



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING

MONDAY, March 10, 2008

The Agricultural Development Task Force held a meeting on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 1:08. p.m. in the Council Committee Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Room 205, Honolulu Hale, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Yuki Kitagawa (Chair), Dean Okimoto, (Vice Chair), Jimmy Nakatani, Kapu Smith, Cal Lum and Robert McCormack

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Charley Ice

ADMINISTRATION/OTHERS PRESENT:

Venus Acoba, Lee Ann Bowman (Council Chair Marshall's office), Kimberly Ribellia (Councilmember Dela Cruz's staff), Sharleen Oshiro (Romy Cachola's staff), Andrew Sekine (Office of Council Services), David Tanoue, Deputy Director, Kathy Sokugawa, Robert Sumitomo (Department of Planning and Permitting), Clarice Hashimoto, Mayor's Office

Gary Moniz, Chief of Law Enforcement, Dan Quinn, Division of State Parks, Kirk Catrell, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Trail and Access Program, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), State of Hawaii

AGENDA ITEMS

Task Force Chair Kitagawa (Chair) introduced Richard McCormack who accepted the Chair's invitation to replace Wayne Ogasawara as a member of the Agricultural Development Task Force. It was moved and seconded to nominate and include Richard McCormack as a member of the Task Force.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 28, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated.

ITEM 2 LICENSING OF OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Chair Kitagawa called on the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to brief the Task Force on the State's dealing with off-road recreational vehicles.

Mr. Moniz explained that the off-road recreational vehicle problem is pervasive throughout the state causing damage to state lands and disturbances in state parks. The DLNR issues warnings or gives citations to the operators if they can be identified. Many of the vehicles do not have licenses or identifiable markings so cannot be cited. Mr. Moniz has made recommendations that any vehicle entering state property, a forest reserve or park, be street legal, identifiable, licensed and registered. He supports licensing off-road vehicles because it would be a helpful tool to catch trespassers and further recommends fines, forfeiture and seizure of the vehicles on private properties.

Mr. Quinn reported that another problem is caused by licensed 4-wheel drives that damage parks. The DLNR attempts to control them by sealing up areas with railings and pilings. Mr. Quinn also agreed that licensing the off-road vehicles would be a big help in following up on complaints.

Currently on Oahu, DLNR is developing an area in Sand Island to provide riders an opportunity to legally ride their vehicles. Mr. Catrell added that in his experience, ATVs and motorcycles have not been issues on hiking trails and are permitted in some forest reserves across the State with limited and managed use.

The DLNR has received federal funding for the State Trail Program, which includes ATV uses. The program requires that 30% of the \$800,000 Recreational Trust Program grant the state receives be used for motorized recreation statewide. Currently DLNR is working on creating authorized areas statewide to provide riders an opportunity to legally ride their vehicles. The tremendous growth in the use of these types of vehicles and the lack of authorized areas for these vehicles, enforcement will continue to be an issue. Mr. Catrell stated his strong support for licensing

of these vehicles to help the Honolulu Police Department and other enforcement officers.

Mr. Catrell reported that he has learned from trail managers on the mainland about their successful registration programs. The National Off-Highway Organization strongly recommends licensing and the registering of off-road vehicles in order to provide data on riders.

The Task Force approved a draft Bill for Licensing of Off-Road Recreational Vehicles with penalties and will review the final draft at an upcoming meeting.

ITEM 3 RESOLUTION 08-09 – AMENDMENT TO THE REVISED CHARTER
RELATING TO AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Task Force members following a discussion of the pros and cons of a commission versus a task force supported the formation of a commission.

The Charter is the City's Constitution and the members questioned whether it was the proper vehicle for the Commission's formation.

Follow ups for the next meeting:

1. Research whether the commission has to be done thru an amendment to the Charter or other means and how other counties processed their commissions by Council staff.
2. Request that Corporation Counsel present the history behind commissions, how they are established and the vehicles used to establish commissions.

Action is deferred to the next meeting.

ITEM 4 RESOLUTION 08-10 – AMENDING THE AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Task Force members approved Resolution 08-10.

ITEM 5 RESOLUTION 08-11 – DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING (DPP) TO HIRE ADDITIONAL AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

Mr. Tanoue reported that additional agricultural inspectors are not required at this time and when the need arises the DPP will make its request. . He noted that the lack of objective standards and definition of agriculture use make it difficult for inspectors to enforce the current agricultural complaints.

Member Smith suggested using the approved Agricultural Farm Plan that was submitted to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) as the basis for making an inspection.

Chair Kitagawa will request the DOA to attend the next Agricultural Development Task Force meeting to clarify the DOA review process.

The Task Force members deferred action on the Resolution.

ITEM 6 RESOLUTION 08-12 – URGING THE CITY COUNCIL TO HIRE PART-TIME SUPPORT STAFF TO ASSIST THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Task Force members supported Resolution 08-12.

ITEM 7 PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP DISCUSSION AND APPOINTMENT

Chair Kitagawa reported that Council Chair's staff, Ikaika Anderson, informed him that informal discussions are allowed provided no more than three members are in attendance at the meeting.

An invitation to attend the East Oahu County Farm Bureau's April 1, 2008 meeting in Kaneohe to discuss Resolution 08-08, which amends the Land Use Ordinance relating to Agricultural Lands, will be attended by Chair Kitagawa, Member Smith and Member Okimoto. Chair Kitagawa recommended that informal discussion meetings be held island wide at future dates.

Chair Kitagawa requested a copy of the Tax Department's bill requesting the elimination of the one-year dedication.

Related Communication:

M-405 Frederick M. Mencher for Grant Hamachi, President, East Oahu County Farm Bureau inviting members of the Agricultural Development Task Force to attend an upcoming meeting.

ITEM 8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.