

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

[Hyperlink to video](#)

Community Plan Advisory Committee

Attending: Chair Rob Weltman, Vice Chair Daniel Kanahele, Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Tova Callender, Everett R. Dowling, Lehua Huddleston-Hafoka, Vernon Kalanikau, Mike Moran, Cody Nemet, Wayne Nishiki, Keoki Pfaeltzer, Jennifer Sullivan, Brian Ward

Absent: None

County of Maui – Planning Department, Long Range Division (LRD)

Kathleen Aoki, Acting Program Administrator

Karen Comcowich, Planner

Kawika Farm, Cultural Resources Planner

County of Maui – Department of Parks and Recreation

Karla H. Peters, Director

Samuel Marvel, Deputy Director

David Yamashita, Planner VI

Jennifer Maydan, Planner V

County of Maui – Other

Tim Griffith, County Arborist

Call to order at 5:30 p.m.

Opening, Introduction and Housekeeping (00:00 to 11:20 in meeting video)

Following member roll call and Chair Weltman’s opening in Hawaiian, Brian Ward stood up and shared about his “journey of Maui,” including how he came to reside on Maui and the island’s personal connection to him and his family. He expressed his desire to give back to the community and be part of the solution.

Chair Weltman reminded members that they will have the chance to continue reviewing unfinished agenda items from previous meetings at a catch-up meeting scheduled on December 21. Other housekeeping items included meal breaks, finding a middle ground between full meals and snacks for members, and reminding the audience of public testimony rules and guidelines.

General Public Testimony (11:25 to 31:41 in meeting video)

Tom Croly provided handouts to members ([link to handout](#)) showing real property taxation in South Maui, and noted that \$200 million in taxes come from South Maui. He felt that money should be coming back to South Maui to address the community's needs (better roads, parking lots, etc.).

Elaine Malina noted that she is testifying on several things but is unable to stay at the meeting, so she provided handouts to members ([link to handout](#)) with recommendations for Goal 2.2 as well as brochures on tree topping and tree values.

Randy Wagner felt that treated wastewater should be used for reforestation at the parcel adjacent to the police station (Policy 2.2.10). She also said thank you for Policy 2.2.12. ([Link to testimony](#)) Questions from members included where Randy felt South Maui is lacking shade and where there should be more shade; and whether there is a certification process for tree trimming.

Larry Stevens suggested turning South KThei Road into a one-way street, which would free up space for sidewalks and trees, as well as smooth traffic along the road. Questions from members included what direction Larry would prefer the one-way street to be, and where the alternative traffic go.

Adele Rug provided members with a copy of the Maui County Planting Plan, and recommended planting trees along a bike path in the center of Maui Veteran's Highway as well as planting shrubs on the median. She expressed the need for a Division of Forestry and more County arborists. Questions for Adele included what types of trees and plants she would recommend, and verifying that there is irrigation in the median.

Goal 2.2 | Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All – Presentation by County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation (31:56 to 54:26 in meeting video)

County Parks and Recreation Director Karla Peters, Deputy Director Samuel Marvel, and planners David Yamashita and Jennifer Maydan gave a presentation on the County's parks and facilities, and the challenges and strategies for parks in South Maui. (31:56 to 50:15; [link to presentation](#))

Questions from members included asking for recommendations on where the County should buy or lease land for parks; whether the Department has a park plan and CIP budget; how many requests there have been for children's organized sports in South Maui; and whether families are suffering because their children are unable to participate in organized sports.

Goal 2.2 | Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All – Presentation by County of Maui Arborist (54:39 to 1:04:09 in meeting video)

County arborist Tim Griffith gave an overview of his duties as an arborist, current mechanisms for planting street trees, and the future of street trees. (54:39 to 1:03:08; [link to presentation](#)). Questions from members included whether Tim is the only arborist in the County, and if he’s ever asked for more “warm bodies.”

Following a point of order by Tim Blackburn-Rodriguez, members briefly discussed the proper procedure to ask questions.

Public Testimony for Goal 2.2 | Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All (1:04:10 to 1:09:06 in meeting video)

Ellen McKinley supported the idea of developing pedestrian pathways and bicycle paths from Keālia to Keawekapu if sea level rise doesn’t interfere. She appreciated Tim Griffith’s making drought-tolerate species of tress a priority, and recommended an additional action that minimizes water-heavy landscaping. She also felt that the County should either allow camping or enforce non-camping, and that trash cans and porta-potties (if camping is allowed), along with sidewalks, bike paths and walking paths all need to be a priority.

Wayne Nishiki had a question for Director Karla Peters; Tom Blackburn Rodriguez made a point of order, and Chair Weltman reminded members of proper procedure.

As there were no clarifying questions for Ellen, and no further public testifiers, Chair Weltman closed public testimony and called a 10-minute recess

10-MINUTE RECESS

Review and Recommendations for Goal 2.2 | Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All (1:10:39 to 2:00:00 in meeting video)

Chair Weltman opened up the floor to members to ask questions of the presenters. Questions and comments were as follows:

- **Everett Dowling, to Parks:** Is there an ideal metric or target in the number of parking stalls for beaches? Desire to have a good balance between parking stalls and beaches.
- **Everett Dowling, to Parks:** Is there a maintenance budget per acre for County parks? How does South Maui compare to other parts of the island?

- **Keoki Pfaeltzer, to Parks:** In the Draft Plan there is mention of a possible park in the North Kīhei/Maalaea area. Where might that be?
- **Chair Weltman, to Parks:** Is there a priority in providing more parks to underserved areas like North Kīhei and Kaiwahine?
- **Chair Weltman, to Parks:** It seems unfair to ask affordable housing developers to provide parks when they are already cutting costs to provide affordable housing.
- **Chair Weltman, to Arborist:** Around two years ago his subdivision was able to be included in the County (Planting) Plan, which resulted in beautiful, healthy and well-maintained trees. He encouraged people to talk to Tim Griffith.
- **Vernon Kalanikau, to Arborist:** Not many more places you can add trees. Need to find ways to limit maintenance or add funding to repair the sidewalks and roadways affected by tree roots. Try to find trees that agree with where we're at (Kula Kai/Kīhei) – trees that can handle the salt breeze and brackish/salt water. Kiawe was around for a long time; just need to get the ones without thorns.
- **Cody Nemet, to Arborist:** Adding to what Vernon was saying – there are more uses to trees than just shade.
- **Cody Nemet, to Parks:** We don't hear enough about *muliwais* (rivermouths). Noticed a lot of saturation in the ground; something concerning is going on underground near Kalepolepo, North Kīhei, and even Kūlanihāko'i that may become a big issue down the road. Wants to see more acknowledgement and water management of our *muliwai*. (Kathleen Aoki noted at this point that there is an entire section on water at a future meeting where comments can be addressed, but acknowledged that parks and water are tied.)
- **Mike Moran, to Arborist:** When planting new trees, is it feasible to put in root guards? And if so, is that part of the plan as we go forward?
- **Mike Moran, to Parks:** The large community park is so slow in developing; we were told the problem was that the Department of Public Works has to get the North South Collector Road in there, but that segment is at least a decade away. Does that mean progress on developing the community park has stopped?
- **Mike Moran, to Parks:** Turning back to what Rob was addressing about the affordable housing development (Kaiwahine) – we were hoping that something would be done with the “old neglected park” (Hale Pi'ilani Park) sitting behind it, such as adding in a playground. Are there any plans for doing something like that?
- **Vice Chair Kanahele, to Arborist:** Can we all have your phone number in case of a tree emergency?

- **Vice Chair Kanahele, to Parks:** How can we make our parks safer for our community? Parks like Kalama and Kama'ole don't feel safe. Besides the Maui Police Department's non-emergency line, is there another number the public can call to if they see something illegal happening in the park?
- **Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, to Parks:** Do you have adequate funding for staffing, operations and equipment? How much will it cost to implement the key policies and actions you are proposing? When can you provide that dollar figure to the committee?
- **Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, to Parks:** Are you receiving adequate funding from Council? How much money do you need each year to maintain an adequate park system?
- **Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, to Parks:** Is the 3.2ft. sea level rise figure relevant, and is it based on science or on funding?
- **Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, to Parks:** Affordable housing developers often ask for exemptions, including the Park Assessment fee. Is that impacting your budget? What is your opinion of not having that fee paid? How is the lack of paying those fees affecting your ability to do the job you want to do?
- **Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, to Parks:** Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Department, specifically South Maui Parks and Recreation. They do a really great job considering limited staffing and budget, they are doing their best and we need to be more supportive.
- **Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, to Parks:** What are your thoughts on Policy 2.2.26, "Support the creation of public campgrounds within a region"? Want to make sure that it's realistically possible and can be properly maintained.
- **Keoki Pfaeltzer, to Parks:** Is Parks security full staffed or understaffed?
- **Vice Chair Kanahele, to Parks:** Where would you put a campground in South Maui? What is the pay scale for your Parks security?

10-MINUTE BREAK

Review and Recommendations for Goal 2.2 | Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All Cont. (2:00:25 to 2:58:03 in meeting video)

Chair Weltman acknowledged that it was unlikely members would get to Goal 2.2 actions, and recommended focusing only on policies. He asked if there were any objections to using the latest draft sent out by the Planning Department earlier in the afternoon ([see link](#)); there were none. Members agreed to view the policies in groups of five.

For the first batch of five policies, Chair Weltman chose to include Policy 2.2.2, which was crossed out in the Department Suggested Edits, so that members had a chance to discuss.

POLICIES

2.2.1 | Provide parks and recreation facilities as part of a community's basic infrastructure because they offer services that are essential to the quality of life and health of residents and visitors.

~~2.2.2 | Provide a balanced distribution of parks throughout existing and new South Maui communities to provide equitable opportunities and access to parks.~~

2.2.32 | Promote the acquisition and development of parks that include proper infrastructure and are consistent with Maui County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) guidelines (Park Classification Matrix), capable of meeting a variety of recreational needs, promote health, and are accessible to persons of all abilities. The acquisition and development of new parks should include funding for DPR maintenance and operations responsibilities.

2.2.43 | Encourage the use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Guidelines in parks and public spaces.

2.2.54 | Provide parks within a ten-minute walk ~~in of~~ new residential neighborhoods to meet recreational needs and to promote a well-distributed network of parks and recreation facilities to provide equitable opportunities and access to parks.

Discussion:

- Brian Ward proposed adding “Strive to” to the beginning of Policy 2.2.5.
 - Karen Comcowich noted that “striving” doesn’t do much; Chair Weltman and Tova Callender agreed that members should use as strong language as possible. Brian withdrew the proposal.
- Cody Nemet proposed adding the following to Policy 2.2.3: “Parks should include informational placards on historical references or cultural use.”
 - Karen Comcowich noted that a similar policy is in the wahi kupuna section in Goal 2.4.

- Unrelated to the policies specifically, Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka asked if she could propose a change to page 35 (see handout). **She recommended altering the first sentence of the “Why Is It Important?” section to the following: “A home is the foundation of stability and security for an individual or family. A home should be a safe haven a place to live in peace, offering a sense of dignity and an opportunity to feel like you belong to the community you live in.”**
 - Members discussed changing “A home” to “An affordable home;” they ultimately decided to keep Lehua’s original proposed language.
- **Lehua also recommended the following changes to the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 35: “While South Maui’s tourism industry has developed through much of the region, amenities made available to locals have remained stagnant, and the cultural connection is not as significant as it should be.”**
- **Members agreed by consensus to adopt the text on page 35 as amended by Lehua.**
- **Chair Weltman asked if anyone objected to adopting the first five policies as amended in red by the Planning Department (including removing Policy 2.2.2); no objections. Adopted by consensus.**

2.2.~~56~~ | Support the creation of public campgrounds within the region.

2.2.~~67~~ | Support the development of trails and greenways in South Maui as part of a larger integrated recreation and transportation network and maintain existing public paths and access, mauka and makai.

2.2.~~78~~ | Use low-impact development principles and techniques when designing, building, renovating, and maintaining parks and recreation facilities.

2.2.~~89~~ | Support the preservation of the Kīhei Boat Ramp and adjacent undeveloped area as valuable assets to the region. The northern portion of the property including the dryland forest and paths must maintain its open space, undeveloped character.

2.2.~~910~~ | Include native trees and flora that are appropriate for the microclimate in parks, along streets, trails and greenways, and throughout the community to provide shade, beauty and reduce sediment runoff.

Discussion:

- For Policy 2.2.9, Cody Nemet proposed the following addition: Include native trees and flora that are appropriate for the microclimate in parks, along streets, trails and greenways, and allow seed banks to return throughout the community to provide shade, beauty and reduce sediment runoff.
 - Members discussed tightening up the wording and eventually came up with the following: **Include native trees and flora that are appropriate for the microclimate in parks, along streets, trails and greenways, and encourage the establishment of native seed banks throughout the community to provide shade, beauty and reduce sediment runoff.**
- For Policy 2.2.8, **Vice Chair Kanahele proposed changing “dryland forest” to “dryland habitat.”**
- **Members agreed by consensus to adopting the five policies with amendments by Cody and Vice Chair Kanahele.**

2.2.10~~1~~ | Use “green streets” principles (Complete Streets + Green Infrastructure) in all new development, redevelopment and street improvement projects to mitigate stormwater runoff, calm traffic, provide safer pedestrian and bicycle paths, mitigate urban heat island effects, improve community aesthetics, promote a sense of place, and stimulate community investment.

2.2.12 | Require new development and redevelopment projects to include shade trees, especially in parking lots and along streets. Adhere to the Maui County Planting Plan to choose appropriate tree species and to determine proper planting, irrigation and maintenance based on each condition and location for trees to grow to full canopy spread.

2.2.13 | Require new development, redevelopment and County projects to abide by and participate in the implementation of the South Maui Tree Canopy Plan identified in Action 2.14.

2.2.14 | Require new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate interconnected public greenways and multi-use paths throughout the project and connect to existing greenways and multi-use paths if possible. Public paths must remain open for connectivity and may not be gated. As opportunities arise, acquire parcels within cul-de-sacs for the incremental expansion of connectivity.

2.2.15 | Support the development of pedestrian-oriented, complete communities that meet residents' needs for daily living by providing a mix of land uses, housing close to jobs, services, schools and recreation, and convenient and safe mobility options including walking, biking and transit options.

Discussion:

- **For 2.2.14, Wayne Nishiki proposed changing “may not be gated” to “shall not be gated.” Members agreed by consensus.**
- Everett Dowling proposed the following edit to the first sentence of 2.2.14: “Encourage the development of interconnected public greenways and multi-use paths throughout the community and connect to existing greenways and multi-use paths if possible.”
 - Members discussed focusing on the community as a whole rather than on just new developments and redevelopments; the possibility of combining 2.2.14 with the newly adopted 2.2.6; the effects that stronger (“Require”) or weaker (“Encourage”) language will have on the policy; and creating a new action to have the County develop a greenway plan (it was later realized that a similar action already exists in Goal 2.1 – Action 2.1.5).
- **Brian Ward made a motion for the following edit to the first sentence of 2.2.14: “Require new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate interconnected public greenways and multi-use paths throughout the project where feasible and connect to existing greenways and multi-use paths if possible.” Everett Dowling seconded the motion.** Members Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Everett Dowling, Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, Vernon Kalanikau, Cody Nemet, Keoki Pfaeltzer, Jennifer Sullivan, and Brian Ward voted in favor of the motion, with members Tova Callender, Vice Chair Kanahale, Mike Moran, and Wayne Nishiki opposed. **8-4, MOTION PASSES.**
- Members adopted Policies 2.2.10 through 2.2.13. **For Policy 2.2.14, Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez made a motion to adopt 2.2.14 with the amendments made, and Brian Ward seconded the motion.** Members Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, Everett Dowling, Lehuanani Huddleston-Hafoka, Vernon Kalanikau, Wayne Nishiki, Keoki Pfaeltzer, Jennifer Sullivan, and Brian Ward voted in favor of the motion, with members Tova Callender, Vice Chair Kanahale, Mike Moran, and Cody Nemet opposed. **8-4, MOTION PASSES.**

- Vice Chair Kanahale objecting to adopting Policy 2.2.15 because he did not review it beforehand, as the schedule for the evening did not include reviewing that policy. Chair Weltman proposed that the meeting be adjourned and members can review 2.2.15 along with the rest of the policies and actions at a future meeting; members agreed by consensus.

Other Committee Business (2:58:03 to END in meeting video)

Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez requested personal privilege before adjourning and thanked members for a great meeting. He stated his belief that with the coming mayoral transition, Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen should be allowed to appoint a member that reflects his views of the future of South Maui, and asked that Chair Weltman accept his resignation from the committee effective November 17, 2022.

Chair Weltman noted that Mayor-Elect Bissen would not be able to make any appointments until he is in office, and that it is likely the current mayor (Michael Victorino) would appoint a new member in Tom's absence. He asked if Tom would be willing to remain until Mayor-Elect Bissen is in office and able to make an appointment; Tom thanked Chair Weltman but reiterated that his resignation is effective the following day.

NEXT MEETING IS ON NOVEMBER 30, 2022. MEETING ADJOURNED.

