

PARKS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

February 20, 2003

Council Chamber

CONVENE: 1:39 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Member
Councilmember Charmaine M. Tavares, Member

STAFF: Tamara R. Koller, Legislative Analyst
Clarita Balala, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: Glenn Correa, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
John Buck, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Edward S. Kushi, Jr., Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Mercer "Chubby" Vicens

PRESS: None

CHAIR JOHNSON: . . .(*gavel*). . . The Parks and Agriculture Committee meeting will come to order. We have with us today, Vice-Chair Robert Carroll, Councilmember Michael Molina, Councilmember Pontanilla and Councilmember Charmaine Tavares. Also present from Administration we have John Buck who is our Deputy Parks Director, Glenn Correa who is our Parks Director, Ed Kushi from Corporation Counsel and our Staff Members, Clarita and Tamara. So thank you. Today we only have one item on our agenda and this is PA-2, which is the creation of additional campsites.

ITEM NO. 2: CREATION OF ADDITIONAL CAMPSITES

CHAIR JOHNSON: The Committee is in receipt of C.C. 01-204 from the former Mayor requesting consideration of a matter relating to the creation of additional campsites within the County. And the status at this time is that the Committee may consider whether to recommend any legislative action or to consider filing this item. At this time, I would take any public testimony. Have we received any, Clarita?

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MS. BALALA: No.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay, we have received no requests to give public testimony. Seeing that there is no one here to testify at this moment, I will close public testimony. To give a little bit of background, in our last and this is primarily, you know, for the benefit of you Mr. Pontanilla because you were not a committee member last time. We basically stayed configured as we were last . . . last session except now we've added agriculture, as well. But just to give a little bit of history as to the former Council's Parks and Recreation Committee, I held several informal community meetings to solicit input for the creation of additional campsites. An initial list of 15 sites from the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Committee Members was composed. Now the list has expanded to over 20 sites. In the letter dated 2/12/03 to the Director, we requested a review of the list of sites to include ones that could be established in the next fiscal year and pre . . . with preliminary funding requirements and any land acquisition identification that we may wish to pursue. At this time, my basic reason for having this meeting was to try to look at the list and see if there were any recommendations either from Council Members or from our Parks Administrator to see if there were locations that absolute . . . absolutely should be stricken from the list or if there were other sites that we needed to add. And also to look at prioritization of those lists because I believe that if we're going to pursue this, we should at least have a list that's realistic and with that many campsites I don't really see that it's a realistic number, therefore, either elimination of some of the items or prioritization is going to be in order. And then also, I would like to consider any options or suggestions for perhaps instead of the County doing this, to actually privatize or look at privatizing or leasing to another entity the operation of campsites. I don't know whether we . . . obviously we don't have anything at this point in time that we have legislatively done. So at this time, I would open it up to the Parks Director or the Deputy Director for any comments or any kind of direction that you would also see us going with regard to these campsites. Mr. Correa or Mr. Buck.

MR. CORREA: Yes, Madam Chairman. What I want to know is first if there's any priorities from our Council Members in certain areas that we need to look at first, either purchasing the land to have these campsites or renovate some of our existing areas for campsites, before I can make any decisions of what we have to do and the cost.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. I . . . I would start with Councilmember Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Thank you, Chair. First of all, I'd like to talk about one that I'd like removed. As you know, when we went to Keanae the . . . the Honomanu Bay, the Park, we had a turnout of 30 . . . 34 people or something like that. Anyway, we had a very good turnout of Keanae people and we brought it to

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a vote and unanimously was voted over there not to use it for a campsite, but as a day park. They asked for facilities for a restroom and I've gone back since. I was over there last week and consensus has not changed. We have a caretaker takes care of the ballpark and we're hoping that it will be a day park and maintained. But, they would like it removed from consideration from camping and since we've already gone to the community I would hope that we could just strike that right off.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I think that we did strike it on our initial list that we had, both Tamara and myself, because I think I reiterated that but somehow it, - -

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Oh, okay, I see it.

CHAIR JOHNSON: - - you know, still appeared on there.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: I still see it over here that's why.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I know. So that one we can permanently strike.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: The next . . . oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR JOHNSON: No, continue Mr. Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: And the next one is Nu`u. Nu`u because of . . . it's more than just a historic site. It's a place with many burials and other things. Before we get into consideration I'd like to go there and meet with the Kaupo people and the people that would be affected and the people that own the land right around there. Before we consider any park over there I would like to meet with them . . . the Committee to meet with them, excuse me.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. And so at this time you want that put as a low priority on the list?

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yeah, I'd like that to be a low priority until we can have a meeting with the community. Cause I don't think . . . I don't remember ever having a meeting out there, to tell you the truth, before I was on the Council or anytime about it being a park . . . I mean having a campground over there.

CHAIR JOHNSON: If I'm not mistaken, that may have been one of the recommendations that came at another campsite meeting that we had had. Somebody had suggested that it wasn't in the Keanae area when we went out.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: I believe you are correct and since it's . . . that's the way it did happen, I'd like to go to Kaupo and at least give the community a chance to comment over there.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Great. Thank you very much. Councilmember Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, I just wanted to clarify. Working off the list that's on your February 12, 2003 - -

CHAIR JOHNSON: That . . . that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: - - memo.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, the Nu`u Bay or Nu`u Landing has been kicked around for a number of years as a possible park for the County of Maui and to include camping at that park. It's actually quite a ways from the Kaupo community. It's kind of out there by itself, but I agree with Mr. Carroll that we should have a meeting out there. This is currently private property and I know there was some talk at one time of the landowners wishing to offer it to the County of Maui for, you know, for sale as a campground. Yeah, and I would wait till we, we went out there to meet with the Kaupo folks. I know that in our own experience where we were bracing for the thousands of people that came over for the eclipse one year, forgot what year that was now.

MR. BUCK: I remember that.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: The Parks Department at the time set up at Nu`u Landing as our base camp for the Water Safety Officers and for the . . . I guess we were in charge of the hale luas at the time, but it actually was quite a nice place, you know, except for the mosquitoes. But, you know, it was a pretty primitive camping area, but I thought it had some possibilities. It's sort . . . it's sort of sheltered cause there are bluffs on both, I think, at least on one side, but it is a possibility if the, you know, if the price were right or if there's something that could be worked out and the community could go along with having this as a primitive campsite, I think it would be a pristine area to look at.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do you have any other sites that you see either are on the list, not on the list or something that should be stricken?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Well, on the Central Maui . . . the first one you have there, the Old Waihee Dairy site. I mean in light of the fact that now, I think, some of this area is included in the . . . the Trust Lands of the purchase for the . . . for that purpose. That we may be able to work through the . . . through the trust to . . . to look at possible sites in the area and fully realizing that this area is full of carche . . . archeological and cultural sites that we need to work around it. And it may not even be appropriate, but I would leave it on the list as a possibility.

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Just as an overview, we do need park sites . . . camping sites on . . . in Maui. This island probably is the worst as far as facilities for camping and while we, you know, promote our . . . our rural attractiveness and everything else, but we . . . we limit what people can do when they want to camp. And when they want to camp, they end up camping illegally. And that produces a whole lot of other problems. So I think that if we could find areas in each of the districts or at least a couple in some of the heavier districts that it would . . . it would lend toward, you know, making it more attractive for that type of experience. And I know even local families, I mean they . . . they love to camp. They end up, you know, camping illegally a lot of times or on private land and with the permission of the owners. But then there's no amenities there . . . basic amenities for health and sanitation kinds of concerns. So I really would like to see us pursue that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Do you have any other priorities, that if you look at the list, is there anything that leaps out at you that you really think we should be pursuing?

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah. In Central Maui, you know, I still want to toot the horn for the Kanaha Beach Park. We had at one time some pretty grand plans for a campsite there in the section where the old, I think it was the girl scout building was, and to develop that. Between that and the wetlands to develop a campsite there that would be an organized camp . . . campgrounds where you would have areas for group camping, small camping sites and single campsites. And at one time we did have monies to look at that and then it got, you know, reprioritized as we came across other priorities. But, I think, Kanaha Beach Park is still a prime location that we should look at . . . convenient for the local people who live in the central area, especially.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Right. And . . . and also if you have recommendations. If you would like to have any of these perhaps funded or look at them for budget considerations, that can also be a recommendation from this Committee to go to the Budget Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, I want to ask the Parks Department.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Do you folks still have the campsite set up at Kanaha? Is it still there?

MR. CORREA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Is it still there? Okay. So it's one that still exists, but it's a very . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Limited.

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COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Limited, yeah?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, if there are any items that we have ball park figures for to also from the Parks Department. I think that would be very helpful . . .

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Uh-huh.

CHAIR JOHNSON: and to see if they have any plans. I know that they have many items on their agenda as far as improvements and budgetary-wise, I'm not sure if we are going to be able to do all this this year. Councilmember Pontanilla, is there anything that you see that you would like to prioritize or see maybe that's not on the list that you would like to have on the list?

COUNCILMEMBER PONTANILLA: Well, just want some information from the Parks Director. In Central Maui, Paukukalo Park, where's the location of that particular park?

CHAIR JOHNSON: There should be a handout also, Mr. Pontanilla, that our staff had handed out that is a site location. It's black and white. But we have little arrows drawn to each one of those. Do you find that? Would you like a short recess?

COUNCILMEMBER PONTANILLA: Yeah, short recess, please.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. . . . (*gavel*) . . . Short recess.

RECESS: 1:52 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:54 p.m.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Meeting will reconvene. Councilmember Pontanilla.

COUNCILMEMBER PONTANILLA: Thank you for that short recess. I think I know where the . . . the park is located. It's number 6 tee off, I guess.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PONTANILLA: How big is the area as far as the park is concerned? Do we go all the way back to . . . as you're going towards Wailuku on that road . . . to that first house, you know, coming out of that Lower Waiehu Beach Road or is it only that small area that . . . that's right across the ballpark?

MR. CORREA: Councilman Pontanilla, that . . . the area we're talking about is that . . . get this area from the ballpark area. The length of the ballpark area is the length of the beach area we're talking about.

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COUNCILMEMBER PONTANILLA: Oh, okay. Thank you. It's all I have.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Councilmember Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, Ms. Johnson. I remember . . . I also recall that we did have a discussion about that particular park and the Leisure Estates people came to testify against it because of the isolation of the area and what could occur with uncontrolled or unmonitored activities at that park. And that they felt it was going to be a real intrusion on the neighborhood and lead to more negative activities than positive experiences in camping.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And . . . and in addition, I also had someone make the comment about that Hawaiian Homelands. It may not be appropriate in that area . . . that there may be problems. So are the Council Members in agreement or do . . . is there any objection to removing that one from the list?

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Then, Mr. Correa, you can remove that particular one from our list.

MR. CORREA: Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Councilmember Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess for me the campgrounds that I would think would be frequented the most are the ones nearest the coastline . . . nearest the ocean. I looked . . . I'm looking at Rainbow Park. I know it's rather close to Baldwin Avenue so there may be some traffic concerns, maybe even parking. I'm sure people have camped there over the years, illegally or whatever, but that may be something for maybe if we could get some comments from Parks about Rainbow Park itself as a potential campground. If they think it's something that's potentially worthwhile in spite of the, I guess, the road being somewhat rather close to the grounds.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Correa.

MR. CORREA: Yes. Councilmember Molina, if we're going to make that a campsite, we have to look at installing parking off the road, off the highway, extending restroom area, more barbecue grills. So it's a nice area to camping, but there's a lot of cost factors.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: A lot of cost factors. I . . . I don't know what the Paia community has said about that particular area being that there's probably a lot of

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amenities to consider so I'm . . . I'm not saying whether I'm for it or . . . or leaving it on the list or taking it off, but I think there's that to consider. So I'm somewhat on the fence with leaving Rainbow Park on the list. Another is the campgrounds over at the 4th Marine Park. I believe a group is organizing a community playground in that area. So for me I just like to know where this playground would be in proximity to where the proposed campgrounds would be.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Would you be able to answer that, Mr. Correa, or, don't you know where it's going to be sited, yet? John?

MR. BUCK: As far as the . . . we know where the playground basically is going to go. It's going to be kind of adjacent to where the existing playground is. But as far as the campsite, we would have to take a look at it, but also according to my notes I have here it's recommending removal, too, off the list.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Okay. Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

CHAIR JOHNSON: I have no problem with removing Rainbow Park from the list at this point in time only because some of the sentiment that's been expressed is . . . there are other areas that would be more desirable and that I have no problem. Does anyone have any objections taking off Rainbow Park and also the 4th Marine Park? Councilmember Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, I have an objection to taking 4th Marine Park off. I think 4th Marine Park has some real potential there. And I believe that before when we looked at it, it was going to be an area that was behind where the restrooms are, on the mountain, you know, the Giggle Hill side and it would be back in that particular area and toward the Kokomo Road. Where the playground is the other direction - -

CHAIR JOHNSON: The other way.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: - - it's east of that and closer and it would be more toward the . . . the arena. So if it's an extension of the existing playground it would be over there. But it would be kind of separate out . . . separated out.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: I can't imagine that people would actually really want to camp there except in the dead of summer because - -

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COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Rains.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: - - it rains there probably every day. That's why there's no irrigation system at that park. You know, God helps us irrigate the field over there. But during the summer time, I think it would be really neat and then particularly if we ever get to the point where we have some agreement with A&B to lease the hill so that we can actually put in the equestrian trails and the . . . the mountain bike trails and the walking trails up and around Giggie Hill, then it would be a really pleasant kind of recreational facility there to also have a campground. There's already a restroom. There is a light that stays on all night. I think it still stays on all night to illumi . . . illuminate the flag. I think that's still . . . still working. And so there . . . there is and then there is enough now built around that area that it's not as isolated as it was perhaps, you know, five years or six, eight years ago. So I'd like to leave that open as a possibility for future consideration.

CHAIR JOHNSON: That . . . that would be fine. In fact, I think, someone during one of our meetings had suggested because the kids do come to that area and sometimes there's little overnight campouts that they might like to have in the area or even the use of the park for 4th Marine Division activities. It may be something that at least it would offer an option. So we'll . . . we'll leave that one at this time. But no objection to removing Rainbow Park?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: No objections.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Are . . . are there any other comments that you have? I know that I have spoken with Mr. Buck previous to this, too. And he has some thoughts about camping in general.

MR. BUCK: First of all, I would like to address some of the campgrounds listed in . . . for South Maui. We're working there for about the last 17 years. As far as the Kihei Beach Reserve, I'm assuming that's the undeveloped area, I think it's Uli . . . Uliulalani, I think, is the name of the street off of Waipuilani around the VFW Hall. That's something maybe we can look into. That's currently State . . . State land. Po'olenalena -- that's basically right now is landlocked. The other Cameron house on the north end, south end you have Eddie . . . Eddie Chang's place and then those two lots from my understanding have been purchased. So I don't know if that will be a good place to have any type of campsite. Maalaea Beach, Sugar Beach that . . . that should be a good place to establish a campground. Of course, we got a lot of activity in that area, I think, we're looking at now. This is currently A&B property so it may require land acquisition. My only concern is . . . is to . . . is in regards to keeping it kind away from the condos. One of the problems we're having now with illegal camping is that the . . . the campers do scope out the places and they get to the point where they know which condos are vacant and everything else and they do have a high break-in

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incident once in a while in that area. So that's always been a concern of the residents in Maalaea. If we get farther down, maybe away from the park area and . . . and, and purchase land acquisition purchase or whatever. That might be the way to go. I have concerns about Waipuilani Beach Park because that's mostly . . . it's a nice, grassy area. There's currently only one bathroom on the south end. There's some tennis courts. But that's also lined with condos. The one time we were talking about the very north end of that was to get acquisition of that property. We're talking about five or six years ago. Make like a camp . . . group campgrounds and stuff. That since has been purchased. The two pieces that we're looking at would give us access to the area. My concern is that now that's all condos along that area and some private homes so I mean we probably would need more input with those residents and anything else before we put camping. If we were doing any camping, it might be an organized type camping where they get permits for the boy scouts and girl scout troops. Unfortunately, there is a need for camping and being over here for as many years as I've had, there is very little opportunity for the boy scouts and the girl scouts to go out on different areas to camp. Usually their camping experience is either at the Girl Scout Camp up by Olinda, Camp Keanae, Camp Pecusa, or Camp Maluhia. So there is a need for the camping and I'm not against camping. I think we should look into finding more areas. One other thing in regards to South Maui is Kalepolepo. That's a very small park unless we're talking about everything from the Whale Sanctuary (the old NOAA building) to Maui Lu -- that's considered a park. Kalepolepo, per say, is very small half acre park that's kind of landlocked between the Royal . . . no, yeah . . . Royal Mauian . . . no, Menehune Shores and the NOAA site in front of which is the Marine Humpback Whale Sanctuary. And then on the road side basically you got the sewage treatment pump station right there. So that might be a recommendation is to remove that.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. BUCK: As far as developing campgrounds, my only concern or Glenn's . . . our concern is, is, is the lack of enforcement that we're experiencing right now. We have a lot of problems. Hopefully, in a . . . our goal is this year is to iden . . . to identify all the problems that we're having including the enforcements and we have several ideas that we presented to Administration and they're going to go forward and try to make recommendations as far as the enforcement. If we're having problems at two existing campgrounds, I don't want to sit there and establish another campground and you just multiply the problems. If part of that identified and we'll take back these sizeable, need to identify what kind of infrastructure we want. You know, do we want a very little developed area maybe just the bare necessities in some areas just maybe a portable toilet and some water of some kind even if it's a tank or something to as far as providing individual campgrounds with tables and barbecue pits and showers and things like that. So everything is . . . has a cost to it. It depends on what we're willing to do, how it's developed and what the community wants. Also, if we rely on the

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Parks Department or even the County to establish camping grounds, it's the . . . it's the operations cost and are we willing to put up the manpower and the monies for it or shall we look at alternatives, I think, it was mentioned earlier by the Chair that maybe we look into getting a commercial entity. If we were to do that, it might behoove us to look at maybe somewhat areas that are large, say like the old Maui High School or something like that. They're quite large areas where they could develop those areas, maybe be able to make a . . . worth their while then add on these to the other areas, the smaller areas as part of the overall. We give them just a small campground to start as a pilot project it might not be worth their while for the operations. So that's all the comments I have for right now.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay, great. Mr. Correa, you have anything to add at this time?

MR. CORREA: No, Chairman Johnson.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. Councilmember Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yes. Thank you, Chair. I don't know if anybody else has been approached, but I had a couple of Paia merchants talk to me and some people in the Paia area. And there was several editorials in the paper about the campground that we had at Baldwin Park before. And I had only . . . I heard nobody speak against having camping over there that's approached me and I see nothing in the editorials in the paper against it. Is there any consideration that the Parks have had about reinstating camping at Baldwin?

CHAIR JOHNSON: Either . . . either of our Parks people. Any feeling one way or the other?

MR. BUCK: I do know that we had camping over there at one point in time, but I think it was a issue of security and a few other things -- traffic. That's something maybe we could research back over. Also, I see there's a lot of your looking in Sprecklesville area. That's something maybe we can research farther on. Because of the problems that we are having experiencing on the camping grounds, I think, that was one of the first areas. And to answer Mr. Molina's question, there was camping at Rainbow Park one time and some of that was again security issues, the lack of amenities, no such as, you know, running water, and things like that. So we kind of condensed it to one . . . one area, which we condensed it to Kanaha. But, yeah, we, we . . . there is a possibility we can look into it.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yeah, because one of the things that came up that Paia people brought up was that they would rather have a campground over there instead of having people just camping down the beach toward that end of Paia and the other side. And it would get them . . . they felt that over there was

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open so it did have security because it's right by the road. You have, you know, it's hard to do anything wrong over there when it's so visible. So it seemed to have a lot of pluses and it had support so I would appreciate it if, you know, could look into perhaps reinstating camping to some degree over there.

MR. BUCK: Yeah, I think what I need to do is go back and find out. There was probably reasons why we closed it and . . . and since there was in regards to safety issues or something we can always come back.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: In that case, Chair, I'd like to add that to the list for consideration.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Sure. And I just wanted to mention, too, that because we had no notice, you know, of any action being taken what we're going to do is this is just an informal list that we're working on so next time what we'll try to do is have something formal prepared basically working a little bit more with Parks in refining so that . . . And also, the other Committee Members or the other Council Members that are not Committee Members, I really think it's important if they have something that they would like to see perhaps what we can do is also send out a letter in the interim. Have Staff send out a letter to try to gather input because this is really a very hard task to try to bring together all these elements and try to find what people want, where they want it. Sometimes we had only one or two people at these meetings and if the larger community looked at these lists, they would go no way I wouldn't want that park or I wouldn't want the . . . camping in that area. So whatever we have, ultimately we're going to have to take out to the community and deal with that. So it is a formidable task. Councilmember Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Madam Chair, yeah, with regards to the consideration given for Baldwin Beach Park, what might help as far as getting community input is maybe we could go through, say, the local community association there to get feedback from both, I guess, I know in Paia they have the Merchant's Association, as well as the Paia Main Street Association. So, I guess, in general maybe for all the proposed campsites if we could get feedback from the community associations, as well, to help us make a decision on.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And . . . and maybe that might be one good thing that we could really achieve out of this is for us to actually send these letters out to the community associations in these areas too and just ask for their general comments because the more input that we do get, the more valuable it's going to be. Councilmember Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, I just wanted to share that Baldwin Beach Park campgrounds was closed during my tenure in Parks and the reason that it was closed was because of all of the violent things that were happening at that beach

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at the campsite. If you recall, it was by the road. It had a port-a-potty. It was fenced in with a chainlink fence. And I believe that there were several assaults there and might have been even one murder. I'm not sure or one really serious assault. And even though it's right on the road, these things happen and I think what Mr. Buck was saying that the security is the problem. Monitoring and providing a safe and secure campsite is what we have to focus on. And the problem with looking at remote sites that don't have security is that it's going to attract the undesirable elements in our society to go after the folks that are camping there or to themselves be, you know, a big old party. I know that, or I understood that . . . that during this year's budget, there was money set aside for a design for Kanaha Beach Park. And I had thought that Carl Takumi had that design contract for Kanaha. So if you could check around cause I thought that's what the former Director had told me that they looked at letting a contract out for the design of a campground at Kanaha Beach Park. So maybe I misunderstood what year it was, but . . . Is Floyd in the Department?

MR. CORREA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, he's the one, I think, that I talked to before, last year sometime. So he might remember, recall where we were. The only part that I was surprised about was that Carl Takumi, you know, a Civil Engineer, was going to be designing a campground. I was a little concerned about that, but if he was working with someone else, that makes sense because there is drainage issues to be addressed there, Kanaha, because there is a lot of wetland in that area. But, I think, that I would like to see us focus on Kanaha Beach Park as the number one priority for camping at Maui County at this time. We already own the property. We have some camping there on a limited basis. The . . . the location is ideal. It's close enough that if there is a problem, police is close. And if we get parks police back in the Parks Department next budget then, I think, we will alleviate some of those problems. The original idea for that Kanaha campground was that there would be 24-hour personnel on the site and that people would pay a higher premium for that. But, I think, like, if you know, families would go out there, they wouldn't mind paying that higher rate if they knew that there was going to be someone, you know, on the grounds at all times where they could be assured that they would be secure, especially at night. The daytime there's enough people running around and stuff, but I think at night we need to have security in these parks. We no longer live in a society where you can just go off on your own and have a grand time and expect that everyone is going to respect your ability to enjoy life. That . . . those days are gone and we can't go back to it. So let's face the reality and say we still want the experience, but with that wanting of that experience, we're going to have to dedicate funds, people are going to have to realize they're going to have to pay for that sense of security if they want that experience. So I would . . . I would recommend that we put Kanaha Beach Park as the number one priority for Maui County at this time. And

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let's get that one going and up and running and then see if some of these other places might be possible.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And I . . . I think that's really what I'm trying to do and I think all of us are trying to do is get a sense of where our assets and revenues are going to be placed and the priorities are to me most critical. Because there's some sites that are going to be a long way down on the list. They won't be able to be developed. One of the sites I would also add and it was made in a recommendation to me or reminder to me in West Maui is Camp Pecusa. I don't know whether that property . . . I believe it's currently in the hands of the West Maui Land Company. But that is something that is in our community plan and so whether it's run as a private campground and, you know, either the County may not want to even buy the land right now, but if there's any interest. I know this meeting isn't being televised, but if any of you are aware of any interest of any parties coming forward with private campground either proposals or anything of that sort, I think, that we would be very interested in looking at that as an option because the government can't do everything. There's only so much money we have. Is there anything else that we have at this time? Any other comments? Corporation Counsel do you have anything to add or . . . ?

MR. KUSHI: Madam Chair, yeah, I thought it was a good discussion with Member Tavares about security and based on that, I would suggest that in any exploration of adding new campsites, maybe you should include the Police in these discussions.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

MR. KUSHI: So they can kind of comment on their . . . their aspect from the enforcement security side.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay, great. And then it's too bad that we don't have those two park police positions filled. But unfortunately, they're not. But perhaps we can request them at one of our next meetings. Tamara?

MS. KOLLER: Yes, Madam Chair. In response to Councilmember Tavares' comment about Kanaha Park and money put in for the design. I just checked the budget file for Fiscal Year 2003 and that money was removed. And I am not sure . . . I don't remember. I thought we had money in 2002 and it looked like there was initially \$100,000 in this year, but it was removed. So maybe there were some other priorities that were replaced.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you for checking. It's an advantage when you have somebody who also works on Budget. If there is nothing further, it would be the

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Chair's intent, of course, to defer this item and continue to work on the issues of camping. I think it's going to be a long-range proposition. Are there any other recommendations that any of you have about how we might proceed at our next meeting? Or actually, I think, our next meeting is going to be postponed until after Budget so we're going to have quite some time. I did cancel our next meeting because there was nothing really pressing that we had and we did have so our . . . another committee that needed that slot. So Councilmember Tavares did you have anything? Nothing, okay. Councilmember Carroll.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: The only thing is if in between, if possible there was time and we could schedule it, maybe the two of us could go to schedule something for Kaupo or possibly Paia or maybe you and Mr. Molina for Paia just to get some input.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And . . . and absolutely we're in . . . I am still completely open to doing what we did last term, which is if you want to have a community meeting or if you are having a community meeting, I would be happy to come and just, you know, give the handouts . . . just do that on my own as Chair of the Parks and Ag Committee. Because the more feedback, I said as we get along in this process, the more feedback we can get, the better off we're going to be. And I will just await the Budget recommendations then as this comes up and if there are things that are contained in the budget that have to do with camping or parks, I do agree that one of the most important things is going to be enforcement. So that will be something that I'm looking for because the existing camping areas that we have and the enforcement is so critical. Councilmember Tavares.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: Yeah, I have one thing I wanted to stick in when we were talking about Rainbow Park.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER TAVARES: That was another park where camping was allowed earlier and then it was closed down. With the . . . the pike . . . Baldwin Avenue Bikeway Project, there may be an opportunity with that bikeway or because of that bikeway to re-look at Bald . . . Rainbow Park as a campsite. Because if the bikeway, as I understand it is going to go behind the park and if it does go behind the park then there's going to be more activity in that area. And perhaps that will be a time for us to look at upgrading Rainbow Park and perhaps putting camping back in there. I mean it was used as a campsite quite . . . quite a bit, but, you know, due to those security reasons we just felt we're putting people at risk. I mean you can't . . . can't give them something, oh here we have these campgrounds, you get a permit, you pay a fee, and then, you know, you're kind of stuck out there on your own and who knows what and those things did happen. So, you know, perhaps as, as things get developed in the area like the bikeway, it's another opportunity for us to maybe revisit that later on. And maybe

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even in conjunction with that bikeway there may be opportunities along that bikeway to create other campsite areas so people could, you know, be on a bike tour or bike to their campground and bike back or something. So those are some other options maybe in the future.


CHAIR JOHNSON: I really appreciate that and as we're in a new term and we have a new Administration one of the key things is that we're trying to work very closely with them and trying to see what's realistic for development and also trying to see if the Council Members themselves have priorities or your constituents, too. So any input that you can give, any guidance that you can give to the Chair or the . . . the Staff is always appreciated. So if you at any time would like myself and we can always ask the Parks Administration, as well, if they would like to come to any of our community meetings. We and West Maui have not had any meetings that have dealt with community subjects, you know, at large. And I think our camping turnout last time when we had in Lahaina it was very, very limited. So I think that until we take these things out to the community, we're probably not going . . . going to see tons of people coming forward to attend these meetings if it's strictly for camping. But I think your suggestion is good and I will work with you Mr. Carroll and also Councilmember Molina . . . any of you would like me to come into your area and address those issues. But for the time being, if you have no further comments. Alright. I look forward to having a wonderful and lively Budget session then and probably long meetings discussing many of these issues and priorities. But I thank you all for your attendance today and I thank the Administration, Corp. Counsel and Staff.

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

CHAIR JOHNSON: This meeting is adjourned. . . . (gavel) . . .

ADJOURN: 2:23 p.m.

APPROVED:


JO ANNE JOHNSON, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

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Transcribed by: Clarita Balala