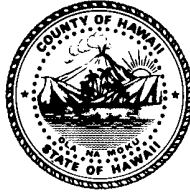


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee E. Lord
Managing Director



Zendo Kern
Director

Jeffrey W. Darrow
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SOUTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE
Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

Monday, September 18, 2023
Final Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the South Kohala Community Development Plan (SKCDP) Action Committee (AC) to order at 5:03 P.M. This meeting was held via the zoom interactive video platform. The onsite location to view this meeting was in the Waikōloa School Library.

ROLL CALL

AC Members Present: Ruth Annette Smith (Chair), Julia Ann Alos, Kevin McLaughlin, Bill Sanborn, Karen Anderson, Tristie Licoan, and Scott Nagata via Zoom

AC Members Absent-Excused: Mark Gordon and Peter Hendricks

County Officials: Deputy Corporation Counsel, Keyra Wong

County Staff: Bethany Morrison, Maryam Palma, Talmadge Magno (Civil Defense Administrator)

Members of the public: Members of the public attended the meeting in person and via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Maryam gave a review of the meeting protocols:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Written testimony may be submitted via email at cdp@hawaiicounty.gov or in person at the Hilo or Kona Planning Department, up to two (2) business days prior to the meeting (see the Notice Section below). In addition, members of the public may provide oral testimony at the meeting on any of the agenda items. To register for access to the Zoom meeting please email cdp@hawaiicounty.gov. With discretion of the Chair of the CP Action Committee, comments may be made either during the public comment portion of the agenda or just prior to the relevant business item and may be limited to three (3) minutes in length per agenda item

Bethany Morrison gave an update on the General Plan. Stated that the online draft of the General Plan launched today. The public can submit comments online until November 20, using an interactive comment system. The planning department will be hosting scheduled events to gather input, as well as doing presentations at community meetings and other events upon invitation. You can email generalplan@hawaiicounty.gov for more information. Chair Smith

asked about CDP treatment in general plan update. CDPs were reviewed in preparation for General Plan updates, implementation is included in the implementation section.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee Member Anderson made a motion to approve the October 24, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Committee Member Licoan. Motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes nay.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

David Olajos gave public comment asking about a second access road and if there is an option to use municipal bonds to fund it. Chair Smith gave an update on the current status of the proposal for a road related to Waikōloa Heights.

Cindy noted that there is a County process each year, someone in the Mayor's administration proposes what goes into bonds from the County each year. Also explained how improvement districts process works (Where all the TMK's within the district pay for the improvement in their property taxes, which does require voter approval)

Julia commented about Waikōloa Heights having an obligation to build the second access road, but no further information is available at this time.

BUSINESS:

1. Emergency Preparedness: Discussion on the effectiveness of implementation of the Emergency Preparedness Plans.

a. August 8th, 2023 Wildfire

Mary Wainwright gave public comment explaining that she has a petition to request for construction of a second access road. Mary stated that she has been receiving many comments from residents regarding this issue. She also wants to be sure that the developer is held to their commitment e.g. by having money in an escrow account. Mary also asked a question regarding fire breaks. Julia replied that Tim Richards said he would get a list of fire breaks together for maintenance.

Pam North gave public comment via email which was read by Maryam. She recommended installing sirens, a second access road and evacuation plans. Pam mentioned a bus route to connect the village to the Waikōloa Beach resort area. Also recommended having some buses parked by the Waikōloa school so they could help in an evacuation. Currently parents are required to pick up their children from the school.

Mitch Richardson gave public comment asking if there are any plans for planned burns to help reduce fire load? Elizabeth responded that she would provide more information later in the meeting.

County Staff Talmadge gave comment on this topic. Civil Defense's role is to coordinate the County's response to emergencies/natural disasters, from training and prep to response and recovery. Processes are governed by FEMA rules to qualify for FEMA funding and support. Must follow FEMA-defined "Mission areas." Noted that Multi-hazard Mitigation plans are updated every 5 years and update starts this year. (This is a FEMA Requirement) The above listed plan lists a variety of projects related to the mission areas; projects listed in the plan can get federal funding. Waikōloa priorities need to get into the plan during regular plan updates, which starts this fall.

Talmadge described what "coordinating" means in terms of working in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Clarified that HFD is responsible for wildfire response and has the incident command at the scene; Civil defense provides operations support. Described how preparations go for an event that can potentially be seen coming (E.g. fire conditions, hurricane) and preparedness for individuals for unexpected events (E.g. earthquake)

Regarding the recent fire: there was a notice of fire, EOC was activated, call to the Mayor, phone tree calls start going out, start working event (coordinating operations, incident action plan (IAP) Fire department called the evacuation, police went door to door and drove around with audible announcements.

Regarding Evacuations: decision is the responsibility of the senior officer on the ground, e.g. fire or police. Once it's called then the decision is formalized in a mayor's emergency proclamation. Evacuations start off voluntary until the Mayor's proclamation and then it's a mandatory evacuation. Regarding the Mauna Kea situation, they determined they would shelter in place with defensive water use. This decision was made by the fire battalion chief.

Tristie noted that communication with employees during the event was broken, so there is an effort to put in place a new system to ensure communication with employees at the resort; Tristie explained some of how the Mauna Kea resort management and security were not prepared for an event with road closures, so some work is being done to handle these additional types of situations.

Question from the public asked about Waikōloa Village evacuations? Chair Smith explained the current situation with the emergency evacuation road and that there have been some practices.

Question from the public asked about communications at Mauna Kea during fire, social media sites on phones provided better information. Follow up question, what happens if cell phones aren't working? AC member Bill noted that Civil Defense has separate communication and asked how it is integrated: Talmadge noted that they do have a separate "land mobile" system with different frequencies, the coordination is done by people at the EOC since the systems between the departments are not interconnected. There is a backup system where key staff have "AT&T FirstNet" which prioritizes their calls on the network, there is also amateur radio as a possible backup. AC member Karen agreed that the community should work to get the second access road on the project list for the updated Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan; also that it should go into the General Plan. AC member Julia noted that they should provide our second access road report to the Civil Defense.

AC member Bill commented on tsunami evacuations creating challenges, such as getting people out of resorts and up to Waikōloa Village and then sheltering those people in the village. Elizabeth from Hawai'i Wildfire gave an update: "Ready, Set, go", first, preparation: have a plan, replace combustible materials with non-combustible, remove debris. Be aware, sign up for Civil Defense messages, watch for fire conditions and be ready. When a fire situation comes up, leave early to be clear of possible evacuation; can come back later if it's ok. For formal notifications, developing a system of alerts so that there will be some info (e.g. green level), then more serious information (e.g. yellow level and orange level), then emergency information (red level); Civil Defense terms: Advisory, Watch, Warning (correspond to yellow, orange, red) The new system mentioned above is from "Everbridge" and people can sign up. Noted that Waikōloa Village is in the minority in having a second evacuation road in Hawai'i; many communities don't have a second road out. Regarding prescribed burns, haven't typically used it here in Hawai'i due to conditions and personnel availability; some testing Maui, but not preferred here at this time (one other reason is that mostly we have grass and then the grass quickly comes back) Mayor has just created an interagency working group to address fire safety etc.

Public comment: David (from Waikōloa school) is on safety committee for school and asked if there is an evacuation plan and if he could get access to it. Cindy noted that there have been efforts over the years to put together a community plan for disaster preparedness/response, and the current version should be shown to the County to see what can be done with it. Julia noted that this plan has been submitted to Civil Defense and the County but no action.

b. August 2022 Mānā Road

2. Permitted Interaction Group (Subcommittee) Updates:

a. Hawai'i Island Tourism:

Has not yet met, AC Member Tristie had an update; she got the draft 2020-2025 plan from Frecia Savalos for us to review.

b. South Kohala CDP Review

On hold

c. Waimea Preservation

AC member Bill explained that Waimea was founded as a corporate town (i.e. a Parker built town) Working on a framework to make a list of what the community wants to see preserved in Waimea. Bill suggested that using the PONC system is a good way to get input from the community to the County about what should be preserved. Bill said they had a community group meeting on this topic and plan to have another.

d. County Roads and Bridges

i. Waikoloa Heights feasibility study, and second access road possibility.

MOU signed by developers and adjacent landowners for feasibility study; public will receive further notifications as updates occur; developer working on engineering plans. Cindy

added that there is a discussion about how the road will intersect with Queen K and Public Works is involved in the discussion. State DOT has also been involved and did note that there was a stated requirement that it not align with the Puakō Rd. Public comment by Michael Konowicz: Director Kern said that the developer must bear the cost of the road, and the road must be built when some trigger condition is met (i.e. when some certain numbers of homes are built), but that has not been communicated. Also gave ideas for how to get creative on getting the road built sooner. Noted that the original approval for Waikōloa Heights says that the developer will include fire breaks and use fire-resistant materials, asked Planning to check on this. Public comment from Tiga Kailimai online, from Kailapa community, Her and other HOA board members are CERT certified; she noted that there are no evacuation routes in her community. Noted they have a pavilion and are working on a bigger pavilion with facilities for shelter. AC Member Karen mentioned a concern from Puakō about the possibility of the road coming into the Puakō community, as some people might drive down that road and have nowhere to go. AC Member Bill asked about the Puakō evacuation road (at the end to Mauna Lani), which Karen explained is paid for by Puakō community and locked with a gate that must be opened by a member of the Puakō community (only 3 people have the code) ii. Waikōloa intersection traffic control plans.

AC Member Kevin commented that the roundabout is not the preferred solution, and we really need something now, not nothing until the roundabout is eventually done in the future. Mike Konowicz spoke to mayor, said something could be changed, but no commitment, suggested to send a letter. Motion:

Amended to read: Chair Ruth to send a letter to the mayor to urge moving forward on a traffic light now (instead of a roundabout later) Bill made the motion, Tristie seconded the motion.

Amended to read: Bill commented to include report previously sent by committee members Julia, Kevin and Ruth in 2019 to mayor. Roll call vote: Scott, Bill, Kevin, Tristie, Ruth and Karen: Aye, Julia: Nay [SEE YOUTUBE TIME STAMP 1:09:30 – 1:15:29]

iii. Proposed roundabout at Lindsey Rd and Kawaihae Rd

Additional note from Bethany: Hulu street evacuation road getting some surfacing improvements.

AC Member Bill also noted that we should consider if we should continue the other subcommittees or end them if activity is not going to happen.

3. Puakō water and wastewater systems update.
To be updated at next meeting

4. Kawaihae potable water discussion

Cindy explained that Kawaihae needs water, they get water from Kohala Ranch and don't have good water pressure (couldn't fight a fire with it, for example) Cindy also noted that Kailapa www.planning.Hawaii.icounty.gov/

doesn't have evacuation plans if there is an emergency, they've asked for evacuation mauka. AC Member Kevin asked about possible follow up actions: Cindy said that it is challenging to get water from Lālāmilo down the road to Kailapa/Kawaihae as it requires bigger pipes. Cindy said that they could make a new well up above Kailapa and have their own water. OHA just got \$350m for projects, so Cindy suggested they work on the water proposal, but this is in DHHL; chair of commission is also exec director of DHHL, and they have to propose it. AC Member Karen said do whatever it takes to get on the list.

Public comment from Cathy said that she is concerned about fireworks, and use of illegal fireworks.

James announced next South Kohala traffic safety meeting schedule.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Proposed meeting on Nov. 13, Details TBD

November 8, 2023 Mayor will be guest at Cindy's Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Committee Member Sanborn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Committee Member McLaughlin. The motion passed with 6 votes aye, 0 votes nay. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM

These minutes and all related documents are available in the Planning Department's Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee folder via [the County of Hawai'i Public Documents Repository](#). These documents may also be requested from the Planning Department by calling (808) 961-8288 or emailing cdp@HawaiiCounty.gov.