

Kāneʻohe Bay Regional Council Meeting Minutes 11/5/2020

Agenda
November 5, 2020
Windward Community College
Online via ZOOM (link listed below agenda)
6:00PM-8:00PM

1. Opening call to order 6:09PM

Introduction to all in attendance

- Brian Neilson, DLNR-DAR, administrator and Chair of KBRC.
- Liko Kaluhiwa- Kāneʻohe Bay Recreational Boating Association (voting member)
- Fred Reppun HIMB (new voting member, taking over for Dr. Judy Lemus represents Hawaiʻi Institute on Marine Biology (HIMB) on the KBRC- Member education specialist NERRS
- Megan Ostrem- Kāneʻohe Bay Marine Corps Representative (Non-voting member)
- Mo Radke -Kāneʻohe neighborhood board chair/representative. (voting member)
- Clifford Loo- Kahaluʻu neighborhood board representative. (Voting member)
- Kirk Deitschman- Makai Watch coordinator-DLNR (non-voting Member)
- Mahealani Cypher- representing Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, Mokupuni Oahu (o Kakuhihewa) (non-voting Member)
- Josh Hekeia, Office of Planning sitting in for Director Mary Alice Evens, (non-voting Member)
- Cedric Bertelmann – Fisherman, Heʻeia kea pier user (voting member)
- Wayne Tanaka – OHA (voting member)
- Rocky Kaluhiwa- (Aha Moku & Koolaupoko HCC- non-voting member)
- Kristy- community member and paddler on the bay
- Tanya and Paka with Heʻeia Kea small boat harbor
- Stacia Marcoux- DAR-Oʻahu, Marine Managed Areas Biologist

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

- Member Radke motions to approve agenda, Member Loo seconded the motion
- Unanimous approval

3. Approval of Council minutes of February 5, 2020 (Action Item)

- Member Radke prefers “observed” as opposed to “brings up the fact” from 02/05/2020 minutes
- Member Radke moves to accept the minutes after the suggested changes
- Member Cypher- Name spelled with “a” - Mahealani Cypher, representing Ko‘olau not Ko‘olaupoko
- Member Loo Seconded motion
- Motion passes unanimously, none opposed

4. Presentation on Holomua Marine 30x30 Initiative by Stacia Marcoux (Non-Action Item)

5. Discussion of Activities in Kāne‘ohe Bay during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Non-Action Item)

- Mahealani- Things were shut down and recovering with less impact on the Bay, have there been improvements in the last 8 months?
 - More fish?
 - Damage to the coral?
 - Brian Neilson- DAR has been out doing surveys throughout the pandemic, not Kaneohe Bay specifically, but DAR is seeing a major increase in fishing, but also a major change in fish behavior. More schooling fish close to shore, large schools. Some of this is leading to fishing/swimmer user-conflict. Reports of different dolphin behavior as well.
 - Kayak activity? Liko has seen more people going out on personal kayaks and people using personal boat for commercial activities, no fishing license, giving people the keys to drive personal boats for commercial gain. A lot of people with their personal kayaks and personal boats and renting them out. COVID is bringing more fish but also a lot more activity
 - Any renting of kayaks should be reported to Tanya, once they start doing tours, it become commercial activity
 - Member Radke reviewing new regulations to commercial use to see what has changed
 - Rocky - met with DOBOR and Kama‘aina Kids recently to discuss commercial activity
 - Member Reppun- HIMB recorded anchoring on reef and more activity on patch reefs, with sandbar being closed, especially reef #8,
 - Brian Neilson- no rules on anchoring on the patch reef so it was difficult to enforce

- Brian Neilson- are operators starting to get business again with tourists coming back?
 - Tanya- not yet, not enough volume to be worthwhile. Also, new tenants in harbor and deli/ convenience store is opening up Dec. 11 from 7AM – 5/6PM. Trying to gear up at the harbor for walkways, access for ice
- Rocky - Other businesses starting up recently, renting kayaks in the bay and going to Kualoa. Member Reppun- parking outside beach park and steady stream going to Moku li‘i and hiking up
- Member Bertelmann - weekends are when activity is really ramping up
- Kirk- Officers changed working schedule so there are officers on weekend but not a lot of officers, 2-3 officers per day. Very rare for officers to work at night. No one to answer the phone after 5PM so best to use TipApp
 - send an anonymous text tip via their cell phone to DOCARE by texting keyword DLNRTIP and their message/tip to 847411 (tip411)
- Kristy- Can the Council contact the website/organization that allows/promotes private boat rentals nationwide that different rules apply in Hawai‘i and inform what the rules are in Hawai‘i. Tanya willing to look into that website (boatsetter.com) and look up this information. Kristy- is it possible the Council can/should write a letter to this organization. Brian Neilson suggested DOBOR might be better to draft the letter for more traction. Brian Neilson said that he and Tanya can reach out to Ed Underwood and request a drafted letter about Hawai‘i boating regulations. Kristy “Just because they got bills to pay, doesn’t mean they can go out and do something illegal”
- Member Bertelmann- are there any thoughts to expanding the harbor or parking for boat trailers? There has been a lot of parking activity where trailers are blocking the road, ripping the fence along the side of the road. Tanya- no plans as of right now to expand the harbor, but can look into the parking situation across the road. Mahealani- are there numbers on carrying capacity for the harbor/ parking at the harbor. Tanya- yes they have those numbers and the numbers also have to account for access to emergency services. Working very hard to make the harbor safe. With COVID a lot of canoes and stand-up paddleboarders are using the harbor a lot more. People park like crazy on the weekend.

6. Permitted Interaction Group update on status of the Kāne‘ohe Bay Master Plan Update (Non-Action Item)

- Member Radke- author of the Master Plan, John Goodie passed away. Discussion was to look at plan and update it but without John, no updates done at this time. There may be some small changes like the number of permits that need to be updated. Member Radke and Liko will plan to get together, break it down and review it. Let Member Radke know who would be good to include in this process. Rocky and Amy Lewerson were involved in the Master Plan.

- Member Reppun stated that this Master Plan should be involved/included in the 30x30 planning process.

7. Suggestions of future agenda items (Non-Action Item)

- Member Reppun suggested
 - Update on planning process for He'eia State Park (Brian Neilson stated that the contract was just finalized today and the planner could be invited to the meeting).
 - State Water commission considering putting more water into He'eia Stream, accepting public testimony through November 30 to make recommendations of new in-stream flow standards.
- Member Bertelmann- discuss the issue of aquarium fishing within the bay and discussing proposing a ban on aquarium fishing in the bay
- Brian Neilson suggested standing agenda item of activities within the bay, Rocky seconded that suggestion

8. Scheduling of next Council Meeting

Brian Neilson proposed Wednesday, January 6, 2021, many agreed on this date

Megan - Engagement a couple weeks ago requested by Senator Keohokalole with Hiilei Kawelo and Eric Franklin toured ponds, species supported and reviewed management, discussion of research ideas- maybe new research coming in the future.

Mahealani- Those fish ponds can be a really good resource for the community for food. There have been discussions about partnerships regarding the fish ponds.

Rocky- glad to meet with the new commander and see this progress.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM