

MINUTES OF THE  
MAUI COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: March 25, 1966

PLACE: Board Chambers, Wailuku, Maui

CALL TO ORDER: 8:45 A.M.

PRESIDING: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Sodetani, Chairman  
Emil Balthazar  
William F. Crockett, Vice-Chairman  
Cornwell Friel  
Shiro Hokama  
George Kondo  
Paul Pladera  
Keith Tester  
James Ushijima  
Charles C. Young, Research Assistant

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Nadao Honda  
Harry Kobayashi

OTHERS PRESENT: Planning Commission  
Yoshikazu "Zuke" Matsui  
William "Zip" Hong

Others:  
Robert Johnson, Advertiser Reporter

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ROLL CALL:

There were 9 members present and two excused at the regular meeting of the Maui County Charter Commission on March 25, 1966.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:

Instead of discussing any business at this time, we proceeded with our meeting with the members of the Planning Commission.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Representing the Planning Commission were Yoshikazu Matsui and William Hong.

When questioned by Mr. Tester as to the size of members, Mr. Hong stated that seven is the right number. It certainly shouldn't be more. Lessening to five is satisfactory--feeling of more responsibility. With less members on the commission, they are more apt to deliberate more thoroughly.

In answer to a question by Mr. Tester as to how he felt about the Planning Director being appointed by the mayor or the commission, Mr. Hong felt he should be appointed by the commission. He also felt that he should have certain qualifications and not be a political appointee.

In reply to Mr. Ushijima as to how the commission members felt about the three years of training and experience required under the old charter, and whether training and experience alone is sufficient for that position, Mr. Hong replied no.

When questioned as to what he thought of the planning director being appointed by the mayor or by the commission and if appointed by the commission with the approval of the council, Mr. Matsui stated that he should be appointed by the commission with approval of the council. He personally felt that he should be out of civil service.

Mr. Matsui also stated that the county should create a planning department instead of a planning commission. The members on the commission appoints a director, therefore, a more logical choice than a single man appointing him. This was the practice of Honolulu and the County of Hawaii.

In terms of job security, Mr. Kondo stated that he should be under civil service and appointed by the commission.

Mr. Sodegami stated that even if the Planning Director is under civil service, it does not mean he has job security. He can still be removed. There are many ways to remove him; for example, eliminate his position. As far as job security is concerned, it depends on how well he can produce.

In answer to a question by Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Matsui stated that the Planning Director should be appointed by the commission and approved by the council.

In answer to a question by Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Hong stated that the Planning Commission was not pressured for any favors at anytime.

In regard to the appeal board, Mr. Matsui stated that the Board of Supervisors at present is an appeal board. He also stated that having the appeal board separate would be better.

In answer to Mr. Kondo's question as to his opinion in having the Economic Development Coordinator part of the Planning Department, Mr. Matsui stated that there would be a conflict. Mr. Hong added that the Economic Development Coordinator's job would be to sit in at a Planning Commission meeting, where an applicant is getting a variance. Mr. Hong also added that the Economic Development Coordinator should work closely with the Planning Director, but should be in a separate department.

Mr. Tester stated that the Economic Development Coordinator should be working hand in hand with the Planning Director and the Planning Commission. He also stated that there would be no conflict of interest if the Coordinator is appointed by the Planning Director. In other words, he is mainly interested in the economic development on Maui.

In reply to Mr. Hokama as to his thinking of having the Economic Development Coordinator become part of the Planning Commission as an ex-officio member, the Chairman stated there is a definite need to work together.

In answer to a question by Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Hong stated that advices carry a lot of weight. Every Planning Commission is an advisory committee to the board. They sit in with the Board, and the Board makes the final ruling.

In answer to a question by Mr. Balthazar, Mr. Matsui stated that they do not have a short range plan, but it will be coming up shortly. He felt that they should have a short range plan rather than a long range plan.

To Mr. Matsui's knowledge, he does not know whether the Economic Development Coordinator consulted or asked for recommendation from the Planning Department.

In reply to Mr. Crockett's question as to the relationship between the Economic Development Coordinator and Planning Commission, Mr. Hong stated that the Board felt that he should work closely with the department. He agreed that the Economic Development Coordinator should work hand in hand with that department.

Mr. Balthazar suggested that he be an ex-officio member but not subject to the administrative power of the Planning Director.

Mr. Sodetani stated that the present director has to work in a dual role to save expenses in a small county like ours.

Mr. Young asked his opinion on reducing the commission from seven members to five members. Mr. Matsui said by reducing it to five members, three become a forum. Two can act.

There being no further questions, Mr. Sodetani thanked Mr. Matsui and Mr. Hong for appearing before the commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Balthazar suggested that the next meeting of April 29, 1966, with members of the Liquor Commission and members of the Board of Water Supply be held at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. as scheduled. Members of the Commission agreed to the change in time.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

March 31, 1966, at 1:30 p.m., in the Board Chambers, with the County Clerk, County Treasurer and County Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ayako Ishikawa*

Ayako Ishikawa, Secretary