

# **Kula Agriculture Park Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, January 29, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Kalana O Maui Building - Mayor's Office Conference Room**

## **Committee Members present:**

Kenneth Yamamura, Paul Otani, Melanie Stephens, Darren Strand, Earl Fujitani, Dr. James Leary, Doug Wright, Councilmember Don Guzman

## **County Representatives:**

Jeff Ueoka (representing Jerrie Sheppard), Teena Rasmussen

## **Staff:**

Jaime Kane

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order by Deputy Corp. Counsel Jeff Ueoka at 3:07 pm.
- Announced agenda order change to elect a chair and vice chair.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

- Motion made by Doug Wright to nominate James Leary as Chair and Paul Otani as Vice Chair, motion seconded by Kenneth Yamamura.
- Motion to close nominations by Earl Fujitani, motion passed unanimously.

## **II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

- No public testimony presented.

## **III. CORRESPONDENCE/INTRODUCTION OF NEW TENANTS**

- Cornelio Cabaero; Lots 6, 21 and 22; farms various Filipino vegetables, head cabbage
- Justin Texeira; Lot 14, farms cucumber

## **IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW AND RETURNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- New members: Paul Otani, Councilmember Don Guzman
- Returning members: Kenneth Yamamura, Melanie Stephens, Darren Strand, Earl Fujitani, Dr. James Leary, Doug Wright

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Minutes approved unanimously for last meeting held on June 6, 2014.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Reviewed and discussed proposed amendments for Kula Ag Park Ordinance

- Tenants can have no more than 5 lots AND no more than 60 acres
- Tightening/cleaning up the application form (process, nominations/scoring, selection, etc.)

Document will be coming before Councilmember Guzman's Agriculture committee soon. Committee members requested Kenneth Yamamura to provide list of lots with acreage and assignee to the committee.

### B. Update on Drought Mitigation Funding project

- Replaced reservoir liner in 2011; should last 20 years
- Replaced parts for water pumps (with leftover money from reservoir liner project)
- Kula Water Reclamation Project

### C. PV systems for lower reservoir

- Energy office previously submitted a PPA agreement for PV; meant to help the County offset energy costs for pumping water, but the project RFP was challenged by rival proposers. A new RFP has not been issued.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Director Teena Rasmussen updated members on the Kula Ag Park expansion and purchase. Waiting for Governor's approval/signature. Discussion pursued. Council has approved the purchase. The packet has been sent to Governor Ige.

B. Kenneth addressed biggest concern with FSMA (water, which is non-potable at the Ag Park); Teena explained that there is still time before regulations are implemented (likely 4-5 years due to lack of funding and disorganization on State and Federal levels). Plans include educating farmers, bringing technology to the farmers and having them trained.

C. Assignment of lots 6, 21, and 22 to Cornelio - noted

D. Assignment of lot 14 to Justin - noted

E. Kauai Agricultural Park – Kenneth conducted a tour for the County of Kauai's Office of Economic Development at our ag park. Discussed differences between County ag parks and State ag parks.

F. Update on Lot 26 - Steven Gates (new assignee) wanting to build a PV system for hydroponic farm; project is currently on hold because of MECO. Olives planted on open land section of lot. Project was approved by previous

committee. Discussion pursued.

- G. Formation of Tenant's Association – Teena explained that tenants don't normally meet, but if something needs to be discussed/an issue needs to be handled, Kenneth contacts them to come together for a tenant's meeting. Jeff checked, and there is no requirement to have a Tenant's Association. Discussed possibility of committee touring Ag Park and visiting tenants to listen to their experiences and address any challenges. Jeff Ueoka suggested having the tour as part of a committee meeting, per Sunshine Law.
- H. Teena asked the committee to submit a letter of support to send to the EAR Committee (under Chair Guzman) for the Kula Ag Park ordinance changes; would love to have KAPC Chair and Vice Chair come to testify. Motion to draft letter made by Darren Strand, seconded by Doug Wright. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm by Chair James Leary.