



LAND PLANNING
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

MEETING NOTES

DATE: February 1, 2005

MEETING DATE: January 26, 2005, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

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

SUBJECT: LĪHU'E TOWN CORE URBAN DESIGN PLAN AND
LĪHU'E CIVIC CENTER SITE IMPROVEMENTS
PUBLIC MEETING

WM. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA
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PRESENT:

Dr Neil Clendeninn/CAC
Calvin Sakai/Big Save
Gary Furugen/Big Save
Eduardo Valenciana/Tres Hermanos de Kauai
Charles Kawakami/Big Save
Dennis Makiya/Big Save
Jonathan Chun/Belles Graham Proudfoot & Wilson
Morton Yamasaki/Hale Pumehana, CAC
Clyde Kodani/Kodani and Associates
Russ Seacat/CAC
Sumi Seacat/County Grants Administrator
Janine Rapozo/County Transportation Agency
Phyllis Kunimura/County Building Restoration
Mike Furukawa/Grove Farm
Pat Griffin/CAC
Barbara Pendragon/County of Kaua'i Planning Department
Wanda Shibata/Webco
James Sone/Verizon
Pat Fleck/Office of Economic Development (OED)
Art Umezu/OED
Wally Rezentes, Jr./First Hawaiian Bank
Roy Tanaka/M. Tanaka Store
Laurie Ho/Garden Island Resource Conservation &
Development
Diane Zachary/Kauai Planning & Action Alliance
Rayne Regush/Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance
MaryAnn Kusaka
Avery Youn/Architect, CAC
William Bodinstalo/KMC (Kauai Medical Clinic)
Robert Schleck/County Building Restoration, Grove Farm
Homestead

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Palmer Hafdahl/Palm's Hawaii Architecture, CAC
Marc Ventura/Architect, CAC
Cheryl Lovell Obatake/CAC
Sonia Topenio/Bank of Hawai'i, CAC
Doug and Bernie Kaeo
Dixie Daniel/Dynasty Court
Keith Nitta/County of Kaua'i Planning Department
Bryan Baptiste/Mayor
Frank Brant/PBR HAWAII
Grant Murakami/PBR HAWAII
Kimi Yuen/PBR HAWAII

DISTRIBUTION: Keith Nitta/County of Kaua'i Planning Department

PURPOSE: To present and gather public input on the Līhu'e Town Core Urban Design Plan and Līhu'e Civic Center Site Improvements Draft Master Plan.

PBR Hawaii presented the two projects they are working on in Līhu'e Town for the County of Kaua'i: the Līhu'e Town Core Urban Design Plan and the Līhu'e Civic Center Site Improvements. The meeting included a brief introduction by Mayor Baptiste, who apologized for leaving early since he was not feeling well. The full powerpoint presentation including the public survey is available for viewing and download on the County of Kaua'i website: <http://www.kauai.hawaii.gov/>.

The main discussion points, comments and questions that followed are summarized below:

1. Big Save will not be able to function and will die with removal of Eiwa Street. Līhu'e will be divided into upper and lower Līhu'e if we take away Eiwa Street.
2. What is all of this going to cost? It was questioned whether the County could actually afford to implement the plan. Once a preferred plan is developed, order of magnitude cost estimates will be developed and a phasing plan would be developed to help the County break the projects down into manageable phases.
3. Consider incorporating murals on walls throughout the civic center. Historical, cultural, artistic murals in lieu of trees which are expensive to maintain. A public arts program should be integral to the design of Līhu'e. PBR added that this will be one of the major themes included in the plan. Within the Civic Center Draft Master Plan, potential locations for such features have been included. However, it will also consider locations for 2-D artwork as well. Earlier in the presentation, PBR noted that there had been recommendations to include thematic designs for each of the neighborhoods, such as quilt patterns with historic ties to Līhu'e. Some had proposed putting the designs in crosswalks.

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4. Traffic Circulation between Kukui Grove and Lihue Town should be considered.
5. Traffic – are we talking about today or with increased traffic? The traffic study that is currently being done for the Urban Design Plan will look at existing traffic as well as forecasted traffic without the proposed improvements, and analyze each of the proposed concepts to see which would improve traffic within Lihue or how projected traffic can be mitigated by some of the proposed design solutions.
6. Some felt that there are not enough pedestrians and bicycles in Lihue to justify all the bike lanes and sidewalk improvements proposed. Others felt that there are bicyclists and pedestrians who should be served. PBR added that the County is in the process of developing island-wide bicycle networks that would encourage alternative modes of transportation and that almost half the population in Lihue are either over 65 or under 18 years of age and probably the ones who would benefit from improved pedestrian access since they are less likely to drive.
7. Architectural Design – Comments and questions were raised regarding the architecture shown in the powerpoint survey. It was noted that the architecture shown was to get the community's reaction to different architectural styles that are present within Lihue Town. This will help the planning team to determine architectural styles that are appropriate for Lihue Town.
8. Kūhiō Highway – no center medians are proposed. Could this be a possibility?
9. Concerns were raised regarding trees that were shown in the plan. Some residents felt that there were too many trees and they would be difficult to maintain. They questioned who would maintain them and raised concerns regarding sight distances, and trees breaking and falling during times of high winds.
10. There was discussion on regional shopping centers and commercial activities around Lihue. Where will these facilities be located and what effect will they have on retail activity in Lihue Town?
11. It should be a priority to have businesses move to the center of Lihue Town.
12. It was noted that the newspaper had printed the wrong time for the meeting. Instead of 5:00 p.m., the newspaper gave a later meeting time. Keith Nitta said that he would be willing to meet with residents that arrived late due to the misprint.