

Maui County Arborist Committee

Meeting Minutes February 12, 2020

1. Call to order at 1:35 pm by Chris Reynolds, Chair, when it was determined that quorum was present.
2. New Committee Business –
 - a. Approval of minutes – Approval of minutes for the committee meeting of October 9, 2019: motion to approve by Lance DeSilva, seconded by Arine Bulkley and unanimously approved.
 - b. DHHL Puunani Homestead Project – Introduction from Stuart Matsunaga with Department of Hawaiian Homelands; Acting Administrator for Land and Development Division. Started looking for land in Central Maui, pursuant to their Maui island plan. They have over 4000 applicants waiting for residential leases on Maui. Other Developments currently going on in Lahaina and Upcountry and Pulehu nui. However, this is solely residential purpose. Recently acquired this parcel and starting the environmental process. Partner is Dowling Company represented by Darren Okimoto-Engineer; Mike Miyabara- Landscape architect. Stuart Matsunaga introduces Blossom Feiteira- Homestead community advocate. Blossom Feiteira mentions she serves Maui as the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands President they are an advocacy organization that works closely with their beneficiaries. Puunani project is a result of continued advocacy on behalf of the beneficiaries, the highest demand for homestead lots are in Central Maui. The project is welcomed by the beneficiary community, 161 units, 24 will be vacant lots for opportunity for self-help programs owner builder that can meet the desire of those that are under the income threshold. She mentions she understands that there is a challenge with a line of Monkey Pod Trees along the subdivision line and requests for careful consideration of the impact that the existence of the trees and its current place will have on the ability for the Department to meet the needs of the beneficiaries of Central Maui. Darren Okimoto thanks the Chair and committee members for volunteering their time and allowing them to present today. Darren Okimoto mentions is located North of Waiolani Mauka subdivision its border by East multi-line highway. The parcel land is about 47 ½ acres, proposing to do 161 single-family residential lots, 137 of those will be turn-key homes, the remaining 24 will be vacant lots where the beneficiaries may build their own type of home. DHHL Homestead Project has met with public works and traffic section, they recommended because the project is above 100 lots, they will need 2 access points and is consistent with Fire Department for safety and emergency vehicle access. Also met with Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) Highways Division, they similarly wanted access points safe from their highway and provide necessary deceleration lanes and sight distance. Because of that they propose 2 entrances, main entrance will be a full movement T intersection, where beneficiaries can make a right or left turn. The secondary access will be further North where it is limited to right turn in and right turn out. Darren also mention they met with Tim Griffith - Arborist and Karla Peters- Director of Parks and Recreation, both recommended to present to the Arborist Committee. Darren mentions Department of Transportation provide the letter with two options; 1) To completely remove the trees or 2) remove the trees to allow the safe access to the project and have replacement trees with less intrusive roots. There are

several locations along Honoapiilani Highway in the nearby Kehalani area where the roots are from the existing Monkeypod Trees have lifted the pavement and damaged the curb & gutter. Having a tree with less extensive root system mean fewer potential impact to the adjacent roadway pavement, utilities and foundation of neighborhood houses. Also working with DOT to see if a section of highway that is 35mph through 45mph because it is going to urbanized looking to see if they can work with them to lower the speed limit to 30 mph as another way to make it safe. Darren mentions they are trying to find the middle ground, that meets all the different existing constraint, such as sight distance, grading, meets with all the different agencies and committees so that we can provide these 161 lots to the DHHL beneficiaries. This is not a market development, if we cannot find a balance that is 161 local families that don't get homes. Hoping for compromise with regard to the exceptional trees along the highway. Mike Miyabara- Miyabara Associates mentions born and raised in Lahaina, the Banyan Trees was a playground growing up and is familiar with exceptional trees. All things being equal if we did not have to impact existing trees we would not even touch it. Its one of those where benefits had to be weighed. We are proposing a 1 to 1 replacement, there are 34 Monkeypods and looking to replace all 34. We looked at the entire segment which stretches from Wailuku all the way down to pass the Kahili golf course. A lot of the trees have been scarred. By replacing it 1 to 1, we feel we are coming up with a solution, even if it is not the same species. We are recommending a couple options for the replacement trees, one would be the Shower tree either the Rainbow or possibly the White or the Royal Poinsienna. Also looked at Kamani and False Kamani, but they have to many issues of fruits and seeds. If we could choose we recommend the Shower tree, with proper maintenance and irrigation it will provide a canopy. Everything is preliminary but from there stand point this is their recommendation to owners and DHHL. Lance DeSilva asks if any kind of native tree was looked at. Mike Miyabara mentions Kamani was looked at, however potential for root damage and drops a lot of fruit. There aren't that many other large native trees. Lance DeSilva recommends native trees would be the best way because it is associated with the Hawaiian culture, and also understand if no Native will work in the area as well. Miyabara mentions of additional Koa'ea or Hala as a landscaper buffer. Barbara Fernandez asks if the owner are putting in their own trees or are infrastructure trees already put in. Mike Miyabara mentions that the developer will be planting the trees. Barbara Fernandez asks what kind of trees. Mike Miyabara mentions they have a list of trees including native trees. Barbara request to have a copy of the list. How many trees will have to be removed? Mike Miyabara mentions 27 of the 34 trees will have to be removed. Christopher Haynes mentions what is the cost for removing the trees? Barbara Fernandez mentions who will pay for it? Darren Okimoto mentions DHHL will cover the cost due to it is part of their project. Arine Bulkley mentions traditionally it is better if there is a mix, and consider the incorporation of Koa. Lance DeSilva mentions this has to be looked at it as its totality, because he understand that it is 34 trees that will be consider to be removed but to offset it, it's going to replanted with something else and more trees will be in that area anyway with the new community, the harsh reality is there needs to be homes for people, and if it is the matter of 34 trees versus 161 lots. Chris Reynolds mentions because the trees are on state property, is the community there going to take care of the trees and make sure they have irrigation and maintained. Mike Miyabara mentions it will be DHHL responsibility regarding the landscaping lot. The portion that is still on the DOT will be the responsibility of the State Department of Transportation. Blossom mentions if the department is not able to take the trees out, will not be able to get the access points approved by DOT, DHHL will not be able to have the development. Under the guides

of Health and Safety. Being able to open 161 lots for member of the community to be able to live. Means we remove 34 trees and willing to work with replacing them and working with DOT. At the end of the day we have 4000 people on the waitlist with an average of 19 years, many are Kupuna. Therefore, it is 161 lots vs 34 trees. Alison Cohan thanks the presenters for coming and appreciates the presentation the project looks real good, though out. Appreciates the idea of the replacement trees, and recommends research on perhaps using some Koa and mix it with Hoa'ea, a mixture of trees and native trees. Alison Cohan also mentions to proceed with the project as it is needed. Barbara mentions to get it in writing from DOT that they will be taking care of the irrigation for the trees that will be on State Highway. Blossom Feiteira mentions if the Arborist Committee recommends support for this project in the removal and replacement of the trees, they will take it to the County Council. If the determination can be made in favor of the project from the Arborist Committee it will help the project move forward. Lance DeSilva mentions that if the Arborist Committee can work with the project it will give the Arborist Committee credibility. Barbara Fernandez mentions with the DHHL presenting to the Arborist Committee appreciates the respect DHHL is showing to the Arborist Committee. Darren Okimoto thanks the committee for the being open-minded. David Galazin mentions that the Arborist Committee can de-list the section; in the enabling legislation in the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 58 that creates the body. In Chapter 58.4 the county shall designate exceptional trees can also provide for special county review prior for destruction of exceptional trees. It is not in the code clearly, however there may be situations where exceptional trees will need to be removed. If it is by ordinance prior to March 1st, committee must review and make changes. If exceptional tree is dangerous or diseased beyond repair, or no longer meets the exceptional tree criteria the committee may recommend to the council to have the trees removed from the exceptional trees. David Galazin mentions to have a vote to identify what you want the council to change by ordinance so the committee is on the same page. Chris Reynolds mentions concerns of irrigation and maintenance of the new trees. Approves of the DHHL project. Chris Reynolds mentions a motion to recommend to County Council to de-list the exceptional trees fronting the property of the DHHL Puunani Homestead Project. Lance DeSilva makes a motion for the Arborist Committee to de-list the 34 trees that are fronting the DHHL Puunani Homestead Project subdivision. David Galazin mention reference TMK parcel 235-002-002. Seconded by Barbara Fernandez, and unanimously approved.

- c. Discuss New Exceptional Trees – Arine Bulkley mentions the large tree near the cane crossing; it is the only tree there, would like the tree considered due to it is a large and old tree. Arine Bulkley needs the TMK number. Lance DeSilva mentions the TMK number can be found the internet Real Property Tax Maui.
- d. Letter to Planning Department to request for attendance at meetings –Chris Reynolds mentions that he will drafting a letter.
- e. Letter from Council Member Riki Hokama – Chris Reynolds received letter regarding something that occurred couple years ago. Chris Reynolds the letter was in regards to a protection plan for the Banyan Tree in Lahaina; defers to next meeting.
- f. Discuss County budget requests – Arine Bulkley mentions the Ordinance 3229 dated November 2004, a bill for ordinance to the use of fines for violation of Chapter 1224 of the Maui County Code. The fines are to be deposited into the Landscape Planting Beautification Revolving Fund that is intended to further the purpose and goals of

Chapter 1224 where we protect the trees. Would like to know if anyone has been fined for hurting a tree. Chapter 12.24 – 100 states wilful or neglect to damage a tree is a misdemeanor and punishable by \$1000.00 failure to maintain by watering and weeding or failure to remove an obstruction is punishable by \$500.00 and if you hurt an exceptional tree it is \$1000.00 fine. David Galazin mentions the Chapter 12.24 was repealed by Chapter 12.24a. We are in Ordinance five thousand and change so that has to be old. There is no fund that he is aware of in the county code, there would be no fines because there is no Chapter 12.24. Arine Bulkley mentions there is a Chapter 12.24. David Galazin mentions there is a 12.24a which replaces 12.24. just because it replaces it, it doesn't mean it automatically keeps everything that was tied into 12.24. David Galazin will report back at next meeting. Arine Bulkley mentions Ordinance is 3229 Bill number 79 - 2004; labeled a bill for Ordinance relating to the use of fines for violations of Chapter 1224a Maui County Code pertaining to landscape planting and beatification. Barbara Fernandez mentions if there is an actual line item with funds. Chris Reynolds mentions this topic would be good to bring up when Tim Griffith is present.

- g. Climate Change – Douglas McBride mentions to plant more trees on Maui. The topping of County trees need to stop; all the shopping centers are beyond trimming the trees, we need an ordinance to prevent that. There is not law saying what you are supposed to do with the tree, we need the shade, a lot of the shopping centers are going out of business and cutting corners and saving on maintenance for the trees. We need and ordinance to protect the trees, plant more trees and take of the trees we have. Alison Cohan mentions the arborist committee can get involve with the re-tree event; the governor on Earth Day is going to proclaim October 30th a climate change awareness event where they are going to plant thousands of trees statewide. This will be an opportunity for the Arborist Committee to do an outreach. Arborist Committee may ask the County for a line item of monies from the County budget for the planting. Lance DeSilva mentions they are not involved as much due to DLNR – Forestry plants every other week, roughly 250,000 has been planted. Lance DeSilva mentions Donovan Dela Cruz in introducing a bill Called the million tree per year for 4 years planted. However, believes it is impossible to do, due to one) you need the resources 2) you need someone to grow it 3) you need the jurisdiction to plant it. Where would 250,000 trees go on the island of Maui. Arine Bulkley mentions in the valley, right along the Mokulele Highway. Lance DeSilva, mentions the problem is Mahi Pono owns most of the valley and the government only owns the strip. The hardest part is where are you going to plant 40,000 trees considering the private properties. Barbara Fernandez mentions why does Mokulele not have a bunch of trees? Chris Reynolds mentions they all died, all the false Wilis died. Christopher Haynes mentions it boils down to watering the trees; there are no trees up in the ranch because there is no water. Douglas McBride mentions he spoke with the Mayor and the Mayor is on board with the tree give away in November and is for the planting of more trees. Chris Reynolds metions they had wild fire experts come in from the mainland and instead of the traditional fire breaks, they are putting in green strips. Arine Bulkley mentions we need the irrigation and need to care of what we already have and we need to educate the community and the importance of the trees. Chris Reynolds mentions partnership with Mahi Pono for wind breaks, education programs. Arborist Committee will continue to put Climate Change on the agenda to talk about what we can do.
- h. Gina Flammer – Pesticide Regulations Bill– Deferred to next meeting March 11, 2020.

3. Continued Committee Business
 - a. Review of the “Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee” – Deferred to next meeting March 11, 2020 due to lack of applicable time.
 - b. Review of Exceptional Tree Inspections – Request of checklist/Updated lists to include numerical ID with alphabetical ID – Lance DeSilva mentions that he went to Kahoolawe along with Allison Cohan. Location of the exceptional tree on Kahoolawe was not 4 trees, it was 3 trees. Allison Cohan mentions that it is possible that the way it is growing it looks like it’s less than 4 trees, the tree looks great. Chris Reynolds mentions to start planning and opportunity to review exceptional tree list. Allison Cohan suggests, 2 more columns 1) Date last visited 2) Comments. Barbara Fernandez mentions if Chair Chris Reynolds will reassign exceptional tree assignments due to Hanna Mounce resignation from the committee. Barbara Fernandez request to review numerical and alphabetical ID Exceptional Tree list and continue discussion to next meeting. Chris Reynolds agrees, also mentions he will be going to Molokai and likes to drive to Hana so will look at exceptional trees there. Chris Reynolds mentions to review list and if there are any trees you’d like to inspect, or that you are unable to, formal assignments will be done next meeting. Alison Cohan mentions if it is in the code to review exceptional tree list every year. David Galazin responds yes. Lance DeSilva mentions if it can be changed. David Galazin responds yes.
 - c. Discussion on Additional Arborist – Letter to the Director of Parks requesting the need of an additional Arborist – Chris Reynolds is in the middle of drafting a letter that he is planning on sharing with the committee at the next meeting.
4. Chairperson’s Report – Chris Reynolds announces his thanks to committee for attendance and good discussion. Lance DeSilva asks how long a Term on the committee is. David Galazin mentions it is 5 years. Barbara Fernandez mentions that they are allowing less and less years and the term starts in the month of April.
5. Agenda Development for Next Meeting –
 - Tree city membership
 - Exceptional Tree Inspections in Intervals
 - Letter from Council Member Riki Hokama
 - Landscape Planting Beautification Fund
 - Climate Change/Taking care of trees
 - Review of the “Rules of Practice and Procedures for the Maui County Arborist Committee”
 - Review of Exceptional Tree Inspections – Request of checklist/Updated lists to include numerical ID with alphabetical ID
 - Discussion on Additional Arborist – Letter requesting the need of an additional Arborist
 - Gina Flammer
 - Discussion on Chapter 2.41 regarding committees and conventions
 - Goal Tree relocation
6. Announcements – No Announcements
7. Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1:30 pm.

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:38 pm.

Respectfully drafted and submitted by:
Joyce Nakagawa

Those present: Chris Reynolds, Lance DeSilva, Arine Bulkley, Barbara Fernandez, Douglas McBride, Chris Haynes, Alison Cohan Members of the Committee; David Galazin, Corp. Counsel; Joyce Nakagawa, Dept. of Parks and Recreation staff. Those absent: Tim Griffith, Arboriculturist; Robert Burritt Member of the Committee