

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

Council Chamber

August 13, 2003

CONVENE: 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Dain P. Kane, Chair
Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Member
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Non-member

STAFF: Shannon Alueta, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: David DeLeon, Senior Executive Assistant to the Mayor

PRESS: None.

CHAIR KANE: Okay. Let's call to order Council's Committee of Government Relations. Today is August 13, 2003. For the record, we have all members of the committee present.

GR-10(2) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS
(VARIOUS) (C.C. No. 03-25)

CHAIR KANE: Members, before us on your agenda, we have one item GR-10(2), nominations to boards, committees and commissions. Before us we have in receipt, a correspondence dated July 23rd from the Mayor's Office requesting consideration of the following nominations to the listed boards and commissions. And in this case, the Commission on Naming Streets, Parks, and Facilities, we have Rosaline or Rosie Poree-Hogin, I believe, replacing Kathie Blackburn, expiring on 3/31/04. We have also for the Maui County Grants Review Committee, Michael Kaleikini, replacing James Tyler Lee, expiring on 3/31/06. For the Real Property Tax Review Board, we have Kyle Yamashita, replacing John Wienert, expiring on 3/31/07. For the Street Lighting Committee, finally, we have Robert Stailey, Jr., replacing Jeffrey Keating, expiring on

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March 31st '05. Members, we have Mr. DeLeon from the Mayor's Office. Mr. DeLeon, if you would like, we'll provide you with any opening comments.

MR. DELEON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list is as stands. The department really appreciates your quick response to this request.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you. Members, the Chair is open for any discussion. There has not been any requests--and I'm sorry. For the record, we do have Member Bob Carroll, who is not a member of the committee but is with us this morning. Thank you. Members, it's open for discussion. Is there any discussion on any of the members? Mr. Hokama?

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: No, not on the members. I think we all feel thankful that people wish to volunteer and we thank the Mayor for submitting names for consideration. Let me just ask Mr. DeLeon, would the Street Lighting Committee--because they receive requests of existing areas that either people, organizations, or the neighborhood asked for a consideration of a light. I have already forwarded to Public Works a request of Lanai. How would this committee handle it? They would look at it here or they would go and make some kind of assessment of the request on Lanai, Mr. DeLeon?

MR. DELEON: Thank you for your question. To be frank, I really don't know the answer to that. My function here is just to get people on the boards. How they function after that is really beyond me, but I can get back to you with that. So you have a request in front of Street Lighting?

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: I've had, yeah, community people asking for a--and again, it's just part of the changing times on Lanai. You know, plantation days, everybody slept when the sun went down. Now we run a hotel, we've got three shifts and there's areas in the old part of the town and it's pretty dark in certain areas. So one, it's for security. Two, the neighborhood feels it's a . . . um . . . a good measurement to deter drug trafficking at night. I mean we've got the same problems like everybody else and . . . uh . . . you know, this family went to sleep and they woke up with somebody in their house and it was . . . uh . . . it's a dark area of the block. So they asked for a streetlight, which I have forwarded to the department for consideration. I just thought maybe since we had it today, Chairman, that if Mr. DeLeon--again, I thank you for following up. I would appreciate that, please.

MR. DELEON: I would be happy to follow up.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you. If you can provide us maybe something in writing possibly and then forward it on and we can attach it to the committee report at the full Council.

MR. DELEON: Okay. So that would be to you, Mr. Chairman, instead of to the Council member?

CHAIR KANE: Yeah. If that's possible, Mr. Hokama? Any problems with that?

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VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: I think that's fine because I think maybe other members may have similar situations down the road that--

MR. DELEON: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: --that information would be useful.

CHAIR KANE: Great. And that way we can have it attached and provided as part of the committee report, either by attachment or at least a reference to the attachment when we get a written response from Mr. DeLeon.

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Is that fine with you?

VICE-CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Okay, members.

MR. DELEON: I would be happy to comply with that. Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you very much. Any further questions? Member Mateo?

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, just to follow up on what was just said a few minutes ago regarding, you know, Administration is here to see that the committees are filled. There is still that continuing concern that it is not only filling the position but a lot of the times getting the quorum to actually do business. As the former Chair of the Street Lighting Committee, part of our problem was quorum. We had months on end without meetings. So it's not only getting the people on the boards and the commission, it's to be sure that they are doing their jobs. And sometimes when you don't have quorum, you are not able to do it. So we've got to somehow take this a step forward by having somebody--and perhaps Administration because they are doing the request to put these people on--to be sure that committees are functioning. And if there are quorum problems, perhaps, we need to know which committees they are, so we can try to see how we can work together and try to remedy those needs . . . the Council.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you very much. And we'll . . . again, we will make that note.

MR. DELEON: If you . . .

CHAIR KANE: Go ahead, Mr. DeLeon.

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MR. DELEON: If you care for a response. Well, we do do that to the degree we can. Under the rules, we cannot remove without Council approval. So we . . . it's just unlikely, we'll do that . . . rather than embarrass somebody, but we will encourage.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Yeah. No . . .

MR. DELEON: And one of the--I'm not gonna say which one, but there's one of the names on this list was encouraged to step aside because the person was not attending.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Uh-huh.

MR. DELEON: Not necessarily the committee you're talking about. When I get a signal that somebody's not showing up and they're not showing interest then we start encouraging them . . . and to the degree that we'll write the letter for `em and just ask them to sign it.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Yeah. As a follow up, you know, the intent is not to discourage anybody or to humiliate anybody. The intent is to be sure that these individuals volunteering to serve in committees that the committee is functional. All we are doing is requesting--I'm sure there's reports that are done to substantiate the fact that business is being done because quorums have, you know, been there to take care of business and that's all I am saying. You know, just to be sure that . . . uh . . . these boards and commissions are in fact functioning.

MR. DELEON: Mr. Chairman?

CHAIR KANE: Yes.

MR. DELEON: Just for your information, we do encourage the secretaries of the various boards and commissions to report chronic absenteeism and especially in boards that are having a problem with quorums. So, we are on that.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay, thank you. It's just that we, you know, like we have heard just most recently with one of the committees that dealt with a lot of intense review on requests and they could not get a quorum for a period of time. So just to avoid that kind of continuance, I would just like to request that somehow somebody follow up to see that these boards and commissions are able to do what they're charged to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you, and thank you for your point. And Mr. DeLeon, thank you for your response. We will make a note, again, in the committee report. And before I recognize Mr. Molina and Member Carroll later on . . . um . . . I just wanted to thank the committee for bringing up these issues during this hotly debated meeting that we have this morning--

MEMBERS: . . . (*chuckled*) . . .

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CHAIR KANE: --instead of on one of the slower meetings when we have 50 people in the chamber and we start talking about these things . . . but they are very important. So, thank you for bringing them up now during this. Chair apologizes for the sarcasm there but I thought it was appropriate at this point. Mr. Molina, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we in the discussion phase of our item this morning? . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

CHAIR KANE: Yeah. . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: We've got loads of testifiers waiting. . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

MEMBERS: . . . *(chuckled)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: As a follow-up to our Street Lighting Committee. If I recall last term, the previous Public Works Director recommended that this committee be reduced from nine members down to five members because of the problem that Mr. Mateo had mentioned about quorum. Just as a suggestion to the committee. I do have that Outdoor Lighting Bill, which I hope to address, which I intend to address this term. So I think it's pretty critical that we get input from the Street Lighting Committee as well. And one more question . . . one question for Mr. DeLeon. What is the . . . uh . . . I guess, the red flag, when someone who is not showing up to meetings--I mean about . . . at what point do you start, you know, asking them to, you know, what their intentions are or you start sending out the letters? At two . . . if they start missing two meetings in a row, three meetings?

MR. DELEON: Three. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Three is the standard?

MR. DELEON: If you know . . . if there's indications that they're leaving the island or something like that then we go right away. But if it's just that they are not showing up and we don't know what happened to them, we start looking for them and then if they don't make the third meeting then we start talking to them.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you.

MR. DELEON: Again, it's . . . uh . . . we encourage them to withdraw as opposed to bringing a withdrawal to you folks.

CHAIR KANE: Yeah. And we appreciate that option, Mr. DeLeon, I think for everybody's sake. Any further discussion? Member Carroll?

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COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you, Chair. When I saw the agenda, I came down today because of a discussion that the Council had--I don't know if it was last year or the year before--about the concern of these committees. When I saw, especially, Commission on Naming Streets, Parks, and Facilities and Street Lighting, we had discussed before about consolidating these committees because of the difficulty in getting qualified people . . . and I was just wondering if any action was ever taken, or if anybody had pursued that?

CHAIR KANE: From a legislative standpoint, we have not--and I believe that would be under the purview of this committee--and we have not taken any type of action on that. From the Administration's side, have you folks had any discussion regarding any type of consolidation actions?

MR. DELEON: To be frank, it's the first I've heard of the discussion.

CHAIR KANE: Yeah, okay. But Member Carroll, we can go ahead and follow up with that and I'll get with staff and we'll have a discussion and go look for some of the previous discussions that took place and we will go ahead and follow up and see if we can create an item and then have a further discussion on that at another meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you.

CHAIR KANE: Yeah. Thank you very much. Any further discussion? Hearing none, members, the Chair's recommendation is to approve the slate of nominees to the various boards and commissions and . . . uh . . . there is no filing in this case. So, we will just keep it at that. Members?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Second.

CHAIR KANE: Thank you. It's been moved and seconded by Members Molina and Mateo to approve the slate of nominees, which has been already read into the record. Any discussion on the nominees? Hearing none, all in favor, say "aye".

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR KANE: Opposed?

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VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Mateo, Molina and Tavares, Vice-Chair Hokama and Chair Kane.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE NOMINATIONS TO THE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS.

CHAIR KANE: Okay. Let the record show, it's unanimous. Members, that's all we have on the agenda for this morning. If there are any announcements? We do have a Committee of the Whole meeting chaired by Member Carroll this afternoon at 1:30. And it's 9:12, this meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURN: 9:12 a.m.

APPROVED BY:



DAIN P. KANE, Chair
Government Relations Committee

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Transcribed by: Pauline Martins