Aesthetics Committee Meeting
Friday, September 19, 2014
Palanakila 117 at 10:00 am

Members Present: Paul Nash, Mariko Kershaw, Charles Whitten, Roy Fujimoto, Floyd McCoy, Ryan Koo, Donita Garcia (ASUH), Bonnie Beatson, Toni Martin, Carol Cunha, Jody Lynn-Storm substituting for Laura Sue.

Student Guest: Mo Souza, Jessica Jimenez, Madori Rumpugwong from the WCC Sustainability Club.

Agenda:

1. New Members
2. Approve May 8th minutes
3. Smoking policies
4. Back Fence
5. Second Rain Garden
6. Railings
7. Trees
8. Beautification Day
9. Hospital Mental Patients
10. Palanakila Court Yard
11. Electric Transformers
12. Women’s Restrooms in Library
13. Mana’opono: Signage and Handicap Accessibility
14. Ampitheater

1. New members: introduced, Jody Lynn-Storm sitting in for Laura Sue

2. Last minutes passed unanimously, Ryan motioned, Toni seconded.

3. Smoking policy: The smoking policy on campus is most likely going to reverse back to the 20 feet from building entrances as announced by a UH system-wide policy. Bonnie is in charge of redesigning campus maps and brought up the issue of plans to include smoking areas on maps. Committee agreed that more information regarding smoking policy should be made available. The committee discussed issues regarding the reasons for the abrupt changes. Charles helped explain that the union wasn’t exactly opposed to the smoking areas only and the union is working with the university to establish a new smoking policy. Paul said that he would make sure that Doug and Rick will keep us posted. The committee agreed that new covered smoking areas should be put in place, the Aesthetics Committee should have input into the design process.

4. Back fence: The committee continued an inquiry into the suggestion to build some sort of fence separating the college from the hospital. Several members expressed concerns of approaching our legislators (Chris Brown, Clayton Hee, Jill Tokuda, Ken Ito, and Josh Green)
citing issues regarding representation of the college, community, or individual. Senator Jill Tokuda has repeatedly stressed that she does not support the creation of a fence, stating the hospital’s goals and patients’ rights as justification. Other legislators felt differently. The committee was also reminded of the visit from the hospital representative during Fall Convocation 2014 who explained that many of the people on or around campus are not patients and have every legal right to be there. However, the committee continued to express concerns. For example, Donita Garcia, the ASUH student representative, told the committee a story involving an extremely uncomfortable/scary incident involving a perceived resident of the state hospital. Other member expressed other similar stories. Floyd, Paul, Bonnie, and Toni told stories of intimidation and even a past shooting involving a mental patient. Floyd suggested planting a hedge (Night Blooming Cereus was suggested) and perhaps building a rock wall. Although the committee agreed that talking to the P.R.U. (Plan Review Use Committee) or to Representative Josh Green for issues regarding gray areas of boundaries and historical significance could help, the committee also agreed that a discussion with the faculty senate was a prerequisite. Motion: Bonnie moved that the committee consult with Doug and Faculty Senate before we move to the legislature with questions regarding the building of a hedge, rock wall, etc., due to its innate aesthetic nature, to ensure the continued beauty of WCC’s campus. Donita seconds, motion passes unanimously.

5. Second Rain Garden. Floyd stated there were no new issues since committee already accepted the proposal. The new rain garden will proceed as planned. Bonnie was curious about signage. Floyd stated that signs would be installed in the immediate future.

6. Railings: Paul reminded us the decision to make all railings uniform by using Manoa Forest Green paint. Paul also reported that Kevin Ishida stated that railings must be stripped before painting. The committee is in agreement that the railings be painted now and then find money for stripping off the paint and then repainting. Doug stated that we would have to go through the Planning and Budget Committee in order to get the money’s needed. Is there enough funding for this repair/paint? Toni and Bonnie suggested using Campus Beautification Day as a way to rally the community to help clean up our campus. Paul explained that there might be some issues regarding the maintenance union. Paul also noticed that the new buildings did not adhere to Manoa Forrest Green color. Paul said he would consult Kevin and Doug about these proposals.

7. Trees: A recent email from Kevin Ishida stated that WCC is slotted to remove many trees (banyan, mango, etc.). The committee and campus has since expressed great concern. The committee does acknowledge that there are a few trees (by Akoakoa and Kako‘o) that pose a significant threat to the buildings and possibly students, faculty, and staff. The committee is also deeply concerned about the remaining trees on campus. Ryan suggested perhaps crowdfunding or fundraising support from the wider community/internet. Madori suggested using native/native introduced species, such as the Breadfruit Tree. Floyd mentioned possible historic preservation commission issue regarding the replacement of Banyan trees. Floyd made a motion that the Aesthetics Committee strongly recommends that WCC do everything possible short of violating safety protocols in order to save all trees that are not an immediate threat to the campus or students, faculty, and staff. Charles seconded. Passed unanimously.
Floyd also suggested that WCC start a nursery to plan for the inevitable replacement of trees. Committee wants to include Dr. Dave Ringuette in the development of this idea. Floyd made a motion that the campus should create a nursery to plan for the inevitable replacement of all trees. Ryan seconded, passed unanimously.

8. Beautification Day: This idea continues to build momentum as more support gathers for the organization of a community involved WCC Beautification Day. Targets: railings, weeds, litter, leaves, mold, mildew, courtyard at Akoakoa, etc. Bonnie suggested following Castle High school’s example, bringing the community into the campus and getting them to help beautify WCC. Madori suggested bringing the campus’ clubs into campus beautification project. Sustainability Club would like to take the lead along with other clubs and student government. Ryan vowed support from Phi Beta Kappa Society. Student Madori will draft proposal and report back at the next meeting. Bonnie reminded us that there are logistical concerns, union issues, and we need to talk to Kevin Ishida about this idea of Beautification Day.

9. Hospital Patients: As far as loitering is concerned, Floyd reminded us that there is nothing we can do based on the information given during convocation regarding the legal rights of patients and residents. The problem is that the out patients from the hospital are loitering at the back of the campus during the morning and afternoon hours. The committee agreed once again that a very thick hedge is a good idea to try to keep a safe relaxed atmosphere for our students on campus.

10. Palanakila Courtyard: Kevin said that all proposed plans are off the table and that the courtyard area is a liability issue. Toni tried to bring in the professional gardener, but it seems to have hit a wall. There seems to be many issues surrounding the river rocks. Toni wanted a garden and to re-display the river rocks near the original design. Leland Milano (artist/gardener/sculpture) might be able to help if we can find the funding for the project. Maori from the Sustainability Club suggested making it a student involved project and perhaps bring some native species into the project. Funds are needed for this project.

11. Electric Transformers: The committee once again discussed possibilities for the transformers. The committee agrees that either a fence around the transformers or a painted design on the transformer’s surface seems to be the best solutions. The conversation will continue with respect to artists and that they would need the approval of the Aesthetics Committee and the Chancellor.

12. Women’s Restrooms in Library: The committee was shocked to hear Mariko explain the horrific issues regarding the signs in the stalls in the library bathroom. Apparently, the custodial staff has put signs reading, “Don’t throw stuff other than TP in the toilet” in the women stalls. But the stalls do not come with any waste receptacle that is standard. The committee agrees that this is not only a health concern, but also an aesthetics concern! Motion: Mariko moved that feminine hygiene disposal receptacles be installed in each stall in the women’s bathroom throughout La’akea building (library). Ryan seconded, passes unanimously.
13. Manaʻopono Building:  This building does not have a signage in front of the building. Committee requesting update on “Monument Exterior Signage.” Jody-Lynn Storm inquired about the railing and wooden handicap access ramp in front of building, which needs major repair. Another liability issue.

14. Amphitheater:  Floyd explained that due to the Title III grant the amphitheater would finally get built.  This is in the master plan and the new master plan.  The sundial is also included in the construction plan along with the amphitheater.  Toni reminded us that the State Foundation on Cultural and the Arts must be involved with inclusion of any sculptures with the new amphitheater.

Minutes by Ryan Koo
Aesthetics Chair, Paul Nash
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am
Next meeting October 17th
10:00 am Palanakila 117