

## HULOPO`E BEACH PARK COUNCIL MEETING

September 17, 2020

Virtual meeting via Zoom

PRESENT: Tammy Sanches, Pua Turqueza, Ella Yumol, Ewan Knowles, Sam Mora, Bruce Harvey, Michelle Fujie, Kelli Gima, Butch Gima

Staff support: Noemi Barbadillo and Mike Lopez, Pulama Lanai

### MINUTES:

Butch moved and Ewan seconded to approve the 2/20/20 minutes with no amendments. The motion was passed unanimously.

Later in the meeting the council decided to alternate minute taking due to Marilyn Dimaya's departure. Kelli expressed appreciation for Marilyn's conscientiousness in minute taking, posting of flyers and religiously keeping our Council folders up to date.

Butch will cover September and October minutes, Ewan will cover November and December and January and February will be covered by Michelle. Michelle asked that the minutes be done using Google Docs. Since Zoom records the meetings, there is the possibility of having our meetings transcribed by Zoom.

### OLD BUSINESS:

a. Student Survey update

Michelle reported the survey's on hold as the pandemic restrictions interrupted the students' work. Two students have since graduated and the then junior is no longer in her class. However several students are interested in resurrecting the survey and Michelle hopes to have an update for the council in a few months. Kelli reminded the council of the old HBPC survey that she forwarded to the council a few weeks ago.

### NEW BUSINESS:

a. Safety protocols at the beach park

Noemi provided a report detailing a number of changes, additions to beach park operations to facilitate pandemic related safety protocols. Many, if not all, are related to the Mayor's 5/13/20 proclamation including, but not limited to 24/7 Ranger monitoring, hand washing & social distancing signage, increased cleaning & sanitizing of park facilities, spacing of tables, disabling grills and limitation of group size.

Both Ewan and Saul complimented the Ranger staff for the work they're doing and their kokua when users have needed assistance.

Kelli noted the importance of differentiating between the Beach and the Beach Park, the Ranger's jurisdiction and access to the Beach. Butch suggested ongoing dissemination of this information via Lanai Today and lanai96763.com.

b. Entry gate to the beach park

Noemi shared visuals of the current, portable entry road barrier and a proposed permanent entry gate to be used only in cases of severe weather conditions (hurricane, tsunami), of state or county proclamation or restrictions similar to the current pandemic restrictions.

The proposed gate will remain locked, in an open position otherwise, and located halfway between the small boat harbor and the entry to the Beach Park.

Several members discussed the need for beach access signage and proactive communication to the community to dispel any misconceptions of the intent of the gate placement.

Public Testimony:

1. Lehua Matsuoka

Noemi and Kelli were able to clarify Lehua's questions about the criteria for gate and sign placement; citing County SMA (Special Management Area) rules and the lengthy process of the Hulopo'e Beach Park Rules sign placement a few years ago.

2. Michelle Sunke

Michelle questioned access for the elderly or those in wheelchairs when the gate is locked. Noemi noted that exceptions cannot be made, primarily due to safety. As to the 7p to 7am closure, it was suggested that beach and beach park users utilize both during the 7am to 7pm hours of availability. Noemi noted that their policy decision was based in part on users trying to bypass the current temporary barriers by moving them, climbing the curb etc.

3. Bruce Harvey

Noemi responded to Bruce's question about gate and signage permitting by saying that today's agenda item was designed to solicit Council and community before moving forward. Bruce also requested consideration for partial beach park shut down during the aforementioned reasons for locking the gate and cited how other beaches do this. Noemi noted that since this is private property, it's an all or nothing decision; closed or open.

4. Saul Kahihikolo

Asked about approval process to install the gate. Kelli noted since this is private property, PL will more than likely provide the Council updates on the process but would not need Council approval. Noemi agreed with Saul that all park users and those with equipment there will be duly notified in an emergency so people can leave and/or remove equipment before the gate is locked.

5. Ewan Knowles

Suggested a "Nox Box" for the gate to house the lock key in case a Ranger is not available to open or close the gate.

c. Activities update

Noemi reported improvements and repairs to the beach park including repaving of the parking lot, irrigation line installation and changes, assorted grass planting and nightly controlled hunts. There were no permit requests for use of the beach park

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ewan announced both resorts will resume operations on 10/15/20.

Agenda for the next meeting:

1. Annual Meeting at the beach
2. Term updates for members
3. Student Survey update