

# **NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007  
Old Courthouse • Kohala Senior Center  
Kapa'au, Hi 96755**

**CALL TO ORDER:** First Vice Chair Bob Martin called the meeting to order at 5:40PM. Chair Fern White arrived at 5:42 and took over the direction of the meeting.

**Members present were:** Henry Dulan, David Fuertes, Michael Gomes, Alvin Kawamoto, Carolyn Lancaster, Robert Martin, Ted Matsuda, Stephen Norris, Crystal West, and Fern White. W. Graham was excused.

**Others present at the meeting were:** Allen Salavea - County Planning Dept., Alex Frost - Hawaii County Research and Development, Bruce Tsuchida and Harmonie Williams of Townscape, Inc. There were 22 members of the public present.

## **THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes from June 13, 2007 were voted on and approved.

## **STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Chairwoman Fern White announced that we would be hearing from the public on their concerns and issues.

- **Joe Carvalho** brought to the committee the findings of the Logistics Team gathered through their "Talk Story" approach. Those meetings brought forth the following top three priorities.
  - **Growth Management**  
Keep Kohala, Kohala and preserve small town and rural atmosphere.
  - **Affordable Housing**  
For all families-young, seniors, first time buyers.
  - **Coastal & Mountain access**  
Increase setbacks from the high tide and provide access along and to the entire coast. Open up more mountain access.

Other issues receiving votes were: Transportation and roads, preserve open space and improving the education system.

- **Kanoa Whittington** spoke to the meeting in regards to the preservation of the Kohala Coast and submitted ~~over~~ a 30+ year documented history of community support and work to preserve the North Kohala Coast and keep it free of any development makai of Akoni Pule Highway. The 30 years worth of documents included petitions (some 7,000 signatures), government resolutions, letters and plans.

- **Nancy Lloyd** voiced her concerns of Hawaiian rights to water and the various Ahupua'a from Hawi to Pololu. She also had concerns regarding the diversion of the Kohala Ditch.
- **Mr. Isaacs** presented a map showing public access to shoreline and mountains and how limited it is and asked the County to give written consent to access more areas. Stopping retreat resorts from developing agricultural zoned lands is also a problem in North Kohala.
- **Stephanie Laxton** spoke to the committee asking them to insure that when it comes to development of land that they strongly consider the culture, respect the integrity of the land, and preserve and protect historical sites.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Follow-up presentation of Community Readiness Project.**

Alex Frost of County Research and Development gave a follow-up Power Point presentation on the data collected from the small group (talk story) meetings that had taken place over the past 2 years and total 22 meetings. Mr. Frost also presented handouts corresponding with his Power Point presentation.

#### **The four key areas:**

1. Community, Culture and Local Housing.
2. Rural Growth
3. Open Space, Parks, Historic Sites and Working Lands
4. Infrastructure – Roads, Public Facilities, Utilities and Services

- **Preliminary Discussion on Community Priorities**

Bruce Tsuchida led a follow-up activity regarding identification of community issues that will be addressed by the committee. Mr. Tsuchida asked to hear from each of the NKSC members' what they considered to be the number one community issue.

The NKSC member's response:

**Crystal West** - Change in zoning and the misuse of Agricultural land.

**Michael Gomes** - Affordable housing issues and the huge need here and nothing on the horizon.

**Stephen Norris** - Also, affordable housing and seeing a huge problem with two and three generations living together in a tiny home, creating a pressure cooker of stresses.

**Henry Dulan** – Concerned with how to stop big development by big landowners and how much was already approved and not yet developed.

**Ted Matsuda** - Also agreed, with the affordable housing issue and growth management with concerns of the quality of life.

**Robert Martin** - Felt the big problem was affordable housing and how to do the right thing with growth. The changing nature of the community

requires us to face the issues of affordable housing, access, and development.

**David Fuertes** - Concerns were on sustainability within the community and finding a balance with all these needs that would be the right thing for the community.

**Alvin Kawamoto** - Didn't want to see growth take away public access. Also, better planning and not using agricultural lands for development.

**Fern White** - Expressed affordable housing as a priority issue. Also, enforcement of development, assisted living facilities, and education concerns.

#### **FOLLOW UP:**

**Crystal White** - Wanted affordable housing to be truly affordable.

**Michael Gomes** suggested that they hear more from County on potential accesses and that very little is known and Bruce Tsuchida said he would follow up on this.

**Stephen Norris** - Concerned about anticipating large-scale trends globally and how they would impact North Kohala in 20-30yrs.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Harmonee Williams of Townscape led an activity to develop a vision statement of what North Kohala will look like in 20-30 years. She spoke on how to generate ideas by using the 2000 reunion as a starting point from which to develop the NKSC's own vision statement.
- Harmonee Williams also, led an activity to develop a list of important community values for North Kohala. Out of this discussion came an ad hoc group to work with Harmonee to identify those values and vision for the community and to bring a hard copy back to the next meeting. The following members for the ad hoc committee are: H. Dulan, S. Norris, D. Fuertes, F. White.
- Bruce Tsuchida explained to the committee that the next activity was to develop a land use and open space sketch for the North Kohala Region. Bruce discussed how preservation and land use in the future goes with the vision statement and its importance to North Kohala. Allen Salavea suggested the use of Mr. Isaacs map to help the process in regards to documenting public access (both past and present). C. Lancaster voiced concerns of identifying, protecting, preserving and restoring archeological sites in the area. D. Fuertes also, mentioned the Richard Stevens Trails and other trails around the area. Bruce suggested they keep the vision statement priorities to three but the committee members felt four were needed and they are as follows:

- **Affordable Housing**
  - **Coastal and Mountain Access**
  - **Growth Management – Zoning**
  - **Infrastructure**
- Allen Salavea introduced the Stakeholder Participation Plan to the committee for their input. He encouraged the members to get a broad representation of the community to attend meetings. He also suggested they trim down the focus of their plan to a manageable and reasonable scale and gather information from the public beyond the monthly meetings through, outreach. An ad hoc group was formed consisting of R Martin, C. West, and F. White, which will connect by email
  - Bruce Tsuchida then began the planning process with the Steering Committee for its first community meeting. He suggested:
    1. Share with the community the CDP schedule.
    2. Focus the first meeting around Alex Frost’s presentation regarding small groups and give an overview.
    3. Validate priorities with the community.
    4. Out of this discussion came ad hoc group consisting of; C. Lancaster. D. Fuertes and M. Gomes. They will be working with Joe Carvalho and Giovanna Gheradi to start planning the first community meeting. A rough draft agenda for the community is due and needed to be in by July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Lloyd reiterated concerns she voiced earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Isaacs felt he was rushed earlier to get everything of concern in. He was then asked by the Chair White to return with his maps an address the NKSC members and public at our next meeting.

**NEXT AGENDA**

1. Present the priorities of the community at next meeting.
2. Report on the vision statement.
3. Accesses existing and pending.
4. Already approved zoning.
5. State and County land use maps.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The need to plan 4 community meetings and look at different dates and times and have them inserted in the Kohala Mountain news. Closing thoughts: We need to paddle together.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:17PM Chairwoman, Fern White called for adjournment and the meeting closed.

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Cheryl Sederberg, Recorder

**NEXT N.KC.D.P. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 1, 2007 ~ 4:30-6:30PM**  
**Old Courthouse • Kohala Senior Center**  
**Kapa'au, Hi 96755**

**FIRST N.KC.D.P. COMMUNITY MEETING**  
**Wednesday August 8, 2007 ~ 6:00PM**  
**Kohala High School Cafeteria**  
**Kapa'au, Hi 96755**