



## September 2023 Newsletter

(Note: No August newsletter was published.)

### *PMKCA's Picnic Meeting in Kalōpā Park*

*Chaos at the start, but in the end, a pleasant, informative afternoon.*



*PMKCA Members and friends gathered in Kalōpā Park's Dining Room for the 2023 Picnic Meeting.*

Well! Our "best laid plans" went off the rails early on Saturday morning, July 29, when we discovered the Kalopa Park Main Pavilion occupied by another party setting up for a large "Baby Luau". When we (Peter Christensen, first on the scene, followed by phone calls to Ruth and Joe) talked to the organizers, we

were told that they also had a non-exclusive reservation for the pavilion, and that theirs had been created before ours.

With some distress but also with aloha, the organizers offered to work with us by giving us use of Kalōpā Park's dining hall which they had also reserved for the day. Mahalo to the luau organizers for their willingness to accommodate us. *(We will be taking up the senseless apparent double-booking of the pavilion with the DLNR which supposedly manages these ineffectual reservations – and we are looking for other pleasant venues for our summer meeting.)*

After a lot of scrambling and scrounging, we set up for our meeting in the park's dining hall. Peter Christensen and Patty Machado spent over an hour rounding up more tables and chairs from their households to supplement what was available in the dining hall. *Peter and Patty deserve a lot of thanks for making it possible for us to sit comfortably and enjoy the rest of the gathering.* Other early arrivals jumped in to help organize the dining hall and to direct our attendees to the new location.

When we had finally found our seats and settled down, it appeared that we had quite a few mauka Pa'auilo and Kalōpā residents attending, and the spirit in the hall was joyful, if also a bit frazzled.

Heather Kimball attended the early part of the meeting to give the attendees an overview of the County Council's recent activities and to answer questions. These topics were discussed:

- **Property Tax changes are coming.** The Council has approved several bills that will change the ways in which the Agricultural classifications (Non-dedicated and Dedicated agriculture) would be administered and the potential tax consequences for owners of agricultural land. Heather said that the objectives are to eliminate some problems in the Non-dedicated Ag tax method that resulted in high tax bills while encouraging owners to practice agriculture on their land. The tax changes will be implemented over the next 3-5 years, and the details are still evolving. We will be writing on the subject in a future newsletter.
- **Wildfire notification plans.** We are pleased that Mayor Roth and the County Council have put an emphasis on the need for better communications to communities affected by fast-developing emergencies such as wildfires. Funds have been allocated in the current county budget to staff positions and provide tools for getting accurate, timely information to affected communities.
- **Animal control changes.** Heather responded to a question about animal welfare and control. The county has made several attempts to deal with animal welfare issues on the island and is currently working to transfer the responsibility for collecting and housing lost, abandoned or dangerous animals, and to enhance spay and neutering opportunities.
- **Road maintenance and roads in limbo.** Several residents asked about the county's plans for dealing with our community's roads, especially those that are not currently maintained by the county. Heather agreed that the problem should be addressed but pointed to the cost of adding miles of roads to the county's jurisdiction. The county does make road materials available to residents who live along our unmaintained roads so that they might do their own road repairs.

As we prepared to partake in the bounty of dishes that the attendees had contributed to our potluck lunch, Jami Sales led us in saying Grace, and in devoting a moment of silent contemplation of the lives lost to our community in the last year.

While we enjoyed our delicious plates of food, the officers of PMKCA presented themselves to the group. Joe Clarkson, President, led the introductions. Present were Ruth Bennett, Vice President, and Peter Christensen, Treasurer. Kathy Gollaher, Secretary, was unable to attend.

We went around the room to give everyone a chance to get to know one another, and we shared laughs over the expressions of “Road Pride” – with the many residents of Waika’alulu Rd. providing the most colorful adjectives!



We proceeded to committee reports. Almost every committee could use one or more additional members. If you are interested in joining a committee, see our new [www.pmkca.org](http://www.pmkca.org) website under “Officers & Committees” for descriptions of our eight committees and contact information for their leaders.

- **CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)** – Denning Powell, CERT team leader, reports that several members have retired from the team or moved off-island and the team is seeking new volunteers. Refresher training sessions are being held for current and new CERT members. Ham radio and other vital communications training are ongoing.

- **Pa'auilo Volunteer Fire Company "8 Alpha"** – The company has been very active recently in support of the Hawaii County Fire Department and is called to assist in fires all over the island. Its captain, Jim Millar, reiterated that the company is deployed by the county Fire Department and has no independent role or voice in active fire situations. However, the volunteer company can be the first on the scene of a small or developing fire in our community which might not get immediate attention by the county Fire Department. Report any fire to the County Fire Department first, and they may activate the volunteer company. *(Note: Our park meeting was held before the catastrophic fires on Maui which have increased our concern about wildfire.)*
- **Kalopa Park** – The park team has been meeting regularly in the park on the FIRST THURSDAY and THIRD SATURDAY of each month, at 9:30am. Diana Nui is encouraging anyone who would like to spend a couple of pleasant morning hours maintaining the Nature Trail, weeding out invasives and trimming foliage along the trail and in the Polynesian Garden to contact her at 808 775-8228 for more information.
- **Roads, Traffic & Safety** – Paul Landau, the team leader, reported that there had been some DPW work done along our county-maintained roads in recent months to trim trees and do some resurfacing. Attendees discussed the apparent violations of weight restrictions on some community bridges. They also asked about the county's plans (or lack of) to address "roads in limbo" in our community, in particular, Kukuipapa Rd. and Manienie Rd. which are maintained by the residents along those roads with materials occasionally provided by the Public Works Dept.
- **Water, Health & Utilities** – Fred Alexandre, the lead for this committee, was unable to attend. Ruth reported on his behalf that he was in touch with the utility companies and county agencies on our behalf. Ruth also pointed the group to the PMKCA.org website "Other Resources" page for two useful documents: a map of our area's county water lines and placement of fire hydrants, and the current version of UH's guidelines for "Rainwater Catchment Systems."
- **Communication & Publicity** – Ruth Bennett introduced the attendees to the new PMKCA website and its advantages to our members seeking helpful information, including an up-to-date calendar of PMKCA events, details and contact info on our committees, a growing archive of current and past newsletters, other reference documents (Wildfire Preparation, Emergency Planning, etc.), membership and mailing list subscription forms, and opportunities for donations to projects. Other enhancements are planned. She encouraged everyone to check out the website and pass to her any suggestions or corrections.
- **Membership** – Ruth and Peter Christensen, PMKCA Treasurer, informed the group that our membership is still surprisingly small for the community interests that PMKCA has taken on. However, membership renewals increased during the meeting, and we welcomed 5 new members, bringing our paid membership to 38 households! *Ruth also informed the group that the Board had approved an increase in dues for 2024 to \$30, noting that our \$20-per-year dues have been in place for over 30 years! What a bargain!*



- **Invasive Species** – The committee has not been meeting regularly since the Covid days, but committee members have been keeping tabs on the invasive species that are of most concern to our communities; namely, Rapid ‘Ohi’a Death, Little Fire Ants, Two-lined Spittle Bugs, Avocado Lace Bugs and the Rat Lungworm vectors (slugs & snails). The new PMKCA.org website contains more information on invasive species and helpful links for more information. Ruth continues to write articles for the community and will be publishing an update on invasives before the end of the year. Ruth invites any interested PMKCA member to step into the committee’s leadership role, or to share the role with her, since she is over-extended at the moment.

And yes!! Then we played Bingo until the gift-laden prize table was cleared.

With hugs, and “pretend hugs” and in a flurry of folding and sorting of tables and chairs, we parted company until the next gathering. Again, thanks to Peter Christensen and Patty Machado, to Joe and many others who worked hard and quickly to solve problems and make this gathering possible.

Submitted by Ruth Bennett, for Secretary Kathy Gollaher.

## **Coming up:**

**Community Clean-Up Day – Saturday, September 23, 9am ‘til Noon**, followed by refreshments and pupus and talk story. Look for details coming soon.

**PMKCA Board Meeting – Thursday, October 12, 6pm.** Location to be determined.