

MINUTES

PARKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

Council Chamber

December 15, 2005

CONVENE: 1:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Chair
Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Michelle Anderson, Member

STAFF: David Raatz, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary

ADMIN.: John D. Kim, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel
John Buck, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Steve Goldstein
Plus (2) other people

PRESS: *Akaku--Maui County Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR JOHNSON: The Parks and Economic Development Committee meeting of December 15, 2005 is convened. We have with us today Member Carroll, Member Mateo, and Vice-Chair Charmaine Tavares. Excused is Member Michelle Anderson. Also, we have with us from the Parks, our Deputy Director, Mr. John Buck; and from Corporation Counsel, Mr. J.D. Kim. We also have substituting with us today, Mr. David Raatz and also . . . um . . . we have Ms. Pauline Martins. So members, we only have two items on our agenda and because they're updates, this should be a relatively short meeting. We are going to just for the information of the testifiers, there is the Mayor's conference and he asked that some of the members or all of the members that are present be up at his conference at 2 o'clock. So . . . uh . . . ordinarily, we don't rush through meetings but it was a special request and because we only have updates, it should not be a lengthy meeting. For those individuals who have signed up to testify, you will be given three minutes with one minute to conclude. We have two items on our agenda, Parks and Economic Development No. 17, which is an update on the status of County of Maui's pool heaters; and

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our Parks and Economic Development No. 1, which is dealing with the Hula Bowl, which is a housekeeping issue to simply file this matter because the Hula Bowl, as many of you know, is no longer being held here. So without further adieu, I would now entertain public testimony and we only have one individual signed up to testify and that is Mr. Steve Goldstein . . . so if you could come forward.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. GOLDSTEIN: I can walk very fast.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Oh, no. You don't have to rush. We certainly got time, especially for the public.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: Okay. Thank you, Jo Anne. I addressed this body on November 3rd with the hopes that I could encourage a speedy resolution to the pool problems Upcountry (the heater problems and the circulation pump problems) and I was delighted with the response that I got from John Buck and from the members of the committee. I just wanted to tell you . . . to give you an update that I was able to address the Kula Community Association on the 15th of November and was given a lot of support from Charmaine and also was able to gather an additional 30 signatures on the petition so that you guys now have . . . um . . . at the conclusion of this meeting or shortly thereafter, you will have the original copy of the 270 signatures that we were able to get entitled petition "Fix Our Upcountry Pool Now!" and I was able to get an additional 30 signatures from the people who attended the meeting at the Kula Community Center on the 15th of November. So I am just here to encourage you to help us and to thank you very much for your support. Thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much, Steven. If you could just state your name, just for the record.

MR. GOLDSTEIN: My name is Steve Goldstein and I live in Keokea.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you very much. Are there any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you so much, Steven. I appreciate your support and we can always use that during Budget.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other individuals in the audience, who wish to testify on this matter? Seeing none. If there are no objections, members, I will close public testimony on this item.

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

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PED-17 COUNTY OF MAUI'S POOL HEATERS (C.C. No. 05-316)

CHAIR JOHNSON: Mr. Buck, since Parks and Economic Development Committee No. 17 is dealing with our County of Maui's pool heaters, if you would be kind enough to go through our update and members, just so that you're aware, I think Councilmember Tavares was the only individual not able to make the last meeting; but because of what Mr. Goldstein and members of the community had requested, we thought it would be a very good idea to at least let the public know and let the Council members know what was going on with our County pool heaters. Shelly Espeleta, who ordinarily works with us, she's away today. She was kind enough to prepare and put everything in a matrix format so that we could see what the status is. This is also available to . . . if you would like a copy, Mr. Goldstein. And so I will just have John go through the update and thank you very much too for also providing the information to actually put into the matrix. Mr. Buck?

MR. BUCK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think the matrix kind of explains about what the problem is, what the issues are, what our short-term and long-term plans are, and kind of where the status is. What the . . . um . . . unfortunately, as I had said before, that with the Upcountry Pool, there's really not a real short-term solution that we can, it's like maybe putting couple wires together and have the thing up. It's more of a long-term solution. They are working on the pumps . . . uh . . . on the heaters for the two smaller pools, which The Gas Company should have up and running by the end of this month. As far as the long-term solutions, there's some . . . it's the purchase of two gas fire heaters and some other work that needs to be done. And in the near future, there should be a request coming from the Administration as far as our plan as far as the funding of these projects and the Goldstein's are in the audience and hopefully at that point in time, they'll be here to support that funding request. I'll just give you a brief update . . . um . . . and I've just got a . . . it might not be in relationship to the matrix, I just . . . um . . . Marvin from The Gas Company today is off-island. He had to do some things on the Big Island but he kind of gave me an update this morning. As you know, with the Sakamoto Pool, we had a very short-term fix and hopefully, we can get it up maybe another couple weeks and that includes the replacement of some exchangers, which are here on the island; and to do . . . correct a circulation loop problem and to change out the gas tank. A lot of this was depending on us cutting the wall to increase the ventilation in the room. That cutting of that wall was completed today as we speak so The Gas Company will start doing some of the other work, such as replacing the gas . . . uh . . . the heat exchangers and doing the correction on the circulation loop. We're anticipating maybe the first of . . . maybe the first week in January.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And . . .

MR. BUCK: But don't hold me by that date. You know, I'm just saying that he's saying the anticipated completion will be January.

CHAIR JOHNSON: And that is on the Sakamoto Pool?

MR. BUCK: That's correct. It's on the Sakamoto Pool.

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CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. BUCK: The Kahului Pool, they have done some work on it. They still haven't been able to fire up but . . . uh . . . a couple of problems they ran into is with that Microtherm and a couple other switches that were put on it and when this has happened is when they were trying to fix it, they had too many extra wires so they didn't know where some of those wires went. They requested wire diagrams for both the Lockover and the Microtherm and one other high-limit switch. They got that wire diagram in from the various manufacturers and he's anticipating a completion of . . . and hopefully to get the pool fired up by the 20th of this month. The Kihei Aquatics . . . um . . . the pool is running. There is a . . . uh . . . they need to change their regulator and I've been told that that regulator change should be completed by next week (the 19th). Lahaina Pool, he's anticipating by the end of the month to have everything replaced and up and running for the both pools. The kiddy pool is working. I think there were some concerns about the rats and the insulation, so we're gonna try and address that. I should say that The Gas Company for the Kihei Pool is scheduling an overall maintenance program for the three . . . five heaters, no four heaters. The Kihei Pool, they're gonna schedule a maintenance in June of next year just to, you know, that's one of the things we wanted to do with The Gas Company was to start establishing a regular maintenance program. Kokua Pool, as I said before, it was not working. Now, it is working; it's up and running. Again, like the Pukalani Pool, they're gonna be working on to get the . . . um . . . at least the smaller heaters up and running and we're working on the funding to get the big pool onboard. Cooke Memorial is up and running. Everything is going good over there and everybody is happy with the pool. That's about all for the update. I'll take any questions.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Members, are there any questions? Councilmember Tavares.

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Yes. When you say you're working on the funding, what does that mean?

MR. BUCK: Administration's gonna be sending down a request to transfer some funds.

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Why are there funds being requested to transfer when there is money in the parks maintenance Countywide fund?

MR. BUCK: That money is . . . uh . . . it was \$300,000 that's being . . . um . . . we've had a lot of requests--up until we started having these problems--to replace fences and some other safety issues throughout the parks, so there's not enough.

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Because I had requested a breakdown of what was being spent already from that fund and you know, as of . . . I think it was November 22nd, the balance was \$189,000 and some extra change. But wouldn't the Department re-look at the priorities and put the pool heaters in here or whatever short-term things you needed to come out of this particular fund, and then ask later to . . . um . . . transfer monies or something for the pool heaters?

MR. BUCK: I would . . . I'll go back with the . . . um . . . with the Director and take a look at that.

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VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Yeah. If there is something that where you can use this fund now and replenish the fund, you know, call this sort of an emergency kind of thing and then replenish the fund as the paperwork comes down because we haven't gotten any paperwork yet that I know of--

MR. BUCK: No, it's not . . .

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: --from the Administration.

MR. BUCK: They're putting it together right now.

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Yeah, so it's gonna be . . . they put it together; it's gonna be January. It comes to Council; it's gonna be February, March. So in the meantime, if we could get some funds up there upfront that's available right now to the Department, it would help the situation at the pools. At least try to address the short-term ones; and I know the long-term ones, we'll do with the Budget (the 2007 Fiscal Year Budget).

MR. BUCK: Okay. I'll . . .

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: That might be a possibility.

MR. BUCK: Okay. I'll take a look at it to see where we are because I know we have some other projects committed. I don't know where we're at with them on some repairs, so I would have to go back and check with the staff.

VICE-CHAIR TAVARES: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Are there any other questions, members? Member Mateo.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Buck, good afternoon. I would assume at this particular point that the Department's two priorities in dealing with the pool heating situations, one is Upcountry and two is Sakamoto?

MR. BUCK: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: And in your summation, within the next couple of months, will we be able to actually address and implement these recommendations?

MR. BUCK: In January, we should have Sakamoto up and running on a temporary basis. That's why we cut the wall and they're gonna change the clean . . . uh . . . the heat exchangers out. Then the plan for that is the purchase--we have an indoor pool there and it's inside of a room. And in talking with heater people and a few others, it was recommended because of the trade winds and things like that, that instead of having an indoor heater, that maybe we go with outdoor heaters. We have to buy two because they make them a little bit smaller than let's say an indoor heater. Because what's happening is if we get . . . if we

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leave the doors open to get the ventilation going, it flames out and they're not designed to have a lot of wind blowing through the room and stuff. So what we're planning on doing as a long-term fix is to purchase two outdoor heaters that can withstand the wind and things like that. That's our long-term but short-term, we should be up and running next month.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay. And to follow-up with Member Tavares's question then, the monies you're gonna need to initiate the repairs, we're not gonna wait till the 2007 Budget, right? We're looking at initiating repairs and replacements based on funds that could be available now?

MR. BUCK: Correct. Our ultimate goal is to have everything up and running, at least on order, before the . . . even the start of the fiscal year. That's what our intent is. Pukalani Pool, there's gonna be some engineering things that need to be done and we're working with The Gas Company to see who can--because everybody's busy--who can maybe make it a priority to do some engineering designs as far as if we put the two heaters in, if we need to do some re-engineering designs as far as the circulation. But our goal is to get the heat in the water in all the pools and have it, you know, up and running, short-term (real fast). And with the Pukalani Pool, because the three heat exchanges now are not gonna really keep up, unfortunately, we're gonna try to get that going as fast as possible. Sakamoto Pool and Kahului Pool, if they're working, on the short-term fix, then we probably will either pre-summer to do the repairs or right after summer to do the installation of the heaters because we do not want to be in the middle of say Summer Pals or anything like that and then shut the pool down for a couple days to, you know, hook up the heaters or whatever has to be done.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay.

MR. BUCK: But we'll try to get everything (all the parts and everything) ordered before the . . . July 1st.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Okay. Go back to the Upcountry Pool again, which seems to be the area with the greatest need and the greatest expense at this particular point. In terms of doing the repairs and the replacements that's being suggested, what is the timetable for keeping the pool closed?

MR. BUCK: If possible, we want to keep it closed . . . uh . . . our ultimate goal is not to close the pool. There might be a couple hours switchover or whatever needs to be done. What we'll probably do is pipe everything and then do the last minute connection maybe in the late afternoon or something so we are not shut down more than . . . our ultimate goal is not to shutdown the pool. With the Upcountry Pool, which will probably go in for the 2007 Budget is the new filter system. That may require us to . . . um . . . we're keeping the heating project one, and then the filters project another one, because I think the heating project right now is a little bit more . . . uh . . . a higher priority than the filters. The filters are not all that good but they're still working. We did install a new pump or in the process of installing a new pump on the filter to keep it going. Hopefully, it's gonna keep it . . . extend the life until we do the filter. But the filter, when we do the filter, we may shut the pool down for a few days. However, we'll do that if goal on July 1st, finally, we'll probably do it right after summer, so we don't get into the peak period. But we'll do what we can to not shut it down too long.

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COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: Thank you, Mr. Buck. Thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Thank you. Members, are there any additional questions? Mr. Buck, just on the Lahaina Aquatic Center, that pool repair (the heating system repair) I believe you mentioned that's gonna be done hopefully by the end of December. Is that correct? The early part of January? Or is that working?

MR. BUCK: Madam Chair, according to my E-mail from Marvin at The Gas Company, they anticipate completion (up and running) by the 29th of this month.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Great. I know that the pool users will be happy.

MR. BUCK: Again, do not hold me to those deadlines because, you know, anything can happen between now and then.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Well, I noted that you have "parts have been ordered" and if mailing of parts during the holidays is like regular mail, I think it's gonna be difficult. Members, if there are no objections, I am going to defer any action on this item. I'm gonna keep it alive in the committee because if there are other updates then I would receive that, unless you have any desire to file it. But I just felt if there was something that came up or if correspondence needed to be forwarded or testimony (such as the petitions which Mr. Goldstein has), then this would be an active committee item. So if there are no objections, I would defer any action on PED-17.

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

CHAIR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (PRESENT: CARROLL, JOHNSON, MATEO, AND TAVARES)

ACTION: DEFER.

PED-1 HULA BOWL (C.C. No. 04-294)

CHAIR JOHNSON: The final item on our agenda is Parks and Economic Development Committee No. 1, which is dealing with the Hula Bowl. In your binders, you will find a County Communication No. 04-294, which is dated December 3, 2004. As many of you or all of you should know, the Hula Bowl is now moved to Oahu. Therefore, it was simply a housekeeping measure that I wanted to clean the agenda and to file this item. So at this point in time, unless any of the members have any items that they want to discuss about this, the Chair would entertain a motion to file.

COUNCILMEMBER MATEO: So moved.

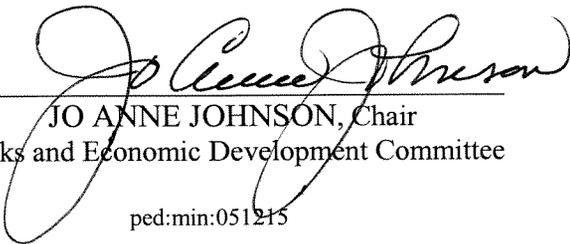
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CHAIR JOHNSON: And the Chair had voted "aye". So members, if there's nothing further, this would conclude our business for the day. I thank you very much and we should be able to attend the Mayor's press conference on our water issues. So thank you all for your attendance today and happy holidays. Thank you, staff. This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURN: 1:52 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



JO ANNE JOHNSON, Chair
Parks and Economic Development Committee
ped:min:051215

Transcribed by: Pauline Martins