

6-12-09

CBCA Minutes

Attendees: Chu Lan, Barbara Hao, Dolores Mollring, Sandra Pohl, Susan Lebo, Debbie Kim Morikawa, Ernie Loo, Johnny Ng, Jun Yang, Tom Smyth, John Chang, Al Canopin Jr., Thomas Sum, Tana kekina-Cabaniero, Cecelia Chang, Richard Fikani, Councilman Rod Tam, Marsha Joyner

Agenda:

Community Development - Debbie Morikawa

Ms. Morikawa shared no new information about the River Street Apartments project. She said that Wayne Yoshioka had reviewed the list given by CBCA concerning parking and crosswalk issues. His office will conduct an analysis and get back to CBCA in about a month to discuss what is doable. Ms. Chu Lan requested that they get back in time for CBCA to include this information in the jay-walking campaign on July 11, 2009. Our pressing issue is the crosswalks at Kekaulike & King and at Kekaulike & Hotel. Ms. Morikawa responded that she will ask Wayne's office to focus on the crosswalk issues first. She also stated that HPD reports vendors have been encroaching further out into the sidewalks than is legally allowed. As such, HPD is expecting to give more citations.

The group discussed having CBCA inform vendors that as HPD addresses the jaywalking problem they will also address the encroachment issue, resulting in citations or tickets rather than just warnings. Johnny suggested CBCA put together a letter to deliver to vendors as part of the jaywalking campaign to educate them. The group agreed.

The group also discussed the brochures CBCA will be handing out as part of the jaywalking campaign. The "Safety Tips for Pedestrian" brochure is printed in Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Vietnamese, and English.

The second brochure is "Pedestrian & Driver Safety." It is printed in English only. Officer Richard Futani was asked if it was possible for HPD to supply 200 copies of each brochure for the 5 stations for the 3 days (3000 brochures). He said he would ask.

The group will also be at each station distribute CBCA information & membership form.

Ms. Chu Lan again voiced concern & the need to educate people, particularly those who don't read English, about the "No Turn on Red" signs at some of the intersections, River/King, River/Beretania. She would like to see signs put up in Chinese, possibly multi-lingual signs.

Before July 11, the team leaders for the jaywalking campaign will have an organizational meeting. Sandy, Chu Lan, and Karl kao will be in charge of posters. Cecelia's office will work on the printing.

The jaywalking campaign will be on three days, July 11, 15, 18, for about 2-3 hours each. The first day's kick off will include a press conference. There will also be a lion dance, & the lion will lead the parade around the route; see website for parade route; Johnny will update website. Al will get the permit for Kekaulike Mall. Everyone was asked to wear their red t-shirts.

During the week of July 11-18, 2009, HPD will be giving out warnings for jaywalking and work on educating the public. After that, they will resume giving tickets.

Ms. Chu Lan said the group needed to find a replacement for Ms. Juanita for station 1. She is no longer an active member. No replacement was decided.

Community Prosecuting - Cecelia Chang & Tana Kekina-Cabeniero
Ms. Chang presented a handout and discussed what constitutes a "chronic high crime" area and solutions for addressing this problem. Among the key concepts she discussed were the 3 components that must be present to create such an area, specifically, location, victim, and offender. She presented several national crime statistics, and several indicators of the crime problem in Chinatown, with data from 2004-2008. In order to address the problem, she said it is important to focus on the 3 R's, namely engineering, education, and enforcement. Ms. Chang provided examples of some of the problems and partial solutions related to Chinatown. She finished by emphasizing the need for everyone to look at the big picture, to think long-term solutions, to examine whether a possible solution may actually create new problems.

Ms. Chang praised CBCA, but also challenged the group to be holistic and balanced in creating its problem-solving vision. She also emphasized the need to include & to think about all the stakeholders in creating this vision and in offering solutions. A possible solution for business people might create problems for residents, &tc. The group needs to focus on long-term solutions.

City Grant for Cultural Event - John Chang

John Chang announced that the CBCA grant application for \$10,000 to organize a cultural event, Block Party, was approved. The group asked for his office to send CBCA a letter announcing this award. The group will then respond with a letter invoice for 80% of the award, \$8,000. The remaining 20% will be paid after the event has occurred and CBCA submits a report.

Block Party - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan reported that the Block Party is scheduled for August 29, 2009. It will be held at the Smith Beretania Park. She put out a request for items for a silent auction. The City will be co-sponsors with CBCA in hosting this event. The City will print the posters. Sandy recommended that a subcommittee be formed for planning the Block Party. The group agreed. Rod T. said he would check on whether the mayor had something already scheduled for that date or would be able to attend.

Crime Committee Report - Johnny Ng & Marsha

Johnny & Marsha reported on the results of the committee's recent meeting. The group had invited the City environmental/recycling people and Mindy of Waikiki Worm Co. to attend and present their programs to the committee on Wed, July 10, 2009. Only Mindy was able to attend. She presented her worm composting program, which the group highly endorsed.

The committee recommended asking the City to provide funding for 3 composting units to be placed at Kekaulike Mall for a cost of \$3,000 each. Barbara spoke with Kepa, who manages the trash pickup for Kekaulike Mall. She reported he is highly enthusiastic about the project and is willing to manage it within his space at the mall.

Other recycling options are still on the table for discussion, including recycling containers for bottles, cans, cardboard, etc. The group discussed painting the lids of the composting, which Marsha says she has already spoken with interested artist. Also discussed were several different options regarding can/bottle recycling containers. The City has indicated that it can provide up to 30 containers for bottles/cans. The recycling container system developed by several UH professors and widely used on that campus is another option that was mentioned.

CBCA members were all invited to tour one of the worm composting sites on Wed, July 17, 2009 @9am. Johnny will email details.

Honolulu Culture & Arts District - Marsha

Ms. Marsha reported on several upcoming events.

"Day of Dragon Stone", Sept 9, 2009

It will be 'treasure hunt' format. Currently the event is scheduled for the Arts District, but she requested CBCA to look at developing other components that would draw participants into the main part of Chinatown. The group expressed interest.

"Hippy Holiday", June 19, 2009, 5-10pm

This will be a nostalgic event with 40 volkswagens. They will not be closing the streets. There will be music on several corners and movies playing at Next Door, "Hair" and "Playing for Change."

"Pets on Parade," July 18, 2009

A pet parade, 10 blocks. It is a fundraiser for Hepatitis Network of Hawaii.

"Hispanic Heritage Month," Sept 12, 2009

This event will be put on by Hispanic Center of Hawaii; it is not a HCAD event. It will include a parade on Hotel Street, beginning at 4pm

Other Business - Chu Lan

Ms. Chu Lan ask Richard Futani to provide hardcopy of crime statistics so CBCA may post them on the group's website.

River Street Apartments Update - Councilman Rod Tam

Councilman Tam informed the group that he had met with Kirk Caldwell, the City's Managing Director. The current plan is to create a working group/task force to help develop a master plan for the project. He/They would like to have a representative from CBCA be on this committee. He also reported that the project site was purchased with a block grant for affordable housing.

The group discussed various perspectives about the project, including the need for such housing, as well as concerns about this particular project and how it has been handled thus far, particularly with respect to community involvement.

Ms. Marsha reiterated that the Arts District merchants association had requested that an Environmental Impact Assessment be done, but that no one from the City has responded to that request and no EIA has been done that anyone is aware of. Further, this association has over 50 members and their views need to be represented.

Further discussion on the matter will occur at future meetings, including consideration of selecting a CBCA representative.

Meeting adjourned.

Susan Lebo, Recording Secretary

