



LAND PLANNING
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

MEETING NOTES

DATE: November 4, 2004

MEETING DATE: September 29, 2004

LOCATION: County of Kaua'i
Mo'ikeha Building, Room 2

WM. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA
CHAIRMAN

THOMAS S. WITTEN, ASLA
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GRANT MURAKAMI, AICP
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

TOM SCHNELL, AICP
ASSOCIATE

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA
ASSOCIATE

KEVIN NISHIKAWA, ASLA
ASSOCIATE

PRESENT:

Cheryl Lovell Obatake/Community Specialist
Mike Furukawa/Grove Farm Company, Inc.
Morton Yamasaki/Manager, Hale Pumehana
Neil Clendeninn/Doctor, Lihū'e Scholar
Palmer Hafdahl/Architect, Palm's Hawaii
Pat Griffin/Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission
Russell Seacat, Architect
Sonia Topenio/Bank of Hawaii
Steve Kyono/State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation
Barbara Pendragon/Planner, Kaua'i County Planning Dept.
Doug Haigh/Chief, Kaua'i County Dept. of Public Works
Gary Hennigh/Deputy Planning Director, County of Kaua'i
Ian Costa/Director, Kaua'i County Planning Department
Keith Nitta/Project Manager, Kaua'i County Planning Dept.
Frank Brandt/PBR HAWAII
Grant Murakami/PBR HAWAII
Kimi Yuen/PBR HAWAII

DISTRIBUTION: via email to above list, and
Marc Ventura, Architect
Laurie Ho/Garden Island Resource Conservation &
Development

SUBJECT: **LĪHU'E TOWN CORE URBAN DESIGN PLAN
CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #1**

PURPOSE: Kick-off the Lihū'e Town Core Urban Design Plan Project with the
Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

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1. Līhu'ē Civic Center Project with Doug Haigh
 - a. Retail store presence in Civic Center has been resolved. It will stay. Doug would like to get the Civic Center project moving again. These two projects should work in tandem with each other.
 - b. Ian Costa wants to make sure that the Līhu'ē Urban Design Plan drives the Civic Center Plan and not reverse.
 - c. One thing the Civic Center project lacked was a formalized CAC although we have the informal "Līhu'ē Hui" of Pat, Palmer, Neil, Laurie, and Curtis (now Sonia) helping us. Doug is glad to have this CAC involved and formalized as part of the process. He hopes they will support the County's efforts in the Civic Center Project especially when public reviews come up and during the EA process.

2. Project Area
 - a. Gary suggested the "Precincts" should be called "Neighborhoods". PBR will make that change. Focus will be on the Līhu'ē Town Core. Curtis Tom, the "Spark" for the project wanted to see something done to revitalize Līhu'ē. Keith suggested an Urban Design Plan was more what Curtis wanted. Keith explained that this is not a Development Plan, which is much more extensive and expensive and takes much longer to complete.
 - b. The Industrial Area: Ian suggested Rice Street to Kapule Highway should be included even if it is only street treatment.
 - c. Doug added that the residential areas should be tied into the core.
 - d. PBR should identify a streetscape that transitions from the Core to the surrounding neighborhoods.
 - e. Keith noted that the original role of 'Umi Street was to connect at the center across town to Wilcox Hospital. That was stopped due to strong opposition by the residents of 'Umi Street.
 - f. Pat added that the mill site is another important node. It is the connection between Līhu'ē and Puhi/Kukui Grove Shopping Center. Others added that the mill may also be important to Līhu'ē as an urban redevelopment project.
 - g. Gather Old Maps. Cheryl noted that Kalapakī was what Līhu'ē was once called. PBR will follow up.
 - h. PBR suggested keeping the detailed analysis to the highlighted neighborhoods but they will also look at key areas or nodes outside these neighborhoods in terms of connectivity and the traffic and socio-economic studies.

3. Traffic Study
 - a. A question was raised about when Ka'ana Street and Ho'olako Street will be connected through to Kapule. This may be an opportunity for the County to work with Grove Farm. Palmer added, for example, would the County

- consider investing CIP resources to connect Ka'ana Street if it is immediately critical to a Līhu'ē urban design solution.
- b. Planning timeframe suggested by Keith:
 - 0-5 years – Short Range
 - 5-10 years – Mid Range
 - 10-20 years – Long Range
 - c. Pat suggested making another route across the valley besides Halekō Road. Halekō Road is a historic road that is slated to be expanded to four lanes in the State DOT's Long Range Transportation Plan for Kaua'i. This is something that might not be desirable. It's one of the few historic roads left in Līhu'ē.
 - d. There used to be pedestrian bridges across Nāwiliwili Stream. Maybe there are other opportunities besides road improvements to connect the two areas.
 - e. Ian suggested that to accomplish the improvements we should look at Improvement Districts.
 - f. Traffic Counts – Steve Kyono suggested contacting their Planning Division. They are presently doing traffic counts in Līhu'ē. PBR and their subconsultants should try to utilize some of their data.
 - g. PBR also suggested to the CAC that it would be helpful to focus on priorities. To start thinking about where pedestrians should have priority and where there may be streets that could better handle higher traffic volumes. One way is to think of a hierarchy of traffic mode preference in different areas.
4. Other Discussion Items
- a. Keith reviewed the County Planning Structure with the group in the role of the Līhu'ē Urban Design Plan within the structure.
 - General Plan
 - Development Plan
 - Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZ0)/Subdivision Ordinance, Urban Design Plan.

These are direct tools the County uses to "build Kaua'i."
 - b. Līhu'ē-Hanamā'ulu Master Plan: An EIS was prepared for Amfac. Cheryl asked about the Social Impact Study in it. PBR responded that the Socio-economic study to be done for this project will focus more on population and economic trends.
 - c. Ian noted that we should identify places that can be built upon.
 - d. Pat added that our main goal here is to look at what is going to make the heart of Līhu'ē special again? We need to inspire pride in Līhu'ē. It is the "Core of the Core". What are we going to do to make it happen?
 - e. The CAC asked about the Urban Design Plan developed for the Līhu'ē-Hanamā'ulu project that was approved by the Planning Commission. PBR will bring a copy to the next CAC Meeting.
 - f. Barbara noted that the 1977 Līhu'ē Development Plan was not a good plan.

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- g. Implementation recommendations will look at sources of funding as well as tools for the County to use to implement the Plan.
- h. Airports Master Plan: PBR will track down the latest copy for Līhu'e Airport.
- i. Harbors 2020 Plan: PBR will track down the latest copy for Nāwiliwili Harbor.
- j. Keith noted that the County would be exempt from EA/EIS for this project.

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