

**COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES/REPORT**

**Kalana O Maui Building, 9th Floor, Mayor's Conference Room, Waihe'e Side
Thursday, November 10, 2016**

- PRESENT:** Paul Kailiponi, Chair
Annie Alvarado, Vice Chair
Emmanuel Baltazar, Member
Bradley Bunn, Member (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)
Stanford Lantias, Member (arrived at 10:14 a.m.)
Bobbie Patnode, Member
Dale Thompson, Member
John Watling, Member
- STAFF:** James Giroux, Deputy Corporation Counsel (left at 10:30 a.m.)
Ed Kushi, First Deputy Corporation Counsel (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)

Shelley Pellegrino, Technical Writer for the Commission
- OTHER:** John Buck, Ex-Officio Member, Office of the Mayor
Camille Sakamoto, Administrative Officer, Office of the County Auditor

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Kailiponi called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

There was no public testimony.

III. MINUTES

A. Review of September 8, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Commissioner Watling moved to approve the September 8, 2016 Regular Session Minutes, and Commissioner Baltazar seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Review of October 13, 2016 Regular Session Minutes

Commissioner Patnode moved to approve the October 13, 2016 Regular Session Minutes, and Commissioner Watling seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Review of September 8, 2016 Executive Session Minutes

Vice-Chair Alvarado moved that the Commission go into Executive Session, and Commissioner Baltazar seconded the motion.

The Commission recessed its Regular Meeting at 10:13 a.m. Following the Executive Session, Chair Kailiponi called the regular meeting back to order at 10:20 a.m.

IV. REVIEW AND DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There was no correspondence received.

V. COUNTY AUDITOR'S UPDATE

Camille Sakamoto, Administrative Officer for the Office of the County Auditor, stated that her office had nothing new to report.

VI. UPDATE ON DEADLINES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chair Kailiponi stated that this matter related to the timing of providing information to the Budget Director for the Cost of Government Commission. Ms. Sakamoto stated that the deadline to submit minor revisions to the proposed 2017 Budget is mid-January. The annual deadline for submitting budget proposals is October. Chair Kailiponi and the commissioners agreed that the Commission should include a discussion of its annual budget in future August and December meeting agendas.

Commissioner Patnode inquired whether a record existed of Commission expenditures in years past. Chair Kailiponi explained that expenditure figures were available for the years in which the Commission had a budget (i.e., the last three years). The Commission also discussed the complex nature of the Commission's work last year (especially with respect to the work being done concurrently by the Special Committee on County Governance) and the amount of time expended by the Technical Writer to complete the annual report. Vice-Chair Alvarado stated that she wanted to ensure that the Commission had adequate funds to meet its needs.

VII. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR 2016 – 2017 COMMISSION TERM

A. Compliance Losses and Risk Management (Commissioners Bunn & Watling)

Commissioner Watling distributed a copy of the 2016 Sedgwick Stewardship Report to the Commission. Commissioners Watling and Bunn provided a general overview of the report. Commissioner Waling stated that he and Commissioner Bunn set a goal of evaluating safety and best practices within County government. He stated that there is still not enough information to evaluate trends. He added that one of the impressions he drew from the report is that there does not appear to be a robust safety culture across the County. He thought the next step the Commission should take is to dig deeper into how the various departments address safety issues.

Vice-Chair Alvarado stated that based on her prior experience in the public sector, new employees were required to take certain classes depending on their classification. Commissioner Watling stated that cultural change is important because it should not cost much money at the front end and could result in potential savings on the back end. Commissioner Bunn added that the departments of Public Works and Parks and

Recreation as had been highlighted as departments that could use more training opportunities.

Chair Kailiponi stated that he had contact information for the department safety officers. Commissioners Bunn and Watling stated that they would conduct further research over the next month and report their findings to the Commission at its December meeting.

Commissioners Bunn and Watling stated that their overall goals included the following: (1) evaluating the state of the safety program for the County of Maui; (2) determining whether there a safety culture or not, and if so, how robust it is; and (3) determining whether this safety culture includes all departments or is department specific. Vice-Chair Alvarado also asked that the Commission evaluate whether the Department of the Corporation Counsel has enough capacity or help.

Commissioners Watling suggested that the Commission send a list of requests for information to County safety officers. Chair Kailiponi agreed and asked Commissioners Watling and Bunn to provide him with the list of questions to review prior to them sending them to the safety officers. Chair Kailiponi also stated that the Commission should also look into the number of employees by department and by job description, as well as find comparable private industries or municipalities. Chair Kailiponi stated that he would assist with researching department employee information. With respect to the comparables, Commissioner Bunn stated that the OSHA website provides a wealth of information and that he would provide a link to the website to the Commission.

The Commission recessed at 11:21 a.m. and reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

B. Energy Usage of County Facilities (Commissioner Lantias)

Commissioner Lantias indicated that there are many energy-related topics that could be evaluated. Consequently, he thought it would be beneficial to hone in on a few topics for further research. He suggested that the Commission review battery storage systems and cogeneration. Commissioner Baltazar agreed to look at the viability of battery storage systems. Commissioner Lantias stated that he would research cogeneration.

C. Analysis of Potential Sources of Revenue to Reinvest in Parks (Vice-Chair Alvarado)

Vice-Chair Alvarado stated that she had recently attended a public hearing regarding the Kanaha Park proposed master plan. She saw that there were a number of capital improvements that needed to be done, but that she did not see additional revenue being generated proportional to the number of park users. She noted that at any given day, Hawai'i families can be seen enjoying the park, but that a large number of kite surfers, many from other parts of the world, use the park as well. Occasionally, there is a conflict between the multiple groups using the park. She subsequently wrote a letter to the County suggesting that it charge visitors a parking fee; the funds, in turn, would go toward maintaining the park.

Vice-Chair Alvarado stated that she also spoke with Ka'ala Buenconsejo, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as with Councilmember Don Guzman, who chairs the Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture and Recreation Committee. She stated that Councilmember Guzman suggested that she bring the issue before the Commission. She added that she would like to speak further with Mr. Buenconsejo and Councilmember Guzman to identify two parks where parking fees might be feasible, and

then talk with Diamond Parking. She also suggested looking at Haleakalā National Park (managed by the Federal government) and ʻĪao Valley (managed by the State), both of which charge parking fees.

Commissioner Lanias expressed concern about the possibility of parking fees, stating that it might discourage residents and visitors from visiting the park. Commissioner Patnode added that she would expect a park that imposed a parking fee to be particularly beautiful, and that there is a cost associated with creating the proper infrastructure to ensure the park is beautiful. She also raised the issue of whether administering a parking fee system would be too costly for the County. Finally, she raised the issue of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), which visitors are already asked to pay, but which is not being administered as well as it could be.

John Buck, Ex-Officio Member of the Commission, stated that he would be happy to speak further with Vice-Chair Alvarado. He also raised the issue of commercial operators who use County parks and who operate under Commercial Operators Recreational Activity (CORA) rules.

Vice-Chair Alvarado reiterated her opinion that this is a good topic to research and analyze. Chair Kailiponi asked Vice-Chair Alvarado to speak further with Mr. Buenconsejo and Mr. Buck to see what parks they are interested in reviewing for potential parking fees. He also stated that he is interested in learning whether and how the County measures park usage. Finally, he stated that he was interested in obtaining a list of parks and the number of parking spaces assigned to each park. Vice-Chair Alvarado agreed to move forward with researching the issues raised.

D. Consideration of Additional Potential Topics

Chair Kailiponi stated that he prefers that the Commission focus on the three topics it has chosen thus far, but commissioners are welcome to email him at any time with potential topics that can be put on future agendas.

E. Process of Investigation for Agreed Topics for 2016 – 2017 Commission Report

The Commission deferred discussion of this item.

VIII. DETERMINE NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Baltazar moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Watling seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.