

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE August 20, 2008

A meeting of the Parks and 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, August 20, 2008, at 9:09 a.m., after which the following members answered the call of the roll:

Honorable Ron Kouchi
Honorable Shaylene Iseri-Carvalho
Honorable Mel Rapozo
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura
Honorable Jay Furfaro, Ex-Officio Member
Honorable Daryl W. Kaneshiro, Ex-Officio Member

The Committee proceeded on its agenda items out of order as follows and as shown in the following Committee reports which are incorporated herein by reference:

CR-P/REC 2008-2: on Bill No. 2267 A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A NEW ARTICLE 18, CHAPTER 22, KAUA'I COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE CREATION OF DOG PARKS
[Approved as amended.]

CR-P/REC 2008-3: on Bill No. 2266 A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE 2, KAUA'I COUNTY CODE 1987, RELATING TO STRAY DOGS
[Approved as amended.]

CR-P/REC 2008-4: on Bill No. 2265, Draft 1A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 19-1.3 AND SECTION 19-1.4 OF THE KAUA'I COUNTY CODE 1987, AS AMENDED RELATING TO PARKS AND RECREATION
[Approved as amended.]

P/REC 2008-1 Communication (8/14/2008) from Committee Chair Tim Bynum, requesting that the Director of Parks and Recreation brief the Council on the following:

- 1) Provide an update of the energy/electrical use (kilowatt) for each of the County parks by month as compared to the same month a year ago.
- 2) How will the department monitor the energy use at each County Park?

- 3) How will the department monitor and prevent personal use of electrical services (i.e., illegal campers using electricity to power freezers and refrigerators) at County parks?
- 4) How will the department address the electrical theft that is taking place at various County parks?
[This item was deferred.]

TIM BYNUM, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Well, we have on the other Parks issue, we have a letter requesting a deferral.

Mr. Kouchi: 2008-1?

Mr. Bynum: That's correct.

Mr. Kouchi: Then I'll move to defer.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: What is the reason for the deferral?

Mr. Bynum: The questions, the Administration received the questions yesterday and their asking for more time to respond. We have a letter.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Oh, okay. I mean, I didn't see the letter.

Mr. Bynum: I think it was circulated.

Council Chair Furfaro: Is that the letter, Steph?

Mr. Bynum: Yeah, this.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Oh, okay, they didn't even receive it, it says. Can we make sure that they receive it? Have they informed us that they received it? Because it says here, the Department of Parks and Rec. has not received communication from Tim Bynum to prepare responses.

Mr. Bynum: So, I can only ask the staff if it was transmitted.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended.

PETER NAKAMURA, KAUA'I COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Committee Chair, I think just by way not so much of explanation or excuse, but with Friday being a holiday, we received this request on Thursday, and it was transmitted, therefore, on Monday. And they wrote this letter on Monday and it was transmitted on Monday. Just...at the time that they wrote the letter, they hadn't received it yet.

Mr. Bynum: Right.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: And that's all I wanted to know.

Mr. Bynum: Verbally, I was told they received it yesterday. And then...so they're requesting a deferral to have more time to respond.

Mr. Nakamura: Correct.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: I think there was...Was there a motion?

Mr. Bynum: So I think we have a motion and a second.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: We should ask for...

Mr. Rapozo: I think you gotta...

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: ...public testimony.

Mr. Bynum: Anyone would like to offer public testimony on Parks and Recreation 2008-1? Mr. Mickens.

GLENN MICKENS: This has been deferred?

Mr. Bynum: Well, it's going to be.

Mr. Rapozo: Will be deferred.

Mr. Mickens: Will be deferred. Okay, yes, I have a short testimony on it. You have a copy of my testimony for the record.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Yeah.

Mr. Mickens: On item no. 2, how will the department monitor the...Oh, for the record, Glenn Mickens. How will the Park Department monitor the energy use at each County park? This has been on the agenda for months. It's been brought up over and over how lights are left on at our recreation parks with no one using the facility, and from my observation, this is still happening. Timers on the lights were suggested. I believe, JoAnn, you made that point before as a solution, and basically, this should help. But imagine that at times the events, say like a fast baseball game, can be shorter and still no one physically turns the lights off upon leaving. Maybe a deposit by the user of the facility would help, and if he or she fails to shut the lights off upon leaving if earlier than the auto switch kicks in if the auto switch is there, keep part of the deposit, and we are sure that all facilities or are we sure that all facilities now have auto controls on their light boxes? I know that was suggested, but I don't know if they're there.

Item 3, how will the department monitor and prevent personal use of electrical services (i.e., illegal campers using electricity to power freezers and refrigerators) at County parks? For me, we're looking at the wrong part of the personal use of electricity in our parks. We have 500 homeless people on Kaua'i and instead of making sure that they are taken care of as O'ahu is doing (building million-dollar facilities for them as the Honolulu Advertiser said), we are basically ignoring them. Yes, we are making limited facilities available to a few of them but not addressing most of them. Thus, they are using the County's electricity, water and restrooms to survive, and we are worrying about the power they use instead of addressing their major problem, a place to live.

Item 4, how will the department address the electrical theft that is taking place at various County parks? As with all our security problems, until we have enough police or park rangers in place to monitor the theft, as well as look after our County restrooms and facilities from being vandalized, we won't be able to stop this from happening. The police are spending a lot of money in advertising for new hires, but competing with mainland forces is a tough job since their salaries are much higher and the cost of living obviously is much lower over there. So, anyway, these are my suggestions.

Again, I would like to find out whether or not those timers are on all our parks that are shutting these lights off, but again, I think something, you know, I think if you'll set the timer, if the timer goes longer than they're there, they're going to leave the park and the lights will still stay on. And I imagine that electrical bill is high, you know. In your regular home, you leave a 100-watt bulb on for overnight or something and that meter runs.

Mr. Bynum: I'm certain we'll ask that question when this comes back on the agenda.

Mr. Mickens: Okay, thanks, Tim.

Mr. Bynum: Anyone else?

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: I just want to ask, Councilmember Yukimura, do you remember during budget because I know you posed this question. Do you remember what was the answer at that time about the timers?

Ms. Yukimura: I think they said that it had been tried in Honolulu and that sometimes they had been vandalized.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Oh.

Ms. Yukimura: But, I also remember the conversation that they didn't need to be coin-operated. All they had to be was just a timer so that they would go off eventually, and that would seem to maybe be a possibility. I don't know if there's been any action or implementation on that.

Ms. Iseri-Carvalho: Okay, and we'll find out.

Mr. Bynum: Mr. Taylor.

KEN TAYLOR: Chair and members of the Council, my name is Ken Taylor. First, I'd certainly, I believe/agree with the comments that Glenn Mickens made. I will be testifying later on this issue when it comes back after we've had an opportunity to read the report from the Park Department. So, I just...I'm very interested in this situation and will reserve my comments on the particular issues until we see the report. Thank you.

Mr. Bynum: Okay, thank you. Anyone else?

Council Chair Furfaro: I have a question for Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Bynum: I'm sorry, Mr. Taylor. Council Chair.

Council Chair Furfaro: Yes, and excuse me, I just want to take a moment to clarify something earlier with your testimony coming up. There is an OIP opinion and that's why I refer to your Chair that public testimony is outlined in our rules and that everyone can have a certain amount of time to speak and in our case it's 3 and 3 or you can make an option for 3 and 1 to (inaudible) consistent. But in that same OIP opinion, there is, it is very clear, it is not necessary to have public testimony on the amendments. That is determined by the individual chairpersons and I just want to offer that to you as an explanation as I turned to Mr. Bynum and asked if he had called his meeting back to order. So, I did want to share with you so that we had some clarity and those are, as I am the Chair of the whole Council

every other week, the Committee chairmen have that option, Ken. So I just wanted to clarify that for you and let you know that I did recognize you having some (inaudible) and sent the Deputy Clerk to clarify that rule with you. But it is up to the individual chair people.

Mr. Taylor: I appreciate the clarification and can I make a comment in reference to that?

Mr. Bynum: Go for it.

Council Chair Furfaro: No, I stretched it just to offer you that apology, Ken. I'm posing no question. I'll be glad to meet with you afterwards.

Mr. Taylor: That's fine, but it'd be nice if you would just put discussion items like this on the agenda so that the public has an opportunity to dialogue.

Council Chair Furfaro: Oh, our rules are available at the County Clerk's Office for that (inaudible). I just wanted to give you, the individual chair has the right to take testimony after amendments are offered. It is not necessarily starting the clock again. Thank you, Ken.

There being no objections, the meeting was called back to order, and proceeded as follows:

Mr. Bynum: Any discussion? I think we have...

Upon motion duly made by Councilmember Iseri-Carvalho, seconded by Councilmember Yukimura, and unanimously carried, P/REC 2008-1 was deferred.

CR-P/REC 2008-5: on Legal Document
C 2008-239 Communication (07/24/2008) from the Director of Parks & Recreation, requesting Council approval to provide an electrical service easement to Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative for the Keālia Beach Park Comfort Station (TMK 4-7-003-001) as follows:

- Grant of Easement from the County of Kaua'i to Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative conveying Easement E-1, Keālia, Kaua'i, Hawai'i, for electrical service to the comfort station.

[Approved.]


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wilma Akiona

Wilma Akiona
Secretary

APPROVED at the Committee Meeting held on September 3, 2008:



TIM BYNUM
Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee