

Meeting of Steering Committee
South Kohala Community Development Plan
September 26, 2007 Waimea Senior Center

Committee Members Present: William Bergin, Jacqui Hoover, Robert Hunter, Pohai Kirkland, Olani Lilly, Robby Robertson, Riley Smith, Ruth Smith, Sherman Warner, Margaret Wille. **Excused:** Tom Kelly.

Consultants and Staff: Judith Graham, Recorder; Allen Salavea, County of Hawaii Planning Department; Bruce Tsuchida, Townscape Inc.

Members of the Public: 9 persons including Janice and Joshua Akana, Zion K. Estes, Anne Field-Gomes, David Gomes, Howard Hall, January Herron, Dean Martinson, Thomas K. Sing .

Opening: The meeting began at 4:30 pm with a *pule*. Allen Salavea was the meeting facilitator. The minutes of August 22 were approved with minor corrections noted by the recorder. Allen Salavea distributed handouts to committee members as follows:

- Agenda and previous minutes
- Suggested Roles, Process and Schedule for Focus Groups prepared by Townscape
- Draft Notes from Community Meetings of August 29 and 30 (8 pages)
- “South Kohala Community Profile, Draft for Review” (117 pages)
- Process for Suggesting Revisions to Profile Draft (one page)

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Zion Estes spoke and submitted a written statement. His company does multimedia productions. He wants to implement ideas into action, specifically a district part proposed south of Lalamilo Farms. He advocated that it should be a model of cultural sustainability with many facets, including a Hawaiian culture center connected to a fiber optic cable. The park should combine recreation and education.

Committee members Jacqui Hoover and Riley Smith both observed that the fiber optic system he referenced was destined only for property owned by Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Olani Lilly said that a Hawaiian culture center was being planned now for Hawaiian Homes land in Waimea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Community Meetings

Sherman Warner facilitated, and Bob Hunter recorded, a debriefing about community meetings held in Waimea and Waikoloa on August 29 and 30.

Waikoloa: Ruth Smith acknowledged a small turnout in Waikoloa, but there were new people and good information was developed. Workforce housing is needed in Waikoloa. Pohai Kirkland observed that the form of meeting announcements is important. Billy Bergin perceived attendees were a deeply interested group. Pressures exist that are unique to Waikoloa. More forest planting could cool Waikoloa.

Consultant Bruce Tsuchida stated that the county is taking land ownership back from the nonprofit involved in a new Waikoloa affordable housing project. Margaret Wille believes the public doesn't understand affordable housing. Jacqui Hoover advised that a Hawaii Home Ownership Center now exists in Waimea to educate people about affordable projects and how to qualify.

Waimea: Robby Robertson said that people want integrated affordable housing, and not ghettoized affordable housing. Jacqui Hoover encouraged thinking of the beneficiaries of affordable housing; i.e., they should include young working families and people with physical challenges. Sherman Warner had attended a conference where, in examples, integration of market-priced and affordable housing was "invisible." He commented on the fine turnout at the Waimea community meeting.

2. Focus Groups – Sign Up and Work Plan

Bruce Tsuchida had provided a one-page blue sheet outlining roles, process and schedule for focus groups. There will be four focus groups: Waimea, Waikoloa, Kawaihae and Puako. Roles and responsibilities would be distributed among the Steering Committee, Planning Department, Townscape, and group participants. On the sheet, Townscape was responsible for maintaining participant lists, preparing agendas, notifying participants and recording discussion. According to the plan, focus groups for Waimea and Waikoloa will occur in October, and again in November if needed. In November there will be Kawaihae and Puako focus group meetings. Participants are to provide local knowledge and insight, and ideas for action and implementation. Because Steering Committee members attend, the focus groups will be public noticed to meet Sunshine Law requirements.

Format: Bruce Tsuchida said 8 to 10 people are the largest number for a group because the focus is on detail. Ruth Smith suggested the Waikoloa group break into three subsections because the signup list is large. Margaret Wille wanted to see a simple chart [regarding land use approvals] provided to the focus groups, and wanted ideas and topics presented for implementation, i.e., advance preparation for the groups. Riley Smith suggested Steering Committee members listen but not be active participants, thus minimizing Sunshine Law obligations. He also wanted participants to be reminded of what they can and cannot impact. Sherman Warner and Ruth Smith believed committee members would be happy to facilitate only. Sherman will be the representative at the Kawaihae focus group, and Robby Robertson at the Puako group.

Outreach and Dates: At the moment there were 13 people signed up for Waimea and 21 for Waikoloa. Ruth Smith has more names to fax to Townscape. Bob Hunter will include a group sign-up form in a newsletter distributed to 6,000 addresses. Jacqui Hoover would like to include input from young people and to see age ranges in the groups delineated. Sherman Warner encouraged recruitment of do-ers, not just meeting attendees. Dates of October 10 for Waimea, and October 12 or 19 for Waikoloa, were discussed. A 5:30 pm time was recommended for Waimea family people. Waikoloa needs to clarify its time preference.

Action: Allen Salavea will clarify requirements of the Sunshine Law with Amy Self of the Corporation Counsel office, assuming Steering Committee members are not actively engaged in the focus groups. Ruth Smith will put her ideas about the Waikoloa focus group format in writing and send them to Allen Salavea.

3. Community Outreach

Allen Salavea noted that this topic had been covered above, and moved to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Planning for the Next Community Meeting

Planner Allen Salavea said he had not previously envisioned the focus groups organized by geographic area. As it has turned out, the focus groups may be doing the same work as charrettes, and charrettes may not be needed. That is, the focus groups are concentrating on detail, as foreseen for charrettes. He also wants to avoid short public notice as occurred with prior community meetings. His analysis appeared to be accepted by Steering Committee members, who did not discuss the topic further.

5. South Kohala Community Profile

Bruce Tsuchida introduced a 117-page “South Kohala Community Profile: Draft for Steering Committee Review.” He said Roy Takemoto of the Office of the Mayor did the preliminary draft as part of the earlier community readiness program. At Townscape’s office Andrew Choy prepared much of the document. The document exists in color on Townscape’s website. It is a database and information base.

At the end of each of six chapters is a section termed “Implications for Planning” [The end of Chapter 3, regarding values and vision, is “Guiding Principles.”] Bruce asked the Steering Committee members to focus especially on these sections when reviewing the document. These sections link data and planning.

[For the record, the “Community Profile” includes numerous charts, figures and maps. It covers these topics:

- Introduction
- Location and Brief History of South Kohala
- South Kohala’s Community Values and Vision
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- South Kohala Today: Demographic and Economic Profile of the District
- Land Use
- Infrastructure and Services.]

Allen Salavea and Ruth Smith acknowledged the excellent work that had been done. Bruce Tsuchida had provided a one-page form for Steering Committee members to comment in writing. However, Riley Smith and others would like to submit suggested textual changes by email, using appropriate software. It was requested that Townscape make a text-only version of the document available to facilitate this process.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The group determined on these items, among others, for the next agenda:

- Update and report out from focus groups that have met
- Roles and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee, as drafted by an ad hoc committee. Bob Warner noted that the committee will reconvene on the subject prior to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- Consideration of how CDP planning can be integrated with the State legislature’s 2050 Sustainability Plan. Jacqui Hoover, who suggested this item, also announced several Hawaii Island meetings on the Sustainability Plan, on October 3 and 4. The Waikoloa Community Association will also hear a presentation on October 4.

The next meeting will be on October 24, 2007. This meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.