

Meeting of Steering Committee
South Kohala Community Development Plan
August 22, 2007 Waimea Senior Center

Committee Members Present: William Bergin, Robert Hunter, Thomas Kelly, Olani Lilly, Robby Robertson, Riley Smith, Ruth Smith. **Excused:** Jacqui Hoover, Pohai Kirkland, Sherman Warner, Margaret Wille.

Consultants and Staff: Brad Kurokawa, Nancy Pisicchio and Allen Salavea, County Planning Department; Giovanna Gherardi, Facilitator; Bruce Tsuchida, Townscape Inc.; Roy Takemoto, Office of the Mayor.

Members of the Public: 16 persons including Janice and Joshua Akana, Ken and Arlene Block, David and Anne Gomes, Leslie Hall, Howard Hall, Yvonne Lindsey, Kevin Mitchell, Vicki Nakamura, Clarence Rangulbai, Richard Spiegel, Dean Uyeno, Raye Vincent.

Opening: The meeting began at 4:35 and was facilitated by Allen Salavea and Giovanna Gherardi. The minutes of July 25 were approved with a typographical error noted. Allen Salavea distributed a packet of papers to each committee member that included:

- Agenda and previous minutes
- Draft of Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedural Guidelines for the steering committee
- Vision and Values statements prepared by Townscape
- Table showing priority values for four communities, voted by steering committee
- Proposed agenda for upcoming community meetings
- Written testimony about priorities from over 20 community members

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Howard Hall stated that agriculture and farming were missing from the discourse. The agriculture and farming community was not represented. What is the assessment of their needs? Food will be key in the future. We need to keep and protect the farming we have.

Richard Spiegel, owner of a honey company, spoke and submitted written testimony. His topic was the *kiawe* forest at Puako. It is perceived as a fire hazard. He has a plan to mitigate the fire hazard, provide educational trails, and sustain a dryland forest there. He wants to put the land into a conservation easement. The forest protects the ocean reef from nitrogen runoff, he said. The area is a floodplain. The state owns 500 acres. Some of the area is now “permitted” for a golf course.

Committee member Robby Robertson of nearby Waialua Bay supported Richard's views. Fire protection is the top issue for Puako.

Clarence Rangulbai stated he did not see a discussion of [potable] water in the committee's agenda.

Raye Vincent, executive director of the YMCA in Waimea, wants to acquaint the committee with the YMCA. It has a strategic plan to involve more families and serve all ages. It has an oceanfront plot of land at Kawaihae.

Written testimony, gathered by Bob Hunter, was received from: Wayne Awai, Tom Beach, Bob Bonar, Diane Chadwick, Linda Clifford, Elizabeth Cole, Leningrad Elarionoff, Representative Cindy Evans, Anika Glass, Anne Field-Gomes, Leslie Hall, CN Hijirida, Marty Hind, Laura _____, Clemson Lam, Herb McKelvy, Juanita Montgomery, John Ray, JW Sanborn, Jan Sears, Fran Tabor, Margaret Tigue. *A brief summary of the testimony appears at the end of the minutes.*

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The ad hoc committee that drafted the steering committee's Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedural Guidelines included Sherman Warner, Pohai Kirkland, Margaret Wille and Bob Hunter. Working from a similar North Kohala document, the committee added provisions from Chapter 15 of the General Plan (GP) and added a Conflict of Interest section. Changes were clearly marked on the draft circulated. The document will be on the next meeting's agenda for review, revision and acceptance. Allen Salavea asked members to review the draft in the interim. GP provisions which were added to the draft include that the steering committee:

- May recommend approval or disapproval of the CDP to the Planning Director
- Will have a chance to review and comment on changes by the County Council
- May initiate GP amendments to be enacted at the same time as the CDP
- Will recommend an ongoing process of community-based review of the CDP

2. PRESENTATIONS

Planner Bruce Tsuchida of Townscape introduced the 2nd draft of the South Kohala Vision Statement and Community Values statement. He said it is important to have a big-picture vision early in the planning process; then details will build on that vision. Riley Smith commented that the Vision Statement as presented was not future oriented but conveyed that the vision had already been achieved. A consensus agreed informally that this would be changed. Ruth Smith believed that the statements included geographic descriptions but Puako, Kawaihae and Waikoloa were not included, and should be. The committee decided to stay with this draft and revisit it later.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Confirmation of Community Priorities

Seven of 11 committee members had completed “homework” to distribute their top three community priority concerns for each of four communities: Waimea, Waikoloa, Puako and Kawaihae. With number of priority votes shown in parentheses, the results were:

Waimea: Affordable housing (3)
Preserve culture/sense of place (2)
Traffic/roads/transportation (2)

Kawaihae: Traffic/roads/transport (4)
Village center (2)
Healthy recreational opportunities (2)

Waikoloa: Alternative access road (3)
Affordable housing (3)
Healthy recreational opportunities (3)

Puako: Marine water quality (4)
Healthy recreational opportunities (2)
Preserve culture/sense of place (2)
Growth management (2)
Alternative access road (2)

The group found the Waimea priority results acceptable.

However, for both Puako and Waikoloa a greater sense of fire protection including an alternate access needed to be developed. For Puako, Robby Robertson, who resides nearby, would give rankings of fire protection (1), bypass (2) and water quality (3). For Waikoloa, Ruth Smith and Tom Kelley expressed concern about emergency preparedness; this summer there were many fires. Olani Lilly asked: How can you think of affordable housing and roads without thinking of the larger concept, growth management? Ruth Smith believed the Superferry, harbor and port were important priority concerns for Kawaihae. It was noted that some priority items were synonymous with, or included, others under different names.

Action: Facilitator Giovanna Gherardi will revise the priorities table to reflect merged items that had been discussed and email the revision to all committee members. The committee will revisit the list by email before the community-wide meetings next week. Riley Smith advocated for permitting three priority votes on one item, if desired.

4. Community Meeting Planning Session

The group discussed the agenda and also these items: Steering committee involvement, publicity, room setup and sign in, food, and break out sessions. It was decided that index cards would be distributed to attendees who would write their questions in advance. There would probably not be time to respond to all questions. The meetings will have a *pule*. Hopefully all steering committee members will attend the meetings. An objective is efficiency. Meeting locations are Waimea YMCA town hall on August 29, and Waikoloa Elementary School cafeteria on August 30. Committee members volunteered or were proposed for roles as follows:

Role	Waikoloa	Waimea
<i>Pule</i>	Pohai Kirkland	Josh Akana
Welcome	Ruth Smith	Billy Bergin
Focus Group Overview	Tom Kelly	Bob Hunter
Closing	Ruth Smith	Robby Robertson
Sign in/name tags		Olani Lilly
Recruit facilitators		Yvonne Lindsey, Bob Hunter
Room setup		Bob Hunter and others

Breakout sessions: Bruce Tsuchida clarified what would be done in the breakout sessions: Address: 1) details of elements of concern, and 2) ideas regarding solutions. Members of the public will choose to participate in specific sessions based on their interest. The breakouts are a prelude to focus groups to be developed subsequently. Written information that breakout sessions develop will be collected, as well as “reported out” at the time. Facilitators will receive a list of all questions to be addressed. Facilitators and recorders need to be on site by 6 pm to review their responsibilities.

Publicity: Ruth Smith will ensure an announcement in Waikoloa Elementary School’s “Thursday envelope” going to some 700 families. Olani Lilly may go door to door in Kuhio Village. Riley Smith will provide announcements to Patti Cook who has an email list of 1,200. Bob Hunter will leaflet in downtown Waimea.

Supplies and setup: A sound system and microphones are needed for the YMCA town hall. The County Resource Center is responsible for easels, pens, etc. Bruce Tsuchida will prepare written questions for breakout sessions. The Planning Department will provide water and cookies. Raye Vincent of the YMCA confirmed that a sweep-up afterwards at Waimea YMCA Town Hall is sufficient.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Decide Executive/Administrative Structure of the Steering Committee

Allen Salavea posed the question whether the group wished to elect a chair or continue operating as presently with Allen and Giovanna Gherardi facilitating the meetings. Almost all liked the present format and described it as fair and democratic. Thus, this route was selected. Tom Kelly and Ruth Smith passed on voicing an opinion, although Ruth was not in favor of a chair. Tom hoped for a better communications network. Allen Salavea accepted the majority decision and noted the topic may be revisited later. He stated that each meeting took about 20 hours of preparation, and if there were a chair, the chair would need to be involved.

Regarding the present arrangement, Ruth Smith believed there were too many chiefs at meetings, i.e., Bruce Tsuchida, Allen Salavea and Giovanna Gherardi. One member noted that interjecting a chair would add another chief.

6. Request for Steering Committee Volunteers

Bruce Tsuchida would like volunteers to assist with a tour of the physical landscape of Waimea and Waikoloa for Townscape planners. Each tour would be two to three hours. After discussion it was decided that the respective tours would occur on the mornings prior to the community meetings. In Waimea, helpers will be Yvonne Lindsey, Bob Hunter and Olani Lilly. In Waikoloa Tom Kelly and Pohai Kirkland will assist. Councilman Pete Hoffman may be invited.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Preliminary Discussion: Recorder Judith Graham read aloud the names of most individuals who had submitted written testimony, although the testimony was not read. Allen Salavea stated that the essence of what the steering committee and staff do is reach out to the community. Tom Kelly again inquired if the community has any authority over zoning. He believes people have a right to know this. In response Bruce Tsuchida and Allen Salavea committed to provide a handout at the community meetings which will cover provision 15.1 of the General Plan as well as aspects of the state land use system. Olani Lilly said the committee was using traditional methods to reach people (by holding meetings). The committee needs more creative ways.

Howard Hall returned to the subject of locally grown food. He wants an assessment of what we have and of what is needed for independence and sustainability. Dr. Bergin responded that this is an agriculture-based community and that is understood in the priority concern to retain a sense of place. He stated agriculture is expansive, extending from Mealani to Lalamilo to Hawaiian Homes.

Leslie Hall observed that Yvonne Lindsey's work was a good example of reaching out to the community. The input taken during the Community Readiness Project (CRP) had been compiled. Was the steering committee repeating that process?

Yvonne Lindsey said that outreach to 2,000 people had already occurred through talk story. She raised the same question: Wasn't repetition occurring? She believed the people had already established their priorities. Yvonne has not provided feedback to those she consulted yet. Later they will be informed of progress.

Three steering committee members sought to allay these concerns and stated that they had drawn on the CRP's established priorities. Planner Bruce Tsuchida had requested a limitation of 3 to 4 priorities, and also an assignment by communities.

NEXT AGENDA

These items among others will appear on the next agenda:

- Review, revise and accept the Guidelines and Ground Rules for the steering committee
- Debrief from the community meetings
- Discuss focus groups, their structure and recruitment
- Presentation by Townscape of a draft community profile of 50 to 60 pages, including maps
- Possible: Disaggregate CRP's priority concerns by the four community areas. Requested by Tom Kelly.

The meeting ended at 6:50 pm. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 26.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Graham, Recorder

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY

For Waimea:

Clemson Lam, architect, had these priorities: reduce reliance on automobiles, de-concentrate auto circulation by providing alternate routes, build Waimea Trails and Greenways, and plan a bike and pedestrian system.

Betsy Cole, now living in Hamakua, believes Waimea has lost a significant amount of the feeling of living in older Hawaii.

Anne Field-Gomes supports Waimea Trails and Greenways, wants to protect *pu'u* and wants localized routes of travel.

Representative Cindy Evans prioritizes connecting subdivisions to allow biking and walking between them, and a recreation plan.

Leningrad Elarionoff (former councilman) prioritizes the Waimea bypass; a trail system; elimination of overhead lines in Waimea; a regional park.

Bob Bonar prioritizes ensuring a water supply, the bypass, connector roads, trails and greenways, and open spaces.

Tom Beach prioritizes potable water and slowing and stabilizing the population by slowing and stopping development for a decade. He foresees a water shortage.

John Ray (former councilman) wants transportation/infrastructure solutions; recreational facilities including park space; and potable water infrastructure development.

Linda Clifford's priorities are to decrease traffic impact and make Waimea more pedestrian friendly; maintain historical character, and consider a long-term care facility.

Diane Chadwick prioritizes affordable housing and land for local people; diverse transportation routes and styles; the cultural heritage including agriculture.

Chris Hijirida aggregated the steering committee's priority list and found the leading concerns grouped as environment (5), infrastructure (4) and recreation (4).

Herb McKelvy believes the problem is uncontrolled growth, which he also saw in Lake Tahoe. Lake Tahoe adopted a building moratorium that worked well.

Marty Hind prioritizes safe transit for all including those on foot and bicycles.

JW Sanborn prioritizes connector roads until a bypass is created.

Fran Tabor wants to stop the Lalamilo Connector Road, like many farmers, and to see the state bypass built.

For Waikoloa:

JSears Consulting sees these planning issues: roads and transportation, village center, healthy recreational activities, natural and cultural preservation.

John Tarson prioritizes affordable housing, additional roads in and out of Waikoloa, a middle and high school, and alternative energy options.

Joni Hoadley prioritizes a connecting road to Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway, in part for fire protection; a recreation center; and dreads all the coming housing developments.

Anika Glass: schools, community center, additional permanent access road, and police protection.

Wayne Awai: Community facilities should be planned to complement each other.

Margaret Tigue: More police presence; municipal golf course; installation of curbs and sidewalks; keeping Waikoloa Road properly lighted and paved.

Leslie Hall believes priorities selected by the committee were not really representative and also that selection should not have preceded a mission and vision statement.