

LAND USE COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Hearing Room

Honolulu, Hawaii

December 19, 1962 - 10:00 A.M.

Commissioners

Present:

E. C. Bryan
Stanley C. Friel
Wayne D. Gregg
Yuichi Ige
Edward Kanemoto
Franklin Y. K. Sunn

Absent:

Roger T. Williams

Ex-Officio Members

Present:

E. H. Cook
Philip T. Chun

Staff Members

Present:

R. J. Darnell, Executive Officer (XO)
W. M. Mullahey, Field Officer (FO)
John Canright, Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bryan.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

APPLICATION OF MINNIE TAVARES (SP(T) 62-8), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO SUBDIVIDE INTO SIX LOTS A 1.05 ACRE PARCEL, LYING ALONG AN UNIMPROVED ROAD WHICH IS THE EXTENSION OF KUMUHAU STREET IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF WAIMANALO VALLEY, OAHU: Described as First Division, TMK 4-1-10: 42

The FO gave a brief description of the property involved and the request of the applicant. The FO gave his report on the additional request made of the staff by the Commission to investigate the problem concerning this applicant. He reported that building permits were issued to property owners surrounding this family before the LUC interim regulations were adopted, and two permits were inadvertently issued in error after that date.

Chairman Bryan called upon Mr. Frederick Lee, Director of the City Planning Department, to comment on this situation. Mr. Lee confirmed the FO's statement that the permits were issued in error. He stated that during the interim period there was a ruling that 5-acre lots were the sizes for temporary permits as far as the Land Use Commission was concerned. Then the Attorney General's ruling came out that that was not the case; that the Counties' zoning superseded the

Land Use Commission's. Another ruling was then issued which stated that as long as it was for urban use, the zoning would revert to the Land Use Commission. Mr. Lee stated that during that period City Planning had issued one of those permits for the posting of a house. After that, while there was still doubt in their minds and before clarifying it with City attorneys, the other two permits were issued. Mr. Lee stated that they were not in opposition to the Land Use Commission, it was merely during a period when they were not certain of the ruling and during a period when they had asked their City attorney's office to give them a ruling upon the State attorney's ruling. So the permits that were issued were in error.

Chairman Bryan asked Mr. Lee, "Does this mean that if Act 187 had not been passed it would have been all right with the City and County, within its regulations, to have these houses moved in?" Mr. Lee replied in the affirmative stating, "We have Rural Protective Zoning and Rural Residential Zoning, and also one called Highway Protective. These zoning features or laws were passed a long time ago, primarily to stop commercial developments within the agricultural areas, but permitted residential developments. Now this is one of the weaknesses of our zoning laws which we hope to correct, and the problem becomes this: In a primary agricultural area we allow people to post homes as long as those homes have 5,000 sq. ft. of land area per home. This is something which was good when initiated, but during the present time when we are trying to conserve our agricultural areas it is not good at all. It is forcing the City to extend its utilities into the outer areas and send money into the other areas where we should not be spending money. It's urbanizing your agricultural areas and this is what we are trying to avoid. So the intent and purposes of the Planning Department in this area is in fact the same as the Land Use Commission."

Commissioner Ige asked, "Is the law still in effect?" Mr. Lee replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Sunn asked, "When does the State give out land plots for residential homes in Waimanalo?" Mr. Lee replied, "I can't answer that. I do not know that we approved the subdivision and the subcontractor who has that subdivision has ample return of this bond signifying that the improvements are completed. As far as the lease of the land is concerned I would not know that." Commissioner Cook answered Commissioner Sunn's question stating, "Some time in February."

Commissioner Ige questioned the issuance of the two permits in error and the concern and obligation of it by the City and County. Mr. Lee replied, "The City feels it is something that has been accomplished and should not go back and ask the person to tear down those houses. It is an error by us, we admit our error and we are going to let it go at that."

Mr. Lee answered a question posed by Commissioner Ige stating, "The present houses as far as the City is concerned have been legally posted and installed. Therefore they are residences within that area which are legal. They are not a non-conforming use nor have they been illegally posted." As far as the City and County is concerned they are still within the Rural Protective District," stated Commissioner Ige.

Mr. Lee added, "The new zoning ordinance to be proposed, which eliminates the Rural Protective Zoning and the Honolulu Highway Zoning will be before the City Planning Commission in January, and this type of zoning in the future, say within six months' time, we should be able to abolish entirely by adopting the new zoning ordinance."

Mr. Lee stated, "Another factor of major importance is that we have worked very closely with Harland Bartholomew on the establishment of the boundaries for the Island of Oahu. I believe that we have come to agreement with most of these with the exceptions of two areas. I do not think that the problems of these two areas are insurmountable. So if the Land Use Commission wishes to meet with the staff of the Planning Department we would be very willing to set up the meeting any time it desires. As far as the meeting with our Commission members are concerned it may be difficult. We have only four Commission members who would be able to meet this Thursday, just a quorum. The other Commission members are off the island, so if you do call a meeting for this week or next week, I'm afraid we would barely have a quorum, as far as the Planning Commission is concerned."

Chairman Bryan asked if it would be helpful if the Land Use Commission staff and those Planning Commissioners available got together next week to go over the boundaries.

Mr. Lee replied that he thought it would be extremely helpful, not only from the point of view of indicating close cooperation with the Planning Commission and the Planning Department but it would also indicate to the Land Use Commission how closely the Planning Department has worked with the Land Use Commission's consultant. Mr. Lee stated that after this meeting the Planning Department would recommend that the information from this meeting be carried to the City Council for closer cooperation between State and County.

Chairman Bryan inquired into the length of time the meeting would take.

Mr. Lee replied that he did not think it would take too long. Mr. Lee gave the days when the Commission meets and suggested some appropriate days. Chairman Bryan thanked Mr. Lee.

A Mrs. Viser from the audience introduced herself as a representative of the Minnie Tavares case. She stated that yesterday (December 18, 1962) it came to their attention that a house was being built on the lot next to Mr. Miguel, tax key 4-1-10: 40, under the name of Rowe; and in contacting the Building Department, they were not able to locate the permit for this house at that time.

Mr. Lee stated that as far as the permit was concerned, he wished to point out that there are a lot of illegal homes going up without permits, and this may be one of them. Mr. Lee informed Mrs. Viser if she would give him the information at his office, he would be very happy to check into it. He also pointed out that in the Makaha area alone, there are approximately 42 known violations which, if the area is not urbanized, will be forced to terminate, which means tearing down the homes. As far as the Planning Department is concerned if these violations are brought to light they would be turned over to the City Prosecutor who will prosecute. This case may not be an illegal home, he did not know.

Mrs. Viser stated that it was hard for the Tavares family to see other homes coming up around them while they were not able to build.

Mr. Lee stated that the Mayor has assured him that he will give him two zoning inspectors whose positions would authorize them to find this type of violation and terminate it. At the present time there is no zoning inspector and there is no way of knowing of any violation unless the public reports them to the Planning Department or another State or City departments who are the best policemen of these violations.

Commissioner Sunn moved that the Commission approve the recommendation of the staff that the Commission deny the application; seconded by Commissioner Kanemoto.

Discussion: Mr. Tavares asked if the area will be one house per acre, and if that were the law as far as the "Greenbelt" is concerned. He suggested that the area involved be taken out of the "Greenbelt" as it is already an illegal zoning as the area is already comprised of a lot of homes.

Mrs. Viser asked for suggestions by the Commission as to how they would go about to correct the situation: Where should they go, because they have no intention of dropping it. Chairman Bryan asked if the Tavareses have discussed this with the City Planning Department. Mrs. Viser replied in the negative, stating that in the beginning they were told by the City Planning Department to go ahead and build the house. Chairman Bryan called upon the legal counsel for comments. The legal counsel stated that the family can talk it over with their attorney, legislators and state their dissatisfaction about this, but what the outcome of this would be he could not assure them. Commissioner Ige suggested that there will be a hearing on January 11 or soon after and the family can try to get the City and County to help them put this area in an Urban classification.

Commissioner Friel stated that he did not think personally that the Commission was ready to vote on this matter until the Commission is able to obtain some of these special permits, and the illegal buildings that are going on settled. As the City and County has allowed a building to go up next door and will not allow a permit for this, he could not see the way open to vote in the affirmative.

Commissioner Sunn was called upon to clarify his motion by the Chairman.

Commissioner Sunn stated that this stand is very unfortunate because if they (Tavareses) had confronted these homes prior to April 11, they could have put in all of these six homes, but as of now they cannot. Under the present Land Use Law, this Commission cannot possibly approve the construction of homes in Agricultural areas, and it is just one of these things. It is unfair to them (Tavareses) because of the enactment of this law. It is unfortunate that these other people were permitted to construct these homes because they just poured salt into another wound. He couldn't see what else could be done.

Commissioner Kanemoto stated that he personally felt it would be rather difficult to hold this in abeyance because in the foreseeable future he couldn't see how anything could change. With all the information at hand, he thought it only fair to the Tavares family that the Commission should act.

Commissioner Ige stated that the Land Use Commission could not take action more or less because of the City & County's recommendation. The Tavareses can go back to the City & County and put in their complaints. He felt that the Commission could not question but must follow the regulations and would just have to deny the request.

Chairman Bryan asked Commissioner Sunn if this is the kind of place that could become an improvement district and what the ultimate answer is. Commissioner Sunn stated that the existing homes will remain as is. When an improvement district goes in, it will have to go in under laws and will have to meet the requirements for subdivision in an agricultural area because this is Rural Protective now. Because of the Land Use Act, this area is agricultural; it will have to conform to some type of farm lot subdivision. This will throw the Tavares problem out of the window; they could not subdivide into small lots, and they could not have an improvement district to meet their permits. Commissioner Sunn stated that there should be an understanding that this Commission cannot give them a lot of hope to think from January 11 there might be a good chance of amending the boundaries, because it was his recollection that the consultant's recommendation for the urban line conforms pretty close to what is shown on the map now; and the Tavares lot is a long way off. So to amend that Urban line to include the Tavares property and the Miguel property would almost be out of the question.

Commissioner Gregg stated that inasmuch as Mrs. Viser has indicated that they were not going to cease looking for a way to improve this property and the Commission cannot very well in good conscience give them a permit, wouldn't it be to their advantage to deny this so that something would be clear cut so that they would have a place to start from? Otherwise, if this Commission should start deferring it, they wouldn't know where to begin.

The FO polled the Commissioners on the motion for denial of the application.
Approved: Commissioners Kanemoto, Sunn, Ige, Gregg, and Chairman Bryan.
Disapproved: Commissioner Friel.

APPLICATION OF JOSEPH AND MARGARET CORREIA (SP(T) 62-22), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO CREATE A 15,000 SQ. FT. RESIDENTIAL LOT FROM A LARGER PARCEL CONTAINING 39.28 ACRES, LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF AINAOLA DRIVE APPROXIMATELY 4/5 MILE FROM THE INTERSECTION OF AINAOLA DRIVE AND HOAKA ROAD, IN WAIAKEA HOMESTEADS, SOUTH HILO, HAWAII: Described as Third Division, TMK 2-4-05: 39.

The FO described the area involved. The FO stated that the staff recommendation was for denial for the reason that the granting of a residential lot in such a situation would set a policy in the creation of many lots.

Communication received from the Hawaii Planning Commission recommended approval of the application since it involved subdivision into one house lot in each case. The FO stated that comments and recommendations were solicited of the Land Study Bureau, the Board of Water Supply and the Department of Health, but no replies have been received. The FO stated that he contacted these agencies

by telephone and was informed that due to the heavy workload at this time they were not able to reply, but will do so as soon as possible.

Commissioner Sunn moved to recommend denial of the application. Commissioner Ige seconded the motion.

The FO polled the Commissioners on the motion for denial. Approved: Commissioners Kanemoto, Friel, Sunn, Ige, Gregg and Chairman Bryan. Disapproved: None.

APPLICATION OF GEORGE K. SING (SP(T) 62-24), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO CREATE FOUR RESIDENTIAL LOTS AND ONE RESIDUAL LOT ON LAND LOCATED IN LUALUALEI HOMESTEADS, 3RD SERIES, WAIANAE, OAHU: Described as First Division, TMK 8-6-03: 6.

The FO outlined the area involved. The FO stated that the staff had recommended approval of this application in recognition of the fact that each of the proposed lots will contain an already legally-constructed house.

Commissioner Sunn asked whether the Land Use Commission approves subdivision of a property as such? He stated that the application says to subdivide. Can the Land Use Commission approve the houses being constructed on the lot?

Chairman Bryan stated that the Commission can by special permit approve a subdivision providing the applicant complies with the County requirements.

Commissioner Sunn stated that this Commission would be doing what is normally the County's function as far as permitting subdivision, and couldn't see how the Land Use Commission's function comes into this picture.

Chairman Bryan questioned whether such cases should be covered by special permit. At this time the Legal Counsel was called upon to comment. The Legal Counsel stated that the Commission has nothing to do with the subdivision of lots. All it has to do is to grant special permit for the use of these lots for residential purpose. From there on it's up to the City and County. Chairman Bryan replied that on the other hand the County will not allow them to subdivide as long as the Commission leaves it in an agricultural area.

Commissioner Ige stated that Mr. Sing will then go to the County to petition this area to fall under the urban classification.

The FO read a communication received from the City Planning Department, dated December 11, 1962, recommending that the Land Use Commission permit the subdivision of George K. Sing's property into four lots on the basis that it is permissible under the subdivision rules and regulations and the provisions of the zoning ordinance.

After a discussion on what is permissible to be allowed and granted by the Land Use Commission in this case, Commissioner Sunn moved to grant the petitioner the right to use the property fronting Halona Road to a depth of 105 feet for primary residential use, subject to City and County regulations. Commissioner Friel seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Gregg asked whether it would be right and proper to make a motion contrary to what was worded in the application and agreeable to applicant. He was answered by the Legal Counsel, who stated that if an oral amendment or agreement by the applicant was made it would be all right.

At this time Mr. Sing was called upon and he agreed to the motion made by Commissioner Sunn with the understanding that the wording was not the same as stated in his application, but that the outcome would be what was requested in the application.

APPLICATION OF MINEO KOYANAGI (SP(T) 62-26), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT FOR CREATION OF ONE RESIDENTIAL LOT FROM A LARGER LOT COMPRISED OF 36.8 ACRES LOCATED IN HIENALOLI 6, NORTH KONA, HAWAII: Described as TMK 7-5-11: 1.

Action to defer was requested by Mr. Frank Takao, Administrative Assistant to the Lieutenant Governor, representing Mr. Koyanagi due to the fact that the applicant had signified that he had additional testimony to submit. There was no objection by the Commission and action was deferred.

APPLICATION OF JOSEPH R. SOUZA (SP(T) 62-27), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT TWO NEW SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS ON LAND LOCATED IN LUALUALEI HOMESTEADS, 3rd SERIES, WAIANAE, OAHU: Described as First Division, TMK 8-6-11: 3.

The FO outlined the area involved on the map, and briefly described the request. The staff recommendation was for denial because of the possibility of the creation of an urban area in an Agricultural district. In essence, the problem was where to hold the line.

Chairman Bryan questioned the difference between this application and the application (Mr. Sing's) the Commission just approved. The FO replied that the difference between the two was that in the case of Mr. Sing, the houses were already approved before the Land Use Commission regulations and boundaries were in effect; while in this case, Mr. Souza is requesting to construct two new dwellings.

Chairman Bryan asked for the City Planning Commission's recommendation and the FO stated that the County recommended denial of the special permit for the reason that permitting additional construction on these properties would be in violation of the concept of retaining agricultural uses in this area.

The FO read a communication from the Hicks Construction Company giving a general description of the request and property; and a communication received from the City and County Public Works Committee, informing that the matter has been referred to the Committee of the Whole and that a report will be forwarded to the Land Use Commission.

Commissioner Sunn moved to deny the Special Permit. Commissioner Kanemoto seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Albert Shibuya introduced himself and spoke in behalf of Mr. Souza. He stated that he checked into this matter with Mr. Kim of the City Planning Department prior to the Land Use Act and inquired as to what the regulation was. Mr. Kim stated that the zoning was Rural Protective. He stated that the General Plan indicates that this is an agricultural zone, but that it was his understanding that if the Greenbelt was not in effect, the subdivision would be approved. He stated that presently the property fell under the Greenbelt and that the Land Use Commission would have to give their approval before the County would give their approval.

Mr. Shibuya questioned the Commission as to the difference between the application approved for Mr. Sing and that of Mr. Souza, which involved approximately the same thing. This was explained by the Commission that in Mr. Sing's case the existing homes were already on the lot before the Greenbelt took effect; while in the case of Mr. Souza he is asking to construct additional homes on the lot, now that the Greenbelt is in effect.

The Chairman asked whether the Commissioners wished to table the motion before the Commission or vote on it. Commissioner Chun stated that in view of the recommendation received from the City Planning Commission for denial, he saw no reconciliation whereby the County would give their approval for this application.

Commissioner Gregg noted that if additional homes are granted within agricultural zoned area, it will become so that the agricultural people will be surrounded by residences and will eventually be forced to relocate so that the end result would be no more agricultural areas left for farmers.

The FO polled the Commissioners. Approved: Commissioners Kanemoto, Sunn, Ige, Gregg, Chun and Chairman Bryan. Disapproved: Commissioner Friel.

PETITION OF MAMORU AND AIKO TAKITANI (A(T) 62-13), FOR CHANGE OF TEMPORARY DISTRICT BOUNDARY TO RECLASSIFY CERTAIN PROPERTY NEAR ULUMALU, MAKAWAO DISTRICT, MAUI, FROM AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO AN URBAN DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION:
Described as TMK 2-8-01: 7 & 24.

The FO briefly described the area and request of the petitioner which was for residential development. The FO stated that the staff's recommendation was for disapproval and that the matter had been deferred pending hearing from the consultant. The consultant's recommendation for this area is not for Urban. The Maui Board of Supervisors voted contrary to the Maui Planning Commission's first action, which was for denial due to remoteness and lack of water. On a second action, taken by the Maui Planning Commission, they recommended approval of the request of the petitioner.

Commissioner Gregg moved to disapprove the request and Commissioner Friel seconded the motion. The FO polled the Commissioners. Approved: Commissioners Kanemoto, Friel, Sunn, Ige, Gregg, Chun and Chairman Bryan. Disapproved: None.

APPLICATION OF ALBERT SHIBUYA (SP(T) 62-28) (AGENT FOR THE OWNER, FRANK MONIZ), FOR SPECIAL PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THREE ADDITIONAL SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS ON LAND LOCATED IN LUALUALEI HOMESTEADS, 2nd SERIES, WAIANA, OAHU: Described as TMK 8-6-03: 39.

The FO described the area involved. He outlined the request of the applicant and gave a background of the situation. The recommendation of the City Planning Commission was for denial and the staff's recommendation was for denial.

Commissioner Sunn moved to deny the application. Commissioner Kanemoto seconded the motion. The FO polled the Commissioners. Approval: Commissioners Kanemoto, Sunn, Ige, Gregg, Chun and Chairman Bryan. Disapproval: Commissioner Friel.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were presented by the FO:

1. Correspondence from the Waialua Agriculture Company requesting extension of their subdivision on the beach. A petition requesting this area be placed in Urban has been initiated. HB&A's recommendation included this area in Urban.
2. Communication from Fred Lee, Planning Director, City Planning Department, requesting the Land Use Commission staff recommendation and comments on the above subject.
3. Reply to Planning Department's letter, from XO, suggesting that three courses of actions were open to the developer.
4. Letter from the Attorney General's Office dated December 12, 1962 clarifying that requests for Change of Boundary or Special Permit cannot be changed to the other.
5. Copy of letter from City Council to Stanley Ling, Corporation Council, requesting an opinion whether any Special Permit issued by the Land Use Commission supersedes any action by the Council.

APPLICATION OF MICHAEL P. L. CHUN (SP(T) 62-39), TO CONSTRUCT TWO ADDITIONAL HOMES ON A ONE-ACRE PARCEL IN WAIMANALO, OAHU, HAWAII: Described as TMK 4-1-25: 51.

Request for permission to use an Agricultural lot for temporary storage of buildings was before the Commission for consideration. Chairman Bryan cautioned the Commission on such permission.

It was Mr. Chun's contention that the applicant would have to follow the procedures of a Special Permit before the Commission would be able to consider this request, whether the request was for additional houses on the lot or for temporary storage of houses on the lot. Chairman Bryan stated that going through the procedures of a special permit would involve the time limit, which is no help. He questioned the staff why it did not give the applicant an interpretation of the law. The FO explained that he did, and added that the staff could not recommend the allowing of this new request because the Commission would get into a situation by allowing people to move houses temporarily onto the land in the Agricultural district. There are many ramifications, not only in this particular area but in other areas of the State. The staff has told Mr. Chun he is entitled to come before the Commission to make his request but that the staff did not think it would be looked upon favorably. The Chairman stated that the applicant would have to go through the special permit procedure with the additional request to store buildings on this parcel in the Agricultural district.

Commissioner Chun asked, "Wouldn't this be a matter of granting a special permit for storage? What other authority would this Commission possibly have?" He stated that there is nothing in the rules and regulations which show this is an allowable request; and anything which does not show in the rules and regulations would be for the filing of an application for special permit.

Commissioner Chun motioned to have the matter referred to the Attorney General's Office for further clarification. Commissioner Kanemoto seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MEETING SCHEDULED WITH CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.