



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

**September 10, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Cameron Center, Conference Room #1
95 Mahalani St., Wailuku, HI 96793**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kealoha Laemoa called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. in Cameron Center, Conference Room #1 at 95 Mahalani Street, Wailuku, HI 96793.

Chair Laemoa requested roll call; commissioners present included Vivian Lindsey, Kevin Souza, Andrew Valentine, Gabriel Johnson, Mikey Tomita and Faraz Azizoltani.

Commissioners excused included David Courson and Sheila Villanueva.

Staff present included Deputy Corporation Counsel Linden Joesting and Nalani Podlewski, Secretary.

Guests present included Kate Eifler (sign interpreter); Victor G. Lesa, Jr.; and Lynn McCrory of Pulama Lanai.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 9, 2015

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed. None offered. Commissioner Azizoltani introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Johnson. Chair Laemoa opened discussion, none. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition, MOTION CARRIED.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS AS THEY PERTAIN TO ISSUES AFFECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Victor Lesa testified on behalf of people who are disabled being dropped off on incline/decline because of zoning. He shared that bus drivers should be able to put on hazard lights in order to drop off riders and that there are no places in Wailuku to have loading docks.

[Ralph Thomas, EEO Specialist arrived at 12:32 pm]

[Public Works Director David Goode arrived at 12:35 pm]

Chair Laemoa commented that the bus system has been on commission's agenda for some time. She thanked Mr. Lesa for testifying on this issue and is concerned about safety and liability. She added that Commissioners Valentine and Lindsey are in contact with Department of Transportation and MEO.

[Harry Johnson/MEO and guest Rob Tarver/DD Council arrived at 12:37 pm]

Commissioner Valentine responded that recommendations for alternate drop off and pick up points for paratransit were made previously to the county but it was not acted upon.

Commissioner Tomita had a question for Mr. Lesa about Hookipa Park. Chair Laemoa deferred discussion to later in the agenda.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership:

Commissioner Lindsey shared that a new program will be implemented on September 14th. She explained that on the night before pickup, MEO will call rider with the schedule, any cancellation can be made at this time; on the day of pickup – automated phone calls will be made to the rider five minutes prior to arrival of the bus for each pickup.

Chair Laemoa commented that this is an awesome improvement. She also shared that she received a phone call from the Molokai office that budget hearings will be taking place. She asked Harry Johnson for clarification. He responded that the first budget meeting takes place in Lahaina on Monday.

[Darren Konno, DOT Specialist arrived at 12:47 pm]

- b. Public Works input on lack of sidewalks fronting Kahului Fire Station, in Lahaina, and Keopuolani Park (dog park):

Chair Laemoa recognized the attendance of a representative from Public Works.

Director David Goode introduced himself as the Director of Public Works and gave a brief overview of his department. He explained that his department has three divisions: Development Services which issues construction permits, Engineering which plans for county roadways and drainage systems and Highways which maintains roadways and drainage systems.

With regards to sidewalks, he explained that repairs to existing sidewalks are handled in-house by Highways Division whereas, new sidewalks are addressed by the Engineering Division. Director Goode added that it is often difficult to put in sidewalks for old towns due to power, drainage and private property issues. He also mentioned that sometimes it can be time consuming and expensive.

He shared that the Traffic Section within Engineering makes all kinds of devices. They recently installed rectangular rapid flasher beeper near Wailuku Elementary, which has been well received by the public. This section also handles curb cuts, handicap ramps and sidewalks improvements.

Director Goode provided an update on two issues that were brought forward by this commission. The Kihei Fire Station sidewalk will be going out to bid next week with completion projected in 6 to 8 months. As to the Kahului Fire Station

sidewalk, he is not sure why a sidewalk was not previously installed and he would need to research who owns the roadway. Ms. Joesting shared that A&B previously advised the commission that A&B owns the roadway yet sidewalk is the responsibility of the property owner. Director Goode added that the county probably issued an exemption years ago. He commented that it is likely that A&B will dedicate the road to the county in the future. He will explore if this a possible project and would probably work with A&B and State Department of Transportation.

Director Goode shared that the Mayor's Community Budget meetings that begin next Monday and it is a great opportunity to bring up issues. He also added that the department welcomes phone calls from the public to report areas that need attention.

Chair Laemoa asked Director Goode to address Keopuolani dog park. He responded that the road by Wahinepio near Kanaloa is a park service road maintained by the Parks Department.

Commissioner Valentine commented that mission statement of the commission is to review different county budgets and would like to discuss for future agenda because the commission could have an impact on funding for different departments. Chair Laemoa responded that this item is not on today's agenda and could be added for future meetings.

Commissioner Azizsoltani expressed his appreciation to Director Goode for attending today's meeting. He explained that on Shaw Street in Lahaina there are no improvements, drainage issue, sidewalk, crosswalks faded, no signage, poor lighting, to name a few.

Director Goode responded that those are legitimate complaints and it is a challenge to keep up with the number of roads. The department has a stripping crew that works on painting sidewalks and he acknowledged that some areas like Lahaina do not get enough attention. Director Goode suggested that this could also be addressed in the community

plan process because it gives the department the guidance to prioritize its resources.

Commissioner Azizoltani shared that he and his family have done some maintenance and clearing along Shaw Street. Director Goode advised that they have code enforcement staff that is assigned to educate property owners about maintaining their property and to advise them of encroachments.

Commissioner Valentine had a question about curb cuts that have leftover asphalt making curb cut unusable. Director Goode responded that they can call his department and they will determine who owns the road and will advise the caller.

Commissioner Tomita shared that drainage after rain especially at Papalaua area stays for couple of weeks. Director Goode advised that highways are usually handled by the state and some areas like Papalaua are handled by Parks Department. His department concentrates on flood areas that affect people's homes or low drainage areas; they bring in pumps to remove water from neighborhood. He noted that they recently worked on Amala Place and installed a pipe that goes uphill.

Chair Laemoa acknowledged guest Victor Lesa and asked if he had a question as public testimony. Mr. Lesa responded that he wanted to report an accessible issue at the dog park in Wailuku, as there is no way for him to travel down with his wheelchair and play with his dog. Director Goode responded that his issue is handled by the Parks Department.

No further questions from commissioners. Chair Laemoa thanked Director Good for attending the meeting.

c. Lack of Disabled or Handicapped Access to Lanai Post Office:

Commissioner Johnson gave update of his last conversation with postmaster. He was told that there is someone coming this month that can repaint stall. He checked yesterday and the painting has not happened yet because they are waiting for the paint to arrive.

d. Kalaupapa General Plan update.

Chair Laemoa shared that she has been involved with the planning process. She advised that the tour bus will be accessible with a wheelchair lift but when it occurs depends upon delivery of the bus by barge, which takes place only once a year; plus the purchase of the bus and training staff.

Chair Laemoa added that the trail is inaccessible and dangerous. Commissioner Lindsey questioned how people get there if not using the trail. Chair Laemoa responded that they can walk, ride a mule or ride the plane.

e. Emergency Communication: 911 System Update

Commissioner Tomita reported that last month he attended a workshop on Oahu for Smart 911. He indicated that the workshops are only being held on Oahu and neighbor islands will hold workshops one to two years later. He shared that callers using smartphones can give information to the emergency operator; his only concern is privacy of the information.

Commissioner Valentine shared that he heard that the system is for anyone with a smartphone, not only deaf persons.

Commissioner Lindsey questioned why we needed to wait. Commissioner Tomita responded that they are currently evaluating the system on Oahu.

Mr. Thomas clarified that users can provide any medical information that they wish to share and that this is a pilot program on Oahu.

Commissioner Tomita added that users need to register for each island.

Chair Laemoa questioned if they would be providing training for the deaf community. Commissioner Tomita responded yes. Commissioner Valentine asked if training was for deaf

community first then rest of community later. Commissioner Tomita replied that everyone can attend at once.

f. American Sign Language Pamphlets Update

Commissioner Tomita asked what status is from Mr. Schwind. Ms. Podlewski responded that she ordered, received and provided pamphlets to Mr. Schwind for distribution. Commissioner Tomita commented that he would wait to hear from Mr. Schwind.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Access changes at Hookipa Park (report by V. Lesa)

Mr. Lesa shared that he went to Hookipa Park on his manual chair and it was kind of “iffy” going into the bathrooms. He thinks that they need to make it ADA complaint. He indicated that he has not tried to go to Hookipa on the bus.

Chair Laemoa commented that she would like to keep this item on next month’s agenda for follow up.

b. Lack of Accessible Parking Stall at Pulama Lanai

Commissioner Johnson reported that at the last meeting, he shared that he went to Pulama Lanai and did not observe any handicapped stalls. He questioned Ms. McCrory of Pulama Lanai if there are any marked handicapped stalls. Ms. McCrory responded that there is no designated signage but there are accessible stalls available.

Ms. McCrory introduced herself as a representative of Pulama Lanai and passed out copies of proposed plans for Lanai Central Administration Building ADA Improvements, New Roofing, And New Canopies (Aug 12, 2015), which includes drawings for the accessible parking plan. Ms. McCrory shared that there will be 46 parking stalls along with two ADA parking spaces.

Ms. McCrory advised the commission that there are a number of areas on Lanai that are being changed. She suggested that residents should call her to advise of items that need attention. Chair Laemoa thanked Ms. McCrory for attending the meeting.

VI. AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Valentine suggested that Budget be added.

Commissioner Tomita asked if related events and feedback be added.

Ms. Joesting shared dates and times of the upcoming Budget meetings: South Maui at Kihei Community Center on September 16th at 5:30 p.m.; Molokai on October 5th at 5:00 p.m. at Pauole Center; Lanai on October 8th at 4:00 p.m. at Lanai Senior Center and September 17th at 5:30 p.m. at Velma Santo Community Center.

Commissioner Souza requested to add Parks Department to next agenda.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Chair Laemoa reminded everyone that next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conference Room 1.

Chair Laemoa announced that the Molokai Disabilities Resource Fair will be held on September 24, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Molokai Community Health Center.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Commissioner Azizsoltani presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tomita. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. **MOTION CARRIED**. Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.