies working together. Kea'au is still a company town. HPP has been recognized as being critical for "village" development .

The population has doubled in the last 20 years. There is no infrastructure in HPP and no coordinated effort or cooperation. Mr. Brown feels that up toward the highway around 26th and Kaloli would have the best chances for development but in the center of the development would be preferable. Since there is no water service in most of HPP and no sewer line it would be impossible to develop.

The conversation turned to mail boxes. Mr' Brown said that other communities are in the same position. Many are not promised, reasonable mail service from USPS. Here, the burden is on the community to do the work. Multiple communities could file a civil suit against USPS stating "discrimination". This would be costly and lengthy. The local government needs to do it's job and represent the people here. We discuss how to get the "biggest bang for our buck". Our committee agrees that we need to focus on getting mail boxes installed for our residents. Easement access, set backs, right of ways? These are questions we need answers to. Mayelin Stillwell suggested asking Bruce Derrick for a current subdivision map and what he knows about land use from his time on the Road Traffic Committee. We need to explore if adding more boxes to the already existing clusters would qualify as a public utility access. Alexa expressed interest in this suggestion by Mike. Kathy is advocating investigating this possibility as well as maximizing the current clusters will give immediate relief to a few while we further develop our plan.

Mike will take photos of our existing mail boxes for review. Alexa informed us about a Transportation Meeting (hubs) Mary requested to be on the board meeting agenda. She will use her 3 minute owner input if denied. Mary resigned as chair of this committee and made a motion for Mike Smith to be chair. Kathy 2nd'd the motion.

Next meeting will be Monday April 30,2018 at 1 p.m. in the HPP library.

Mary made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. Alexa 2nd'd the motion.

Respectfully submitted by, Kathryn Crawford