

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

January 3, 2007

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Council of the County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i, was called to order by Councilmember Tim Bynum, Chair, at the Historic County Building, Room 201, Lihu'e, Kaua'i, on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at 9:26 p.m., after which the following members answered the call of the roll:

Honorable Tim Bynum
Honorable Jay Furfaro
Honorable Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
Honorable Ronald Kouchi
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura

The Committee proceeded on its agenda item as shown in the following:

- C 2007-21** Communication (11/14/2006) from the County Engineer transmitting for Council review and approval, the position description of the new Park Planner.
[This item was deferred.]

RONALD KOUCHI: Mel (Nishihara), I don't mean to be disrespectful to you. I respect that you have patiently waited until 7:30 p.m. to be here. I had one simple process question before you suspend the rules Mr. Chair.

TIM BYNUM, PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Okay.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

Mr. Kouchi: I guess not having been part of the Council that created the position and it appears perhaps that there was an agreement that the position description would come back to the Council before it was filled because we had to separate Parks Department, then that would seem to have made sense. It seems logical to me, now that we have created a Parks Department and would be getting a Parks Department Head that it would behoove us to try to work with the Parks Director as to what kind of positions that he or she would seem to think would be necessary and I would think that would be something that should be deferred until that person is brought on board and that agency is created. However, not having been here, if someone simply tells me that this is so critical that we need to have it immediately, and they have actually met the criteria, then I would trust the work of the prior Council and be happy to support it at that point. But I just... I am thinking, if we are going to take that input, I don't necessarily know that engaging with Mr. Nishihara is going to be the productive use of the time and it should be

with whoever that person is. And if he is eventually hired, then I would be happy to talk to him at that point, but that is my process question.

JOANN A. YUKIMURA: My sense might be useful to ask Mr. Nishihara a couple of questions. I am assuming that the Administration is in the process of developing a proposal for the organization of the new Parks & Recreation Department. I am assuming that Mr. Nishihara is part of that discussion and my sense is that, number 1, the Park Planner position is more critical than ever if we are going to have a new Parks Department. Somewhere in the organization, we need a Planner and that the Administration controls the hiring and the filling of the position. I am sure that they are working with Mr. Nishihara. I am assuming that that is happening, so that I would prefer to approve the position assuming that the job description really fits the intention of the Council which is what we had asked for and allow the Administration to use this position in organizing the Parks & Recreation Department.

SHAYLENE ISERI-CARVALHO: I guess I have a different opinion. I think it is premature at this time in light of the fact that... It is my understanding that Department is going to be quite extensive. Correct me if I am wrong Mel. I know there were some initial discussions, but I don't think Mel would be the person to provide that kind of information. You know, that was my understanding and the Park Planner, I would think, would be a very small parcel of the entire organizational structure of the Parks & Recreation Department because it involves moving the Recreation Department over there and it also involves moving some of the Building and Maintenance personnel to the Parks Division. So it is very complex. I think it is premature to try to deal with just one small minuet part of the whole organizational structure and it is better to see a whole vision planning as opposed to approving just one piecemeal position. So I would prefer to have this item deferred until a plan from the Administration is proposed (an integrated plan) as well as a comprehensive one on the whole organizational structure. We need to look at the budget. I mean, how much money are they going to be spending?

Ms. Yukimura: This position is already approved.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: I mean in the entire structure. I don't want to look, I said, as one small piecemeal item as opposed to looking at the entire organizational structure of the Parks & Recreation Department. I would prefer to have the Administration tell us how this position, if necessary, at this point, what kind of role it is going to play in their vision of setting up the Parks & Recreation Department.

Mr. Bynum: If we are going to ask questions of Mr. Nishihara...

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Then we need to take a dinner break because I think the staff is entitled to it and that was my point in trying to rush this item. If we can get a consensus that it is going to get deferred, then by all means defer it

and don't have the staff wait or else we are going to have to return back in another hour.

Mr. Bynum: You know, in preparing for this, I read the transcripts of the budget meeting where this was... because this was a position that was approved and then there was some question about the job description and Council asked to review and approval of the job description. The Park Planner has been something that I think the Council and other people have wanted for a long time in the community and the job description that came back, I think from perspective, addresses the concerns that the Council expressed during the budget time. If it is a critical thing, I think...

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Well, then take a dinner break.

Mr. Bynum: Well, if I could finish. I was certainly willing to approve it tonight, but I also anticipated what you are saying that if... because I know that the Administration will be coming soon with a presentation about a bigger structure, so it is the Council's... if the Council people feel strongly that they need to defer, I would honor that; however, JoAnn would like to ask some questions.

MEL RAPOZO, NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER: Let me comment because it sounds like I am the swing.

JAY FURFARO: I haven't spoken yet.

Mr. Rapozo: You are on the Committee?

Mr. Furfaro: Yes, of course.

Mr. Rapozo: I am sorry.

Mr. Furfaro: That's alright. It is getting late for everybody, but I would like to say something Mr. Chairman. I had my hand up here. You know, this is a major step, I think, what we are talking about here in the Parks Department. We are pulling apart the Public Works area which may have some people going into Parks. We have new positions that... had to be. We had questions about actual stewardship of the park and so forth which may or may evolve over this Park Planner position. Do you have any idea of when the Administration is going to be presenting us an organizational concept for separating Parks & Recreation?

Mr. Bynum: I believe it will...communication will come some time in January, this month.

Mr. Furfaro: Personally, I would like to see that definition and then understand what and where the Park Planner fits in. That is my feeling because it

is major. We are talking about major... new expenses in Parks and reductions. I repeat, reductions, in the Department that is being separated.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Maybe.

Mr. Furfaro: Maybe.

Mr. Rapozo: I apologize, I am not even on the Committee, I am sorry.

Mr. Kouchi: Mel, we should have talked a little bit earlier, I am sorry. I just want to express that I appreciate you patiently waiting.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: So if there is not going to be any further discussion, I will make a motion. If there is going to be further discussion, then fine, let's take a dinner break. I mean, my only concern is the concern for the staff. We were supposed to have taken a dinner break at 7:20 p.m. and then there were more discussion and more discussion and people said that we can finish the agenda. So, you know, if you guys want to talk some more, then by all means consider the staff and give them a dinner break.

Mr. Bynum: Okay.

BILL "KAIPO" ASING, NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER: If you are going to take the dinner break and then come back and defer it, it doesn't make any sense in the world. Don't do it, so make up your mind now. You are the Chair and get a poll now of what you feel is going to happen. If you feel that there is going to be a deferral, defer it now. Don't take the dinner break and come back and waste one hour of time for everybody else.

Mr. Bynum: I think I heard...

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Can I do a motion? I will move at this time to defer.

Mr. Furfaro: I didn't hear where Councilman Kouchi might be.

Mr. Kouchi: I first asked it because I said that the logical thing would be to defer it because...

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: He said that.

Mr. Furfaro: I am sorry. I was out talking in the hallway.

Mr. Bynum: As I said a few minutes ago, I anticipate that people may want to defer it and I want to defer to those Council people to do that.

Mr. Kouchi: And I feel more comfortable with...

Mr. Bynum: So clearly it is going to get deferred, so let's do that now.

Upon motion duly made by Councilmember Iseri-Carvalho, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura, and unanimously carried, C 2007-21 was deferred.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Ishibashi
Council Services Assistant

APPROVED at the Committee Meeting held on January 24, 2007:



TIM BYNUM
Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee