



MAUI COUNTY COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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MEETING MINUTES

**November 12, 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 12:35 p.m. in Cameron Center, Conference Room #1 at 95 Mahalani Street in Wailuku.

Commissioners present included Kevin Souza, Gabriel Johnson, Mikey Tomita and Vivian Lindsey.

Commissioners excused included Faraz Azizoltani, Sheila Villanueva and Andrew Valentine. Commissioner David Courson was absent.

Staff present included Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana and Nalani Podlewski, Secretary.

County staff present included Darren Konno, DOT Transportation Specialist; Tara Sabado, Parks Inclusion Specialist; and Robert Halvorson, Parks Chief of Planning and Development

Guests present included Denise Green (sign interpreter) and Victor Lesa, Jr.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 8, 2015

Chair Laemoa asked if any revisions to minutes were needed. Commissioner Tomita requested correction to paragraph 2 of OLD BUSINESS, Item a. Oahu bus fare is an annual one-time fee of \$30 or \$40.

Commissioner Souza introduced a MOTION to approve minutes. SECONDED by Commissioner Johnson. Chair Laemoa opened discussion, none. Chair Laemoa called for the vote. Ms. Podlewski asked for clarification if correction requested by Commissioner Tomita are included. Corporation Counsel Oana recommended an amended motion to change main motion to approval of the minutes with the corrections by Commissioner Tomita to Old Business, Section a.

Commissioner Johnson introduced an AMENDED MOTION to approve minutes with corrections made by Commissioner Tomita. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa opened discussion, none. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no opposition, MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Laemoa called a vote on the main MOTION to approve minutes with correction. 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 with Maui Wheelers introduced himself. He referred to photos taken by Commissioner Tomita of Hookipa which shows a fence that block area for wheelchair. He suggested that a shelter be provided for protection from wind and rain. Mr. Lesa also stated that he was just informed that bus service will be expanded $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, sidewalks are being fixed and areas are being improved.

Chair Laemoa closed public testimony.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Paratransit Transportation Reservations Process and Ridership:

Chair Laemoa acknowledged that Commissioner Valentine was not present and deferred to next month.

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

Commissioner Johnson provided an update on the accommodations that were completed about a month after his initial request. He shared that the 10-minute loading zone is no longer being used, which results in the handicapped parking stall being accessible.

c. Kalaupapa General Plan Update

Chair Laemoa reported that she was notified by the State that the General Plan will be released sometime this month.

d. American Sign Language Pamphlets Update

Commissioner Tomita reported that he has not received a response from Mr. Schwind about his request to offer assistance or any information about purchasing additional pamphlets.

Ms. Podlewski responded that Mr. Schwind advised that he is unable to attend today's meeting and asked her to report that he did reach out to both Police and Fire Departments to check if further assistance is needed to use the pamphlets; neither department requested assistance. Ms. Podlewski also reported that the purchase of additional pamphlets is not included in this year's budget and she can probably only purchase 50 additional pamphlets.

Commissioner Tomita requested that the pamphlets be purchased for the commission to distribute. He also requested a copy of the memo that Mr. Schwind sent out; he might want to make additions or corrections to the memo. He also indicated that he would like to include Lanai and Molokai in outreach efforts.

Chair Laemoa deferred to next month's meeting.

e. Access Changes at Hookipa Park (report by V. Lesa)

Chair Laemoa acknowledged that Mr. Lesa discussed previously in public testimony.

Commissioner Tomita discussed issue with Mr. Lesa about the viewing site of top parking lot, the parking is excellent but the fence is still there, uneven ground, request to add a shelter to block wind and rain.

Chair Laemoa recognized that Ms. Tara Sabado of the Parks Department was present.

Ms. Sabado introduced Mr. Robert Halverson, Chief of Parks Planning Department to talk about specific items regarding access at Hookipa Park.

Mr. Lesa shared that the orange fencing blocks access and there is also a problem with the restroom.

Mr. Halverson responded that project has been completed and orange fence has been removed; commenting that the fence was only in place while the landscape was being established. He also shared that there currently is an accessible port-a-potty at the location.

Mr. Lesa added that the only other item would be to request a shelter should it rain while they wait for the bus.

Commissioner Tomita asked about binoculars that used to be at the observation point; he questioned if it would be reinstalled. Mr. Halverson replied that he is not aware of any plans.

Commissioner Johnson asked if pay phone at the location. Mr. Halvorson responded that one is located on the lower level. Commissioner Tomita commented that there are emergency phones and there should be four at the park; he questioned if the county is responsible for the emergency phone. Mr. Halvorson replied that the Parks Department is not responsible. Commissioner Tomita shared that there is no cellular service in the lower lot, he questioned how people would respond in an emergency.

- f. Budget Process and Review
 - i. FY2016 Budget Responses from Departments

Chair Laemoa referred to copy of commission's letter sent out to all Departments requesting information and the response letters received. She asked if there was any discussion or comment, none provided.

g. Upcoming Events

Chair Laemoa announced that Molokai Disability Resource Fair is being planned for April or May of 2016; the 6th annual event will also include a job fair.

Commissioner Johnson shared that he recently read an article that persons with disabilities in Hawaii are underemployed. He suggested that the commission take a look at this issue. Ms. Oana responded that it is within the power, duty and function of the commission to assist and advise the County by promoting housing, employment, transportation and other activities that address the needs of persons with disabilities.

h. Representative from Parks Department: Update on Accessibility for Persons with Walkers, Wheelchairs, and Other Ambulatory Challenges

Ms. Sabado reviewed the Parks Department's response to budget inquiry. She shared that all county parks including beach parks went thru a capital improvement process with the last five years to include ADA scope; all improvements listed in the Accessibility Improvements Update have been completed except Mitchell Pauole Center. Ms. Sabado also provided a highlight of the Projects in Progress and ADA Projects or Projects with ADA Improvements Included. A copy of the Department's response was passed around for commissioners to review.

With regards to the commission's beach access question, Ms. Sabado advised that Mona Higa of Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) has been invited to speak to the commission about House Concurrent Resolution legislation on beach access. DCAB has requested that all counties provide to Department of Land and Natural Resources, a list of beaches with restroom and access

pathways; Ms. Sabado commented that Maui County has the most access pathways to beach and its list will probably be most comprehensive. Chair Laemoa stated that Ms. Higa of DCAB will be coming to January's meeting and suggested that commissioners review the proposed legislation.

Commissioner Tomita questioned why the recycle receptacles are closed. Ms. Sabado responded that lids on recycle receptacles have holes to match the diameter of can or bottle and covered lids are required on trash cans to be sure that the wind does not blow away trash or trash bags.

Commissioner Tomita questioned the disposal and collection of charcoal at Papalaua, Launiupoko and Kanaha parks. Ms. Sabado advised that it is the responsibility of the park caretakers to clear the grills and she will follow up on this inquiry.

Commissioner Tomita commented that alcohol is not permitted at State parks and asked about County parks. Ms. Sabado responded that some parks have prohibition and will have signage. Ms. Oana added that Councilmember Guzman may have proposed bill for no alcohol at County parks but she is not certain of the status. Ms. Sabado added that it applied to older parks but newer parks will need to be added.

Commissioner Tomita shared that at a military beach park on Oahu, he noticed that no glass bottles are allowed yet aluminum bottles were okay. Ms. Sabado responded that she is not sure about the glass restriction but that no alcohol signs are posted at most beach parks, but enforcement is the challenge.

Commissioner Tomita requested a short break. Chair Laemoa called for five minute recess at 1:37 p.m.

[RECESS]

Chair Laemoa called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

She asked if there were any other discussion on this item.
None offered. Chair Laemoa thanked Ms. Sabado.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. AGENDA SETTING

Commissioner Johnson requested to add underemployment of persons with disabilities as a new item.

Commissioner Tomita shared that Akaku records county meetings but he noticed that there are no captions or recording of sign interpreter. He asked Ms. Oana, as legal counsel if she may have seen commission or county meetings on Akaku with captions. She responded that she has not seen any captions.

Commissioner Lindsey would like to add that Department of Transportation will be extending routes and hours for bus service.

VII. NEXT MEETING

December 10, 2015, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cameron Center, Conference Room 1.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Johnson presented a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. SECONDED by Commissioner Souza. Chair Laemoa called for the vote, all in favor, no objection. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.