

HPPOA - Board & Membership Mailbox Committees

DRAFT MINUTES

April 3, 2019

Kim Kuffell, chair of Member Mailbox Committee called the cooperative meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Board Committee Members Present: Shawn Merrill, Ruth Mizuba, Leilani Bronson-Crelly, and Patrick Murdoch

Membership Committee Members Present: Kim Kuffell and Adriano Teixeira

Guests: Patty Egan, Brian Egan, Robert Merrill, Brian Ingalls, and Walter McCoy

General Manager: Don Morris

Board Director: Kathleen Shaw (District 3)

Adriano Teixeira shared drawings he had prepared of the proposed four-site mailbox development for the group explaining that each site would comprise two acres on each of the 20-acre parcels owned by Hawaiian Paradise Park Owners Association. The four proposed locations are to be on 15th Avenue x Maku'u Drive (Block 9/Lot 308); 5th Avenue x Maku'u Drive (Block 9/Lot 1194); 15th Avenue x Kaloli Drive (Block 7/Lot 935); and, 5th Avenue x Kaloli Drive (Block 7/Lot 2591). Don Morris raised concern about the cost to clear and develop so much land area – wondering why two acres rather than one acre are needed. In reviewing the drawing Teixeira prepared it showed that over 40 parking spots were being included in the plan – per site.

Morris pointed out that whichever plan was proposed that it would ultimately have to be presented to and decided by the Board of Directors for approval. He added that funding must also come from the Board, and that to date, they have “set aside” \$239,000 from non-road funds for the mailbox development. “The proposal provided to the Board in 2017 by the Board Mailbox Committee required a minimum of \$300,000, and the current proposal by the Membership Mailbox Committee is well over that amount.” Morris calculated it would cost roughly \$12,000 just to clear each acre.

Discussion ensued on whether Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance for parking would be required, and whether pulling a County permit to build the sites would be required.

Teixeira asked whether both mailbox committees could merge into one at this time. It was pointed out that was not possible as one committee was formed by the Membership and the other by the Board.

Morris pointed out that the first and most important thing to get is a written commitment from the United States Postal Service (USPS) to provide over 8,800 mailboxes (one per lot in HPP) to HPPOA. He emphasized to those present that the Board of Directors would not commit to the project without USPS' agreement to provide those cluster boxes.

Kim Kuffell shared that the Membership Mailbox Committee met with USPS district manger (Greg Wolny) and the postmasters from Hilo and Kea'au who assured them that they want to give the boxes and have HPPOA take over their maintenance. She added that the USPS team did not require HPPOA to have a roof over the boxes or provide safety

camera systems – or other infrastructural improvements, and considered this the closest to a written offer that her group has. Many present agreed this was a “once in a lifetime offer” and that HPPOA needs to “jump on it.”

Morris shared that he had spoken in the past two weeks with Alton Uyetake, postmaster for Kea’au and told him that the HPPOA Board would not spend a dime until they obtain written commitment from USPS for the boxes. Morris reminded the group that on March 16, 2016, the Board passed a motion to develop the mailboxes at two locations: 15th x Kaloli and 16th x Maku’u and to entrust the development over to the general manager to complete.

Brian Ingalls asked whether the HPPOA Road Crew could provide the work to grub and grade the mailbox sites; Don Morris replied that the work would be contracted out – to which Kim Kuffell added that there were two contractors that would qualify for the bid.

Shawn Merrill opined that the two mailbox groups have moved a great distance from their original positions – with the board committee wanting two sites and the membership committee wanting sixteen lots to the current proposal for two or four lots. Morris pointed out that lot owners in the upper park might be upset that the locations are not more central and also that the more lots that are used the more the Road Crew would have to maintain at a financial cost to the Association.

The group concluded its debate agreeing that the priority was to draft a strongly-worded letter that would be presented to the Board at its next monthly meeting in April (provided there is a recording secretary) – to seek a solid written commitment from USPS that they will provide boxes for all the lots in HPPOA. It was agreed that Shawn Merrill, Kim Kuffell and Leilani Bronson-Crelly would meet in the next week to draft the letter to the Board. Once drafted, the letter would be shared – via email - with both mailbox committees for their input prior to submission. The final letter would go to USPS with a schematic drawing of the cluster box layout on each site.

The next cooperative mailbox committee meeting will be on May 13, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the library.

The group adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Leilani Bronson-Crelly
Board Mailbox Committee Member