

COMMISSION ON HEALING SOLUTIONS FOR HOMELESSNESS
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
ON-LINE VIA BLUEJEANS
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kaimiola at 1:34 p.m.

Present:

George Kaimiola, Vice-Chair
Lisa Darcy
John Decker
Rochelle Tempo
Faith Chase
John Tomoso
Saul Kahihikolo
Zhantell Lindo (joined meeting at 1:56 p.m.)

Excused:

Mary Trotto

Absent:

Scott Hansen

Present Staff:

Lori Tshako, Director of Housing & Human Concerns
Daniel Kunkel, Deputy Corporation Counsel (DCC)
Kimberly Ferguson, Secretary

1. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL ITEMS

There was no one present at the physical location to offer public testimony.

Mr. Michael Williams, President of Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Board of Directors of Stand Up Maui, and Chair of the Cost of Government Commission, testified via BlueJeans.

- Department on RFP for homeless parking lot and Comprehensive homeless plan
- Suggested Commission look at creating “kauhales” (sic) on County owned land or donated land.
- Suggested Commission ask for more administrative support to assist with meeting minutes

Commissioners Chase, Tomoso, and Darcy posed procedural questions related to minutes and reporting. Testifier informed the group of the procedures/rules used by the Cost of Government Commission.

DCC Kunkel reminded the group that meeting minutes were written up by former staff and are posted on the Commission's webpage.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. 2.31.080 (A) Requiring the council to review operations of the commission within 18 months after its first meeting and (B) requiring an annual report to council -The Commission is to submit a report to the Maui County Council by September 30, 2022.

Vice Chair Kaimiola reminded the members that the report is due to Council by the end of September. Commissioner Chase requested deferral on discussion of the item until Temporary Investigative Group (TIG) status updates were given. There were no objections - item was deferred.

b. Temporary Investigative Group Status Updates

- Resource Mapping TIG (End Date September 30, 2022) – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Kawakami, Hansen and Trotto
At the request of Vice Chair Kaimiola, Director Tsuhako provided an update on the Medical Outreach model for unsheltered homeless previously researched by the TIG.
 - Dept. has been working on program development
 - Working agreement with Malama I Ke Ola has been executed to purchase the service of a physician to partner with homeless outreach workers
 - Program development also includes training and formal evaluation of outcomes by the University of Hawaii.
 - HUD recently issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). DHHC will be submitting a proposal for funding through the Continuum of Care

Commissioner Chase questioned the timeline of events leading up to the recommendation. DCC Kunkel clarified the process.

- Monthly Reporting TIG (End Date September 30, 2022) – Vice Chair Kaimiola and members Kawakami, Chase, Hansen and Trotto
Vice Chair Kaimiola informed the group that this TIG will be ending soon. There were no additional updates to report.

- Diversified Housing Solutions TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Lindo, Tomoso, and Chase
Commissioner Darcy requested to be moved to the end of the updates in order to allow time for Commissioner Trotto to log on since she was traveling.

Update was later provided by Commissioner Darcy:

- *Owners of Ohana Yurts of Hawaii, Jenny and Nathan Toler met with the TIG. Eager to share their experiences*
- *Uncertain if yurts are permitted on Maui as they not allowed on Oahu*
- *There are different sizes and applications of yurts.*
- *Could be married with locally owned and un bamboo style housing*
- *At the time of the meeting, TIG was quoted \$14,000 (including assembly) for 16ft yurt which could house 2 people*

Commissioner Lindo suggested permitting be discussed with the Planning Department and looking into using invasive Mangrove as a substitute for bamboo.

- Social and Community Impacts TIG – Members Darcy, Decker, Kawakami, Tomoso, and Chase
Commissioner Darcy informed the group that she was sick and did not convene the group. There were no updates to report.
- Sustainable Housing TIG – Vice-Chair Kaimiola and Members Chase, Decker, and Darcy
Commissioner Chase moved to extend the end date of the TIG until October 31, 2022 due to canceled meetings. Motion seconded by Commissioner Lindo. There was no further discussion and all present were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chase proceeded with her update and suggested using Google docs vs. the other application she originally suggested. A Facebook share page entitled “Sustainable Housing Share Page” was created to obtain global input. Categories include the following:

- *Materials & origin availability*
- *Cost*
- *Length of lifetime of housing*
- *Government partnerships*
- *Non-government/non-profit partnerships*
- *Private partnerships*
- *Culturally appropriate housing*
- *Calendar considerations*

TIG meets every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m.

Prior to moving on to New Business, Commissioner Chase requested discussion of two items which were under Old Business on a previous agenda.

- Request that Council Vice Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez be invited to the Commission meeting to clarify the \$500,000 expenditure in the budget. DCC Kunkel responded that he did not believe there was any funding appropriated for the Commission
- Retracting her original request to obtain a budget expenditure for social media campaign on COVID rental support

Commissioner Lindo requested that DCC Kunkel clarify that commissions do not receive funding. DCC Kunkel responded that he wasn't aware of any law that prohibits commissions from being funded and he's not aware that the Council has appropriated any money for this commission.

Commissioner Tomoso asked DCC Kunkel if they can request a budget. DCC Kunkel responded that the COG commission falls under the County Auditor, and because they are shorthanded, they contracted staff to help.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of New Commission Chair for the 2022-2023 Term Year

Commissioner Chase moved to nominate Lisa Darcy as Chair. Vice Chair Kaimiola moved to nominate Rochelle Kim Tempo as Chair. Commissioner Lindo seconded both nominations. Both nominees were asked to share about themselves.

Vice Chair Kaimiola called for the vote and there was no consensus from the majority. There were 5 votes for Commissioner Tempo (Kahihikolo, Tomoso, Decker, Kaimiola, Tempo) and 3 for Commissioner Darcy (Chase, Lindo, Darcy). DCC Kunkel provided two recommendations: 1) defer the election until the next meeting; or 2) reopen the nominations and take another vote.

Commissioner Lindo moved to nominate herself for Chair. Commissioner Tempo seconded. Commissioner Lindo proceeded with her introductory statement.

Commissioner Tempo withdrew her candidacy. Vice Chair Kaimiola called for a roll call vote. Majority voted for Commissioner Lindo as Chair (Decker, Tomoso, Kahihikolo, Tempo, Kaimiola, Lindo) and 2 for Commissioner Darcy (Darcy and Chase). Commissioner Lindo was elected as new Commissioner Chair.

b. Discussion on The Law of the Splintered Paddle

Vice Chair Kaimiola informed all members that SB1246 never made it out of committee so the Law of the Splintered Paddle is not a state law. Vice Chair went on to explain the history.

Commissioner Chase commented that she appreciates Vice Chair's interpretation and sees it being reintroduced. Also stated Mayor and Council passing safe parking bill is an act of admission that there is a need. Commissioner Chase also commented that MPD needs some education and perhaps the commission can add the item to the agenda and discuss how the commission can help educate the police force.

Commissioner Darcy commented she was thrilled to see item on the agenda as it acknowledges the importance of cultural perspective. Commissioner Darcy read a passage and asked the commission to imagine if the bill passed as it is a beautiful lens through the eyes of people who have nowhere to go. Thanked Vice Chair for adding to the agenda and thought it was a humbling piece of legislation.

Commissioner Tomoso commented this type of agenda item and discussion is worthy of the commission's attention because it is a healing discussion. Also wants to make sure whenever there is a healing discussion that it leads somewhere and helps not only the commission move forward, but the government and community as well.

Vice Chair Kaimiola closed by reminding the group that the 1700's was the genesis and it was a totally different time period and situation in regard to homelessness.

c. Iain's Blog – Ohana Zone

Vice Chair informed the Commission that Mr. DeJong established policies for HUD and that he wanted to share the blog and research done to help educate the commission on challenges the community might face with sanctioned encampments.

Commissioner Chase thanked Vice Chair and asked if Mr. DeJong would be invited as a guest. She also commented that while a safe parking lot is not sustainable and a tent city is not a permanent solution, it's important to remind yourself that we're in a crisis and something has to be done until a bigger solution can be obtained and we must differentiate between quick fixes vs. solutions.

Commissioner Darcy also thanked Vice Chair for adding the item to the agenda and commented that Mr. DeJong has come to Maui two times to present but doesn't allow video taping so she expected to see some kind of report from the Maui Homeless Alliance (MHA) and what type of critical thinking would be applied. Stated that she read his work for many years and wants to have a real discussion about the action areas and how the County is not applying or integrating any of his recommendations. Commented that she has not seen any progress by the MHA supporting or working toward Iain's recommendation. Asked commissioners to read the blog and be prepared to discuss further.

Commissioner Tomoso commented that he believes Mr. DeJong has a lot of healing point to make. Asked Mr. DeJong about a report but was told it would involve a fee. Commented that he was not able to attend the training so he would allow himself to

be educated by notes taken by attendees and hopes the safe parking RFP will have some of Iain's points imbedded in it.

d. HRS – Vehicle Habitation

Vice Chair Kaimiola asked DCC Kunkel to explain the law. DCC Kunkel believed it was something that the council would vote on and needs to be approved by Mayor but he was not on top of the topic.

Commissioner Chase commented that it was passed and there was some great discussion as it moved through the committee and council.

Commissioner Darcy clarified it was Bill 108 which was the result of Council Member King adding \$200,000 in the FY23 budget for safe sleeping parking lot. Council needed to change the ordinance to remove prohibition of vehicle habitation and clarified that it was only for the one pilot project.

Commissioner Tempo asked where the parking would be. Commissioner Darcy replied that it would be only one parking lot and believed the Dept. of Parks & Rec has to provide potential sites. She also stated that the RFP needs to be done, and stated although this was a tiny little footprint of a project but is a good start and that she would be completely dedicated to support the project.

Chair Lindo clarified that HRS prohibits vehicle habitation so what the council did was pass the enabling legislation to allow the pilot project to move forward; however, the Department has to develop administrative rules before the RFP can be issued. Chair Lindo proposed writing a letter to push the Mayor to move forward, assist the Department with the admin rules, and perhaps help identify a location.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Darcy suggested that the Commission invite former Chair Hudson to the next meeting to formally acknowledge and thank her.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Kaimiola adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m. No motions were made and no votes were taken.