

**Hawaiian Paradise Park Owners Association**  
**Approved Minutes of the Membership Meeting**  
**October 27, 2013**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Larry Brennan.

**Directors Present:** Larry Brennan, Vice President, District 9; Theresa Michels, Secretary, District 3; June Conant, Treasurer, District 6; Bill Newman, District 8; Judy Sumter, District 5; and Verne Presnall, District 7. [*Skip McAlister, District 2, and Francis Ganon, District 1, were absent.*] Scott Reilling, General Manager, was also present.

**Lot Owners Present:** Gyonghyi Szirum, Roger Hanson, Joan Galante, Bruce Derrick, David Fithian, Det and Tom Picher, Darlene Furness, Elizabeth Weatherford, Kathleen and Bill Tilton, Beverly Hookano, Madge and Jim Crow, Richard Koval, Deborah Koval, June Jones, John Jones, Mary Hymer, James DeVincent, Evan Pfaff, Theresa Jackson, Dan Bessor, Barbara Robertson, Melanie Botticelli, Valerie Sink-Abelays, Leilani Bronson Crelly, Mike Mentwech, Barbara Yuen, Mayelin Stillwell, Robert Essex, Wayne Miller, Denise Reghetti, Ruth Mizuba, John Seastrom, David Waters, Barbara Kahn-Langer, Janice Dauw, Francis Dauw, Gail Macle, H. McNeill and Michael Bernard.

**Announcements:** Larry Brennan, Presiding Officer, announced a Board vacancy in District 4.

Red Cross has agreed to a preliminary inspection of the Activity Center to determine what is needed for it to qualify as a tsunami shelter. He asked members to tell their representatives how they feel about this issue.

Larry reminded the membership that HPPOA can accept tax-deductible donations.

Tomorrow the Humane Society will make a “doggie sweep” of the Park to pick up stray dogs.

The Board is developing policies and procedures to expand on the bylaws; a conduct policy to promote civil behavior, mutual respect and the spirit of aloha at Board meetings; and a road safety policy.

Larry said that Hawaii Statutes 414D allows for volunteers on the Board to attend meetings from a remote location through audio connections when they are on the Mainland. June said, “We’ll have to look into that.”

The Board is sending letters to various vendors, advising them of the Department of Health’s scrutiny of the dust on unpaved roads, and requesting their cooperation and respect for the speed limits within the subdivision.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Terry requested that a report from the Parks Committee be added under New Business on the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

**Albizia Presentation:** Eileen O’Hara from Senator Ruderman’s subbed for the US Forestry presenter and gave a presentation on the hazards of albizias in our communities. She stated that

albizias are the fastest-growing hardwood trees in the world. Approximately 40,000 trees were planted to retain soil after the sandalwood and koa were harvested commercially. The trees grow in altitudes up to 3000 feet, and their abundant seeds can travel great distances. The trees also exude a natural herbicide which, combined with the tree's wide canopy, restrict the growth of other plants.

If land is bulldozed to remove the trees, it must be covered to prevent regrowth. The trees are brittle and prone to break in high winds, causing a danger to property and persons. The roots also invade underground utilities such as water pipes, breaking waterlines.

Albizia control begins with identification of hazard versus non-hazard trees and setting priorities based on location of trees in respect to infrastructure. The three ways to kill albizias are:

- Bulldoze, with prevention of seed growth
- Girdle by stripping the outside bark all the way around the trunk
- Machete gashes every 6 inches around the base of the tree into which 6-8 drops of the herbicide Milestone is inserted, leaving a dead-standing trunk

Use of Milestone is recommended only for isolated trees, since branches will break and fall as the tree dies.

In 2009 the State passed a law authorizing the Governor to allow State employees to enter private property for mitigation of hazardous situations, if the landowner will not take responsibility. This is coordinated through the State Office of Civil Defense, which has no funds for removal of the hazardous trees.

The Department of Transportation has a state-wide strategic plan, which addresses mapping out hazardous trees along State highways to allow for development of a mitigation plan.

A Senate resolution passed this year directing the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to develop and implement a control program beginning with the Big Island, and to investigate biocontrol agents for albizias.

Bill 64 passed the Hawaii County Council last week, establishing a process for removal of hazardous trees which threaten human safety or private property. Property owners who do not take action can be taken to court or have liens placed on undeveloped properties.

Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) has also been proactive in removal of hazard trees which threaten power lines.

Larry said that HPPOA needs to address albizias in the interior of the Association's 20-acre parcels in a safe way. A pilot project using Milestone on a tree on the Activity Center parcel killed the tree in 3 weeks.

**Approval of Minutes:** Leilani Crelly asked what action has been taken regarding Craig Crelly's request for an apology from the Board to his wife for being interrupted by an HPPOA employee during a presentation. Larry promised to follow up on this.

**Joan Galante moved to approve the minutes of the membership meeting of June 30, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**Nominating Committee:** June reported that 5 people signed up for the committee: June Conant, Joan Galante, Leilani Crelly, Bruce Derrick and Elizabeth Weatherford. She invited other interested members to volunteer.

**Barbara Kahn-Langer moved to approve June Conant, Joan Galante, Leilani Crelly, Bruce Derrick and Elizabeth Weatherford to serve on the Nominating Committee. Roger Hanson seconded, and the motion passed.**

June recommended sending an invitation to members in each district to participate, as was done in the past. Candidates may post pictures and statements on the website.

June announced a Board vacancy in District 4. The Board will accept applicants to fill the position for the remainder of this fiscal year.

June announced that of the 1625 ballots received to date concerning dedication of the main roads to the County, 1350 voted yes and 279 voted no.

**Community Action Committee:** Judy reported that HPPOA has a Master Plan which was written in 1997 and revised in 2005. Copies are available in the office. "Basically, it is a good plan."

Terry said the plan needs to be updated, and the committee is asking for volunteers to help.

Once updated, the plan will go to the Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP) Committee.

Once accepted by the PCDP, the Master Plan will go back to the County Council.

June said as a member of the PCDP Committee, she has been asked when HPPOA will submit its Master Plan. She said the scope of the plan ranges from walking and biking paths to formation of a town center.

Larry said HPP has a population of 12,000, more than Pahoia or Waimea, and needs self-direction to envision the future, including commercial growth.

Barbara Kahn-Langer said the previous editions of the Master Plan list everyone who has worked on the plan. She urged the Board to seek their input for this revision.

**General Manager's Report:** Scott provided a handout, which addressed the process for collection of past-due road maintenance fees.

**Treasurer's Report:** June provided a copy of the auditor's report and financial statement for fiscal year 2012-2013 and outlined the procedure for establishing payment plans for delinquent owners, which has been "very successful".

She said the Board does not intend to raise road maintenance fees for next fiscal year, although last year's discount will not be offered.

### **Committee Reports**

**Hawaiian Paths:** John Seastrom said the committee hopes to build a walking and bicycle path along the Hilo side of Paradise Dr. from the highway to the ocean. The expense of the project, estimated at \$274,000, has put the project on hold. Path Hawaii, a similar group in Kona,

suggested that the committee begin with smaller projects to build credibility and experience. Path Hawaii will offer a presentation at the February membership meeting.

John said that yesterday four volunteers began creating a walking trail behind the Activity Center. A second work party is scheduled for Saturday, November 2. "Bring a machete and hiking boots."

The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the library.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Michael Bernard said that Neighborhood Watch is organized by blocks, with captains to coordinate activities in the neighborhood. Their purpose is to know one's neighbors and communicate and record what goes on.

Police representatives attend monthly meetings, and crime in the Park is mapped. A free loaner program for outdoor surveillance cameras is available for residents experiencing security problems. The police department sponsors home inspections, offering helpful suggestions on crime prevention measures.

Michael said the committee sponsors a Swap Meet on the second Saturday of each month. Outside space for vendors costs \$3, and tables may be rented for \$6. Proceeds purchase equipment and signs.

Participants are urged not to confront anyone, but are instructed to call 9-1-1 to report suspicious activity. The committee meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the library. They may be contacted at: [hppneighborhoodwatch@aol.com](mailto:hppneighborhoodwatch@aol.com).

Bruce Derrick said that Road Traffic Safety Committee members have been harassed by Neighborhood Watch.

**Road, Traffic, Safety, and Policies:** Mayelin Stillwell said the committee meets on the 4th Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the library.

Their goal is to identify and resolve unsafe conditions on the roads, working with the Association's road crew. The current focus is to clear easements, many of which are currently obstructed by plantings and rocks. She added that it is helpful for owners to mow the easements in front of their property, because the road crew is small.

The committee is working with the Board to create policy of what it can do to resolve issues.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Response to Owner's Input:** June said there is nothing pending at this time, since most questions are answered at meetings. Refer to the website: [www.hppoa.com](http://www.hppoa.com).

**Mail Delivery:** June has spoken to Mr. Oya, a post office representative in Honolulu. HPPOA's TMK's and street addresses were sent to him, to allow development of a plan for mail delivery within the Park. Boxes will be tied to street addresses, not persons. When she asked Oya whether another carrier would be provided to serve any additional boxes, he responded, "No." Sheila Watamull has agreed to allow mailboxes on the commercial parcels she owns, and Malamalama School is willing to allow boxes on their corner at 27<sup>th</sup> Ave.

For 2 years June has tried to get Mr. Oya to come to the subdivision to understand the challenges of mail delivery here. The Board has considered writing federal representatives concerning the problem.

**New Business**

**Volunteer Committee:** Larry said a volunteer coordinator is needed for the Park, to coordinate people with experience with the tasks which need to be done. He suggested hiring someone to work 20 hours per week, and asked members to give their input on his suggestion to their district's Director.

**Test Roads Committee:** Larry said the Board has passed a motion to create a committee to explore test roads development, to determine materials and best practice to reduce dust and wear and tear on the dirt roads.

**Parks Committee:** Terry said the committee needs volunteers. The current project is to fix the baseball field, purchase equipment and develop a walking path on the Activity Center parcel.

**Owner Input:**

Darlene Furness said improvements in the Park cost money, asphalt costs more each year, and residents should expect dues to go up if they want better roads.

Leilani Crelly asked that the Oct. 2012 survey be placed on the website, as well as a link to the NPDES permit. She asked why the League of Women Voters did not count the road dedication ballot, and asked who counted them.

June said Cathy, Judy and June counted them; anyone who cares to is welcome to count them. Leilani also asked for the status of mitigation of dust.

**Leilani Crelly moved that meeting packets be scanned and placed online one week before the general membership meeting. Barbara Kahn-Langer seconded. The motion passed.**

David Waters asked for clarification whether the County will maintain the main roads if they are dedicated to the County, and how monies now used for maintenance of those roads will be spent. Larry recommended that the Board look at using road maintenance monies for other improvements or possibly reducing road maintenance fees.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by:



Kirstie Goin, Recording Secretary



Terry Michels, Corporate Secretary

**Motions Log 10-27-13**

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