

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 19, 2002

Waikapu Neighborhood Center
22 East Waiko Road, Waikapu, Maui, Hawaii

CONVENE: 5:16 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Charmaine M. Tavares, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Patrick S. Kawano, Member

STAFF: Gary R. Saldana, Legislative Analyst
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: Floyd S. Miyazono, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Blaine J. Kobayashi, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel (substituting for Deputy Edward S. Kushi Jr.)

OTHERS: Florence Nakama
Masao Sato
Russel Gushi
Richard Braden

Haunani Lemn
Scott Nunokawa
Walette Pellegrino
Jayne Kinoshita
Additional attendees (3)

PRESS: None

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Parks and Rec. Committee will come to order. And we have with us tonight. . . Councilmember Robert Carroll, who's our Vice-Chair. . . Council Chair Pat Kawano is excused; Councilmember Michael Molina; Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, who has to leave at 6:30 . . . *(laughter)*. . . our Parks Director, Floyd Miyazono; Ed Kushi is not here tonight, but we have a representative from Corporation Counsel. And please tell me your name.

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MR. KOBAYASHI: Blaine Kobayashi.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, Blaine Kobayashi. Thank you. And we have Camille Sakamoto, who is our Committee Secretary; and Gary Saldana, who's our Legislative Analyst. So I thank all of you for coming tonight and not believing *The Maui News* . . .(laughter) . . . We only have one agenda item tonight. And I'm just gonna give a little overview and then before we start to take testimony, we'll have Mr. Miyazono from Parks give us also a little bit of an overview. And if . . . Charmaine has anything to add. . . you know to that, after Mr. Miyazono gets through--because she just finished the Community Plan for Wailuku-Kahului. . . then we'll just take testimony and we'll hear what **you** would like.

ITEM NO. 3: DESIGNATING A PARK IN THE WAIOLANI/WAIKAPU AREA (Misc.)

CHAIR JOHNSON: So without further ado. . . you're gonna have ten minutes, just so you know also. But if you can't finish in ten minutes, there's something very wrong . . .(laughter) . . . So prior, prior to taking public testimony, though, Mr. Miyazono is going to address some of these issues. He's gonna try to explain how much money we have available in the Park Assessment Fund for the development of a park or expansion of parks in this particular area; he's gonna give us the status of the proposed 38-lot subdivision; and a determination as to whether the Department will seek an assessment or donation of land for that particular area. . . if that's even available, because I know it's still going through the Planning Commission. And he's also going to give us his overview on what the Department envisions for a proposed park for this area and what types of arrangements the Department would anticipate as far as the maintenance of a proposed park. . . and what you have in mind also. So without further ado, Mr. Miyazono?

MR. MIYAZONO: . . . Thank you very much, Madam Chairman. Um. . . you know, basically what, what we're here today is. . . to, to hear testimonies to. . . hear the people that live at Waikapu, you know, Waiolani, from the standpoint of the desires relative to park development. And. . . basically, maybe before I start, I could somewhat explain as part of the park assessment requirement so that all of, all of you here would understand, basically, how it works. Whenever a developer requests for certain type of development--whether it's residential, apartments, multi-family units--many of these developers are required to do or to comply with a park assessment. The park assessment includes the payment of fees. . . it also, may also include the. . . um. . . the. . . dedication of property and also, the third is the development of the existing parks or a combination thereof. And just recently they did a park amendment ordinance relative to the Maui County Code that gives the Parks Director the ability to determine what we feel as a Department is best for the community and the public use. And I think there are several options that we are taking a look at. As we look at what is currently

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there. . .Waiolani currently is developed and there are approximately 106 single-family units, currently right now. Recently there have been an approved development for a 25-lot subdivision. And also. . .there's also another project that will be coming on-line, it's called Waiolani Pikake, that propose a 38-lot residential development.

. . . Basically what it is, what we are looking at, we have several opt, options. Well, first of all I know the concerns has been that there should be parks. And this what I've been hearing--that there should be parks developed mauka of the highway. The only basic park we have here is this small park here, that is right in the back of us. And also there was, and also a. . .as part of a park dedication on the existing Wai. . .Waiolani development, subdivision. . .we were dedicated approximately 1 acre that somewhat surrounds this current park here. If you look out here, it somewhat meanders into here and it goes back here and goes around there. And there's also a ditch there. And I think it's very. . .as we take a look at the property, we're looking at the feasibility of actually improving that property. First of all, it will be very expensive for us to do anything with that. Um. . .and, and I think we feel that based on the assessment that we'll get from the development up. . .on those areas, that the money would be possibly more well-spent if we do develop a park mauka of the highway. And on other issues that, and other issues that we need to take a look at is what kind of parks would be developed. I've heard about neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are usually smaller parks that are utilized for, really, passive activity; passive activities such as picnicking. . .and just sitting around. And usually those passive parks are a little smaller parks within the neighborhood, maybe up to an acre or so. Then on the other hand, there's active parks. Active parks that we probably would take a look at--which may be up to the size of an acre to maybe five acres or six acres, you know, that depends what the community needs are. And as we take a look at an active park, the question that needs to be asked is: is there a place for kids to play. . .is there somewhere they could practice soccer; is there someplace where they could practice baseball, T-ball? I think those are the important question we need to ask ourselves as we look at what really is the needs for parks when we talk about the Waiolani sub. . .residential development. Okay. . .and as we take a look at it, we, we need to take a look at the total picture. We need to take a look at what is basically in the Community Plan; we take a look at the total development of the entire area. . .as compared to looking at parks based on what we see today. . .what really is the needs for the community when everything is built out. And when we look at everything that is built out, we need to know, well, how many more homes will be built there. Okay? Unless there is some kind of protest to stop growth. But here, as we look at what is in the Community Plan, there are plans for additional single-family development. And that's what we have to take a look at--the total picture and relative to recreational needs that will meet the needs of the community, not what we have right now. We need to take a look at the larger picture. But I'm here to listen to exactly what you have to say, what your concerns are. I have seen

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some past records of some of the testimonies that, that. . . have been mentioned in earlier, prior meetings. I have seen those. But, again, what I'd like to do is just start from scratch here and go forward. But I think it's very important that I have a chance to hear what you folks have to say and. . . we'll take it from there. But, you know, as we go through, you know, things do change and, you know, relative to the needs. And I know we have a small turnout here, but I think I'm hoping that maybe in the future we'll have more turnouts and from that we could have a better cross-section as to the opinion of the people that actually lives in that particular area. So with that. . . I conclude my presentation, turn it over to Madam Chairman.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Charmaine is there anything that you would like to add as far as the Community Plan is concerned?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah. It's not. . . pleasant. The Community Plan that just passed has no parks designated. . . new park spaces designated in this particular area. And once again I would like to urge people to participate in both the General Plan process and the next Community Plan process. To me, the correct way to, to assign where parks go is in the planning process and not wait until there's a development coming up. If we already know that something's designated single-family and the potential for the build out is whatever the number is, then that should be used as the, the. . . the data to determine what size park should be in each of the districts. We have a community facilities assessment done during the, the General Plan update process. And in that update of community facilities, parks are also included. And what we try to take a look at through there or have the consultants take a look at is based on the demographics of a particular area, what is the number and the size and the types of parks that should be in each area. And understanding that a whole community and the greater community than just Waikapu, let's say the whole island of Maui. . . you need to have a system of parks. And this includes Federal parks, State parks, and County parks, includes passive and active parks, your, your real. . . you know, recreation complexes where it's like War Memorial Complex has the stadiums. . . those kinds of things. Then you also need to have those little, small pocket parks, or the tot lots as they call them, in the different neighborhoods so that the young kids, younger kids could just walk to an area, or you can just walk and picnic at that park. So it, it's not just one size fits all. And each community should determine for themselves what kind of variety they would like in a particular area. And that needs to be communicated. . . you know, through the community plan process would be the first place to do it. Doing it now, as subdivisions come up, is kind of like coming in later in the system. This should have already been setup from times before. So I just, I can't stress the importance of coming in during the General Plan and the Community Plan revision process to really get some of these things outlined so then everyone knows where they stand and what they're gonna have. Coming in now, it's almost like we're. . . you know, we're gonna use the park assessment to get

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parks, but that does not meet the needs. Park assessment will not fulfill the needs for parks in Maui County. There have to be other things also. So . . . I just have those comments that, you know, unfortunately in the Waikapu area there are no parks designated in . . . new parks designated in the area. So it's gonna have to be this route--going by what developments come up and what the Parks Department and Administration is gonna do along with the park assessment to provide the kinds of recreational spaces you folks would see yourselves needing for now and into the future.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thanks very much, Charmaine. Uh. . . if you had come in after we started the meeting, you can sign up with. . . Camille Sakamoto and, to testify because basically what we're gonna be doing tonight is listening to what **you** would like to see for the area. And as Charmaine pointed out and also Floyd. . . one of the things that is so important in the entire process is that we hear from you what you want. We're here to serve you. . . and your needs. And unless there is a clear line of communication about what your needs are, what the future needs are, it's really hard for Charmaine or any of us--you know, even in her community planning. . . when you're trying to operate and not have that information, it's very, very difficult. So that's what we're. . . bringing this out to you instead of you having to come to the County building . . . *(laughter)*. . . in the middle of the day. 'Cause it's really hard for a lot of the people with families even now. I know because *The Maui News* got the article wrong. I can't expect everyone to be here, but I'm hoping that through this process you'll be able to take what our message is. . . empower the people that live within this entire area to say what is it that you want. . . from government in cooperation with government, what can we do together to make things better for, for all of the people and to make the quality of your lives better. Uh. . . once. . . the information that you've given us--whether it's, you want tot lots or you want, maybe some. . . different areas of parks. Perhaps you want a soccer field. Once we know what the general need is, then I think it will be--at least what we've done in other issues, like camping--we can then consolidate all of the information that you're giving us as to what the community really wants, what your priorities are, if there are contributions that you would like to make as community association or if you wanna adopt a park so that the workload might be able to be a little bit less on the Parks Department, we always welcome that. Because I think it's the partnerships that give us that ability to stretch our dollars or your dollars farther. So once we know that, then it'll be easier for us to come up with suggestions that we will make to the Administration because they're the ones that are gonna have to implement what your wishes are. But we want to reflect from the community what it is that you want and what the future needs are gonna be for your families. So as I said earlier, you're gonna be limited to not more than ten minutes. There's very few people here. You don't have to use the whole ten minutes, but I like to give enough time so that you would be **able**, at least, to get your thoughts out without having to be cut off. And if you just, before you speak, just give your name so that we have that for the public record. And just give us your thoughts.

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It doesn't have to be formal. We just wanna get it for the record. And then once you finish speaking, if any of the Council Members have a question to you, they may ask you what you mean by something. And then. . .we'll just go from there. So the first testifier this evening is Florence Nakama.

NOTE: *Pause while Ms. Nakama approached the mic.*

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. NAKAMA: . . . Thank you, Chair--oh. . .is this on? Thank you, Chair Johnson. I'm a little concerned because some years back we did come up as a community and. . .express our needs for the. . .the park here. And. . .at that time already, I can't remember how many years back, but several years already, that this park was already too small for--not only the community of Waikapu--but the others who use the park as well. You know, others. . .from outlying communities will use. . .our park. And so it was already too small. And I know that they did talk about, you know, possibility of expanding this area. But from what I understand that you have said so far that probably. . .to relocate would be mauka of Honoapili [*sic*] Highway, and that would make sense because I think. . .on, when we heard the presentation this past week, earlier, they said most of the subdivision will be coming mauka of the highway. So that would be. . .I think great. But it has to be much larger because not only is it for this community an ex. . .expansion of the community, but also the outlying communities that will use this park. Already this park has been used by. . .the Little League. . .people, but only the younger ones can use this because the field is too small. It's not, you know. . .regulation size for the others. And thankfully we have the other two parks which are really, that. . .Wailuku Agribusiness have opened up. And we're thankful that Mr. Sato is here to take care of this park. I mean, he has been the person that, you know, he just volunteer all his time to. . .beautify the place, take care of it. When there's vandalism, he takes care of that. So you know, we just thankful that someone who's concerned in the community to take care of the park, you know, whatever it is. So. . .but we do need this park, also, I believe even if we do expand because it does take care of, of the other kinds of needs that we have--you know, like people who live nearby who just need to, need to exercise, many of the seniors walk around here. And young, when they have young children, they bring the children here to just play. So it can be used as a neighborhood park. And I think that will be good to keep it. But as far as a large park to take care of the needs of many of the other kinds of sports that people in a community, growing. . .community needs, I think we need to have a larger one. And if this place is too. . .uh. . .well, too costly to expand, maybe something across, mauka would be a good idea. But I think we do need that. Um. . .because this, I think they did expand a little bit to make the field a little bit more in regulation size for the younger ones. But then parking became a problem because you know once you have the field for baseball, then where do the parents park? They park on the, you know, side of the road. And this

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road. . . Waiko Road is already very busy right now. . . pau hana traffic, you know, it can back up quite a ways. And so if they park too and then the traffic, then it becomes a real. . . hazard. Um . . .

. . . and. . . we always thought that when Waiolani development came up, that that park that. . . was. . . you know, left open was gonna be a park for that subdivision. But apparently that's gonna become. . . another subdivision also. So. . . and I can see why people from that subdivision had concerns because young children, you know, it's really dangerous for them to cross over the highway. And this highway is really. . . very busy. So I can see the concern. And. . . and maybe that's why the residents of Waiolani were, you know, opposed to that subdivision before. But I just thank you that we have this opportunity. And I just hope that we can. . . uh. . . have a larger park planned. I was distressed when, you know, Councilperson. . . Tavares said that there was no park. . . you know, in the Community Plan. So hopefully we can get that included. Thanks very much.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any questions?

. . . Seeing none, the next person to testify is Masao Sato. So let's here from you, Mr. Sato.

MR. SATO: Before I say anything, thank you, Councilmen and Councilwoman for coming here to hear our troubles. I hope this won't be only a talk story, nothing being done because about the third or fourth time I heard about parks . . . *(inaudible)*. . . You know, I going give you one example. You know the bleachers up there, five years ago I talked to Pat R_____. Every other park has a bleacher. You don't see any bleacher. The mothers have to sit on the ground. You see, there's room for a bleacher. But not one time they came to look. And then, you know what happened? They came with a. . . a tape measure. They measured over here--20 feet, the whole length. They was going build a patio so that the people who come here with a pretty good, large group don't have to put up tent. They came measure and. . . nothing done. You see? And then, so they still gotta bring the tent. You see? And then they came to. . . up, across there, by the basketball court. They came with a cane knife, with a hoe and everything. I tell 'em, what going be? We going build one nice garden for picnic and all that. They came cut about 15 trees. They neva come back. And you look over there, it just like a jungle. You see? And then, and then another thing, yeah, I think between the County and the developer put on a fast one on the Waiolani people. They supposed to put up a park over there. You know? But the. . . the Agribusiness says, 'eh, we give the County the land in the back of the ditch to, you know, extend the park, but they forgot. Ten years ago *Maui News* had an article, 30,000 dollar was allotted. You see, there's a big ditch over there, about four feet wide. It's dangerous. The kids used to play. If one of they ever fall in the ditch, they'll end up in the reservoir. They going be, you know what I mean? So I told them about it. So they heard. They know. And then, they had the

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money to cover the, you know, at least the top part. Nothing done. You see? You know what I mean? All my, all. . .and nothing done. You see? So I don't know about if this meeting going be same thing, like any other Council meeting. You know what I mean? All talk and no nothing. See, but the thing is that if the County is smart, you know the two park they have down there? They try, they must try to acquire that park because that park, the Little League park is bigger than this one here. And then the, on the, on the backside there's another one bigger than the, just like a senior league park area size. You know? Because, I know because I cut all the koas over there so. . .and then. . .I volunteer over there. But the thing is that. . .that part nothing, but we got to do something, you know. . .not only--look over here, they came to cut the trees. The branches, big branches still over there yet. Right over there. You know what I mean? Look, that's about half-year ago. You see? You know that locker over there, we take 'em out, Floyd. We put 'em over here. You know? Yeah? And then if nobody do nothing, I cut 'em and throw 'em away. I take mine, but you know I'll the other one away. Yeah? You see? So we going make room. And then. . .you see, this park is small, but it's being used by families you know from, from outside. You go, you go check in the parks. . .the. . .board, reservation where Waikapu rate. You try look. It rate real high, the usage, you know. Yeah? Because they have enough parking space and away from the people and the, the wind blow this way so the noise doesn't go to residential area. You see? But the thing is that. . .I don't know, but the Waiolani people was sleeping. They supposed to have a ballpark there. There's no ballpark there because they agreed to take the . . .(inaudible). . . County, accept the land from way up there, right down to the, to the end. And it's pretty wide and right to the. . .the what do you call that, the stream over there, Waikapu river, you know. You look at area from here, you can see double the size of here. But there's the ditch over there. That's the dangerous one. You see? But as I said, 30,000 dollars went to Kihei, I don't know where. But the thing is that nothing being done. Actually, the only thing they did good was the fence over here and the parking area. Besides that, no improvement. Nothing. And County neva paint this. The church group paint in here. The church group volunteered to paint all this in here. You see? The County, neva cost them nothing you know. There, we used to have Scout meeting, but. . .no more leader so there's no troupe. So we had all the equipment, but. . .I was a Scout Master for, you know, over 30 years. So I donated one of the lockers, but. . .that going be thrown out because I was telling Floyd that it's not usable already, not using because these two are used by the UE ladies. See? That made by the County. But the UE lady, lady use that so I had to use something for the Scouts, so that's why the locker was, you know, brought in. Volunteer. But he cannot go in there because the locker is in the way. That thing is easy to move. The painters from the church move, put 'em in there so they can paint over here. You see? So they can put 'em back over here again. You know. . .if you cannot, I can take 'em down to. . .Apana and then. . .yeah? You see? Well, anyway. . .I'd like to give my, the side of what the County neva do. You see? Yeah? I don't know. Well, anyway, if there's

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anything can be done, I been here for the, I born, raise and die over here. You see, the Waiolani people, they talk about this and that, but that used to be cane field. I neva care to see Waiolani. We live Waikapu . . . *(inaudible)*. . . 200 people. You know? But now we get pre, voting precinct here, Democrat meeting and all that. You know what I mean? Yeah? So it's growing. You cannot, you know, stop progress. No matter what, what people say, progress must continue and people must have homes. And you cannot say, oh, I don't want them. You see, like Kihei. . . when they came, they neva say anything. Now they say, oh, we don't want Kihei to be like Waikiki. See, they all settled down. Same thing like Waiolani--they all settled down now, they get, they, they don't want the new subdivider to bring, bring, bring new homes. You see? Same kind people. Just like you say, yeah, let's have a prison, but not behind my house. You see, same thing. You see, you know that, people are selfish. They're not. . . big hearted, you know, no more compassion. You see? That's what I think, but I don't know. Anyway, my idea is between the County and the thing work and produce. . . not only talk and finish, you know. That's what happen lot of times. Yeah? They say, oh, we going do this, we going do that. What happened 10 years later? Nothing. Yeah? You see? Well, anyway, that's the, my complaint. But I'd like to see the. . . the County purchase that before somebody else. You know? Okay?

CHAIR JOHNSON: And, and what area is that? The, the area over on the other side?

MR. SATO: What?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Can you, can you, you know, like let's say. . . afterwards would you be able to point out what area it is that you think--

MR. SATO: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Right below.

CHAIR JOHNSON: On the other side?

MR. SATO: Right below the cemetery.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. SATO: You cannot miss it.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, okay. The baseball field. Well, as long as. . . as long as we know where it is. Are there any questions for Mr. Sato?

. . . I thank you, Mr. Sato. And one of the reasons why we are coming here is so that we can get the action. If. . . the words are nothing without the implementing

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action. So it's very important. And we need to do this now before all of it is built on. So this Committee will move these things forward. After Mr. Sato, we have. . .Russel Gushi.

NOTE: *Pause while Mr. Gushi approached the mic.*

MR. GUSHI: . . . Good afternoon, Council Members. Thanks for coming here, to Waikapu again, some of you. My name is Russel Gushi. Maybe I can give a little bit of background about what's been happening recently around this park and this community center. I think about maybe 8 years ago, I think just when Maui. . .Waiolani came. . .was developed. . .part of the park assessment was the land around here. And if I'm not mistaken, I think it was a little over an acre. And the community, Waikapu Community Association went to the Council, and I think Alice Lee somehow got some money, about, monies, about 150,000 dollars to. . .do a. . .a plan and some improvements around this community center and this park. Um. . .I was part of that group that worked on the plan, and it was a pretty ambitious plan, and it was very. . .ended up being pretty costly to construct only because this area around the park is a lower elevation, it's part of, it's partly in a drainageway. And then if you were to. . .build up that drainageway or lower depressed area up to the park level, you would also be damming the drainageway that runs back there, and all those homes would be threatened by. . .flooding. So the only way that that could have been avoided was to do some kind of a culvert or drainage, subsurface drainage system which would have been very expensive. So the monies that was gotten from the Council at that time, 'eh, I'm not sure where the money came, but Alice Lee worked it through the Council. It was pretty much then used to just do the improvements that you see around the park now, which was a priority list that was established by the community--which was parking. . .improvements along the. . .perimeter and. . .the ball field. And that's as far the money could go. The, what Mr. Sato was. . .um . . .

. . . referring to about improvements out. . .expanding the community center, that was also part of the plan, there was just not enough money to include that as part of the construction. And that basically meant that the, the attendances were growing and we couldn't expand the building, but we could expand the area around it that could be part of the community center whenever there was something going on. So anyway, that's my understanding of what was, been happening around here in the most recent times. I think what Florence was saying is really and, and Mr. Sato makes a lot of sense--that this park is just too small of the community anymore. But it's also in the wrong place. The, you don't have your residential. . .part of the community here anymore. The residential part is all on the mauka side. So it makes more sense to, to locate a park and a more, and a larger park and any park improvements should be on the other side. I think this park, if the County decides to retain it, should be, then serve this community. . .on this part of the Honoapiilani Highway. If that's not. . .if that

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doesn't make sense, then maybe the County should sell this land and then use that money to do a better park or a bigger park on the other side. When you talking about park land on, on, for Waiolani and Waikapu, I guess I'm just gonna, when I say "Waikapu", I'm just gonna include every, all the communities because we're all still Waikapu. Um. . .you know I'm not sure if whatever has been considered up to this point had taken into consideration that all the Wailuku Agribusiness lands are gonna be up for sale. So now, you know, we've got a totally new factor to, to consider when talking about park. We're talking about a larger area, a larger residential, potentially larger residential area--meaning we're talking about different type of park use, different types of uses and, and different age groups. And I, I don't think parks should only be limited--when we talk about active parks--only to kids. I think there's a, I think we should be talking about every age group. I think every age group needs a park. . .needs. . .the park for physical activity or whatever. Um . . .

. . . I didn't write this in order, so. . .when, when talking about the Wailuku committee, Wailuku-Kahului Community Plan updates, you know, I, I've thumbed through, I've looked through the community plan and I think there's really good language in there, I think there's really good ideas, goals and, and objectives. There, you know, there's, talking about open space, they're talking about park systems, they're talking about . . .

. . . um. . .view corridors, but you know, how do you put some teeth into this thing? I mean, it's, it's, it's. . .sounds really good. And it's the, the, the 1990 Community Plan was great. And the. . .2000 update was great--it had a lot of the same stuff and, and improvements. But when I looked at the 1990 plan, I didn't see much implementation or opportunity for implementation only because I don't know how people go about putting some teeth to this, to these plans. . .and, and. . .and you know, make. . .put it in effect--basically what I'm saying. It's, it's, it's nice to say one thing but. . .let's, let's get, I'd like to see a little more action. . .on the follow-up on these plans. Um. . .and, again, the only other thing I, I, I can think of is when we're talking about parks and park types. I think we need one more centrally located than one that's close to Honoapiilani Highway. I think Hono, having a park close to Piilani Highway is gonna be pretty dangerous. Again, if we're talking about kids, we're talking about elderly people--we're gonna have traffic that's gonna conflict with Honoapiilani Highway. I think it should be moved away, I think it should be more central. I think it should be more encompassing. I don't think it just should be a tot lot. Again, I'm not sure where the money is coming from. If it's just the park assessments, obviously we're limited. But I think we should, the County should be a little more creative in looking for funding. . .if we're starting to look for. . .to do parks for a growing community, and especially like this one which is gonna be probably the first park for the community. So I think funding, the way you, we fund the park should be, there should be a little more creativity--not only looking at public sources of money, but also maybe probably looking joint funding with. . .private and

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nonprofit thing, organizations. And the reason why I bring up nonprofit, I think there's opportunities in Waikapu. I know the land all along . . .

. . . Waikapu Stream and Waikapu Valley are pretty much private land. But here's an opportunity that's, you know, we're talking about park types, park land. I mean, besides active. . . park land, besides community parks, besides neighborhood parks, here's another opportunity for a very unique type of park. I think it should be unique to Hawaii. I think it's a unique opportunity to . . . to look at this as a park land. Right now it's undeveloped, although it's privately owned. Um . . .

. . . again, I don't know how you go about, it's a lot of money we're talking about. And that's why I think being, having creative funding may be an opportunity to, to . . . look at that as park land. Um. . . other than that. . . I sure would like to see a park. . . parks . . . *(laughter)*. . . in Waikapu. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do . . . does anyone have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, Russel. Thank you.

MR. GUSHI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: I think you're talking about a linear park along--

MR. GUSHI: Linear park--

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: --the Waikapu Stream--

MR. GUSHI: --along the stream, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah.

MR. GUSHI: Just a very narrow park, could be a passive park, could be a park. . . again similar to maybe something like Lao Valley or some of the other parks. I mean, again, you know right now. . . I, I think about, like Waihee Valley. Waihee Valley is all privately owned, again, but people use that as a park. They get permission from Wailuku Agribusiness, which has been really. . . really generous and, and a really good neighbor and really. . . but it's coming to the point where they may not, they're not gonna be the owners anymore, or they may not be the owners. And I think these are opportunities that once lost, we'll never get these types of parks. And these are the kind of park lands that are very unique to Hawaii. And they're, I think the value of these parks are just as valuable as coastal parks. And you're right, I think we're talking about linear parks. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah. Good idea.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other questions? I, I had one, Russel.

MR. GUSHI: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And one of the things that we're gonna be looking at--because of affordability, there is some agricultural lands that will become available. I don't know if Mr. Miyazono has, you know, complete map, but one of the things we'd like to look at is perhaps even with, working with your group or you know having a, another meeting just to see what land is actually out there that we'd be able to stretch the dollars that we have further. So if there's agricultural land, maybe up a little bit more mauka. . .will that be something that. . .if it could be useful, maybe a multitude of purposes, have different features, would that be something that you believe could also serve, even just to have people go up there and have a view and. . .maybe have a picnic and . . .

MR. GUSHI: Yeah, I think. . .well, I think, you know, we're talking about parks. I think. . .any. . .any park land, any additional park land would, would, would be a welcomed addition. But again I think we need, we need to look at the community planning and see how that fits into the whole picture of the, the long-range, broad--

CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MR. GUSHI: --picture. And. . .and again. . .if, if that's something that requires money and if maybe the money might be well, better spent if it, you, if it was consolidated, if the need is for a bigger park or something, I'm not sure if just a whole bunch of little parks all over the place. . .is the, is the solution right now. I don't know what the needs are. But at the size of the community right now, maybe that's all that's needed. But I think that's not what's happening, being planned in the long. . .it's not, it's not what is being envisioned in the long range. So maybe that money should be held off and consolidated for something bigger and better.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I, I think that what we're trying to do is get a sense of what the community's needs are, coming from you.

MR. GUSHI: Uh-huh.

CHAIR JOHNSON: If. . .everyone has children throughout this whole area--

MR. GUSHI: Right.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --then we have statistical information that we would make available to you to say, well, all right. . .this many children living in a particular area are

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gonna have these sports activities. We could do that. We can develop that information so that it would help you to know who's gonna be moving into your area.

MR. GUSHI: Uh-huh.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Charmaine knows how many people are gonna be living in a particular area based on what we have designated in the community plan or at least what the densities would be.

MR. GUSHI: Uh-huh.

CHAIR JOHNSON: So we can work with that--

MR. GUSHI: Right.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --within the community plan. But I think we're, we're trying to look at information. And helpful information from the community is. . .what do you want, what is your vision? Because I don't live here.

MR. GUSHI: Uh-huh.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh. . .and Charmaine's more familiar with it and perhaps some of the other people than I am, but you don't wanna put something that's put into your community that doesn't suit your needs and you go, oh, well, who came up with that idea. So that's why anything that you can get from any of the people that do live in the area--even demographics. . .how many people are moving in, are they people that live off island, are they people that are just local people that are having children, small children growing up.

MR. GUSHI: Well, Waiolani is kinda like, I think. . .it may, may, I'm not sure if it's starter homes or, or the next level up from starter homes, but it's a lot of young couples, lot of young families. I, I think. It appears anyway. And I see a lot of kids there. So I. . .it sounds like there's a need for. . .parks for kids. But the older part, there's a lot of older people--

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. GUSHI: --that needs it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, bike paths, we're thinking of . . .

MR. GUSHI: Yeah, that's right. You know, kids riding bikes on the roads, kids. . .walking on the road, playing. . .kicking balls on the road. But you also see older people exercising on the roads.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MR. GUSHI: And so, you know, there's a need for all age groups and, and, all kinds of activities.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, I know even with . . .

MR. GUSHI: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . what was said earlier, too--even just maybe walking or jogging paths.

MR. GUSHI: Yeah.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That maybe. . .let's say ring a particular area . . .*(laughter)*. . .

MR. GUSHI: Yeah, you know we've been using the pineapple fields as a park. Everybody walks through the parks and does and everything. And that's all gonna be gone. So right now the real demand for a park was . . .was there, is there, but. . .in a sense it's not there because we have open space that we use as a, as, as kind of like passive park. Some, some afternoons you'll. . .you'll see everybody walking . . .*(laughter)*. . . through the fields. Either they're walking their dogs or jogging or whatever. And so the pineapple fields has always been really a nice. . .uh. . .part of Wai, Waikapu. But of course that's not gonna be there forever. And, and. . .and that's the kind of, now the demand of the, or the, the need for park is becoming more apparent.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And, and I think that the urgency is greater now--

MR. GUSHI: Right.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --because of the exact reasons that you're speaking about. And I think that that's what we wanna do--we want to preserve these areas now while they're still available. But thank you very much.

MR. GUSHI: Okay. Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh, okay, Mr. Molina has a question too.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Hi, Russel.

MR. GUSHI: Hi, Mike.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: From what you've heard from community members, as far as the maximum usage of this park. . .is it like this pretty much every day. . .or--

MR. GUSHI: This is, this is mellow.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: This is mellow. Really?

MR. GUSHI: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah? Yeah?

MR. GUSHI: There's a, such a demand for this park and there's a lot of conflict where kids will be practicing and they'll be an event going on here. I mean, the, the community center is probably an appropriate site for certain type of meetings. And this place is always. . .there's always something going on. There's something going on in the park and parking's always a problem. And. . .yeah, this is nothing. This is--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. So, so you--

MR. GUSHI: --a mellow night.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So you have conflicts with different teams try--

MR. GUSHI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: --to get on the field and . . .

MR. GUSHI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . that's right. And again, you know, Wai, Wailuku Agribusiness has been really. . .generous in, in forming those parks. But it's not the County's. . .park and any time. . .I think it's still Wailuku Agribusiness property. So that's relieved a lot of the. . .demand. And like Mr. Sato. . .I'm not if Mr. Sato or Florence said, but it's a lot of people from the outside community that are using the parks as well.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Uh-huh.

MR. GUSHI: So it's, although the community is a certain size, there's a lot of demand from outside to practice, as a practice field and use the community center. So, yeah, it's. . .busy.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Mellow day then, huh?

MR. GUSHI: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you.

MR. GUSHI: Sure.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, we have one final testifier signed up. And that is . . .Richard Braden. So, Richard--and if there's anyone else that want to just speak, just sign up with the . . .Secretary. And . . .if you'd just come forward and just state your name for the record and . . .give us your . . .your opinion.

MR. BRADEN: Okay, thank you. Uh. . .my name is Richard Braden, and I'm a resident of Waikapu, live just at the end of the park. Uh. . .there's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . want to say, first of all, thank you all for coming here and, and meeting with us tonight. It kind of makes a long day for you and I sure appreciate it--coming to our location for this. Um . . .

. . . I just have a couple of comments from what I've heard tonight. Uh. . .one was that. . .at Monday's meeting at the Plantation, Tropical Plantation, it was mentioned that the only area slated for more development, I believe, you know, housing development here in Waikapu was just to the north of Waiolani. . .subdivision. And it would seem to me that that would be a good location for an ex, another additional park that people, you know, that, that there is a need for one. That would certainly be in the right area, on the right side of the highway and close to where the, the expanding population is. So that would seem like a good place to me to. . .to add a park. I certainly hope that you don't sell this park to raise money for one there. I think this one's needed and I love this park . . .*(laughter)*. . . And I think a lot of people do. Uh. . .and my last comment is that I'm. . .I have a concern about this park that I don't know, I guess it's a good place to raise, start with you folks is probably a police issue, but my only worry about this park is that it's used frequently as a teenaged drinking and drug hangout in the evenings. And being right there where they hang out, we see an awful lot of it. And I would really hope that we could get more police. . .vigilance of the area, you know, more pro. . .once in awhile they'll come through, but not very often. And. . .I've, I've seen a lot of what appears to be drug use and drug dealing going on. So that's just something I'd like you folks to be aware of. That's it. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Are there any questions? Thank you very much. Is there anyone else that would like to give testimony or just give their manao?

NOTE: *Silence.*

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . You're, you're perfectly welcome to come forward.

NOTE: *Silence.*

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CHAIR JOHNSON: . . . Seeing no further. . .people coming forward to testify, I just wanna thank you very much for sharing your thoughts.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: And this is not the end, it's. . .gonna be the beginning because what I'd like you all to do is. . .within your community, take out at least the information that we are looking for help. We want guidance. And I would rather have it come from the community than have it be developed amongst us not knowing . . .*(laughter)*. . . what your needs are, not knowing what your vision is. And I think that Charmaine has done a very good job in her community planning. And the more input we get, the better reflection we are going to get of your issues and the better reflection of your vision. Is there anything else on the part of any other of our Council Members. . .would you like to share? Or, Floyd, do you have anything further to add?

MR. MIYAZONO: . . . Well, just one comment relative to the existing ball park. . .Waikapu that is right now owned by C. Brewer. We are possibly taking a look at the actual acquisition of those properties. We somewhat feel that it's very important for us to acquire it because it is currently being used, utilized for recreation purposes. So therefore if it's. . .it's gone, then, you know, that . . .*(end of tape, start 1B)*. . . facilities will definitely be needed. So from the standpoint of that, we are definitely taking a look at acquiring the property. We recently received a letter from C. Brewer. We are taking a look at certain other parcels as well. So as we get to that point, we are currently having ongoing discussions with the Administration on those particular parcels. So. . .please cross your fingers and we all, we will continue to pursue to acquire those property. . .I'm hoping in a timely fashion. Cross your fingers. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And thank you very much. . .on behalf of all of us, too. Without any further testimony. . .this will continue on. It's my intention to recommend that we just defer this item. It will be kept on the agenda. We will bring this back to you. So if there's no objections on the--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objection.

CHAIR JOHNSON: --part of any of the Council Members, we're gonna defer the item. And please communicate in whatever way--whether it's in writing or if you have a little parcel, if you have a map you wanna show us, you know, by highlighting the areas that you would like to look. . .or like the Parks Department or us to look at, we'd love that. And the more input that we get, the better job that we'll be able to do for you. And then we'll figure out how to pay for it. So thank you very much for coming. And thank you all. And with that, the meeting is adjourned . . .*(gavel)*. . .

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COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: PSK)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 6:03 p.m.

APPROVED:

JO ANNE JOHNSON, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

pr:min:020618

Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto