Aesthetics Committee Meeting
Friday, October 17, 2014
Palanakila 117 at 10:00 am

Members Present: Paul Nash, Joe Ciotti, (Elizabeth Ratliff sitting for Mariko Kershaw), (Jody Lynn-Storm sitting for Laura Sue), Roy Fujimoto, Charles Whitten, Lillian Cunningham, Ryan Koo

Aesthetics Committee Agenda October 2014

1. Approve September minutes
2. Fence/Hedge/Legislators
3. Tour of Trees
4. Palanakila Courtyard
5. Transformer Design
6. Rain Garden Maintenance
7. Beautification Day
8. Railing
9. Library Women’s Restroom
10. Mana’opono: Signage and Handicap Accessibility
11. Highway Signage

1. Approval of September Minutes: September minutes passed unanimously. Charles moved, Lillian seconded.

2. New Business: (Continued discussion from last meeting regarding back road fence/legislators) Paul brought up the issue of the fence/hedge that we discussed last time. Doug sent out an email regarding the aesthetics committee’s responsibilities and stressed that the committee should not approach the Legislators. Paul did approach Ken Ito about the wall/hedge, but everything is on hold until the Master Plan is approved. Paul will double check with Doug about our relationship with Legislatures, also with respect to issues regarding the needs of campus (i.e. Rob’s printmaking facility’s needs, Bryce’s sculpture facilities (metal casting), Kalawaia’s wood carving, focus on the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects). Paul also spoke to Doug regarding concerns with safety and need for transparency from legislators. As long as we are not representing a certain committee, it is ok to approach the legislators as individual community members. When Paul talked to Ken Ito, Ken reported that there is no discussion regarding WCC’s needs/wants in the legislature at this time, prompting the committee to re-stress the need for clear and transparent communication between our campus and
our legislators. A few members reminded the committee of this need by citing a past example of clear communication. Our campus would not have had the support of the state for the building of the library without the communication between faculty and former Vice Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda from U.H. Manoa. When faculties were free to address our need for a new library to administration and legislators, the campus received support for a new library. The committee hopes this open communication will continue.

3. Tour of Trees: Kevin will come to our next meeting to take us on a tour to talk to us about the tree issues. Kevin thinks that we should stick with the original aesthetics of the campus, especially the banyan trees, and is coordinating with Dave Ringuette to plant them now to prepare for the future. Charles mentioned that he talked to Kevin, and Kevin stressed that some of the trees need to come out immediately. In addition to the problems with the wasp infestation, the committee was also concerned with the new problem with the Rhino beetle invasive species. Charles stressed that perhaps Kevin should research some potential nurseries looking for banyan (or other) that can be quickly planted on the campus. Elizabeth mentioned that they have started some treatment for wasps and other issues, but the committee would like to have more information about this issue. Elizabeth also mentioned that the treatment of the wasps is only sometimes successful. We will find out more on the tour next month.

4. Palanakila Courtyard: Paul talked to Kevin earlier in the week and it seems that they are removing the river rocks from Palanakila courtyard and replacing it with very small “blue rock.” People should be able to walk safely across the courtyard with these changes.

5. Transformer Design: Sustainability club is continuing to search for local artists and will report back at the next meeting.

6. Rain Garden Maintenance: Committee noticed that the Rain Garden is not being maintained and is overgrown with weeds. Committee has no news of when weeding of the Rain Garden will take place. The committee did have worries about the maintenance of the gardens at the time of approval.

7. Beautification Day: Paul mentioned that Kevin talked to union and seems to be okay with a Community Beautification Day. Committee will discuss this again at next meeting when more members are present.
8. Railing: The campus cannot start this project until funds are available. No one from the Aesthetics Committee objected to a “patch” paint job for now so all the railing can be a Manoa Forrest Green.

9. Library Women’s Restroom: Paul talked to Kevin about women’s restroom in Library (issue of signage and sanitary waste receptacles discussed during last meeting). Kevin apologized and will try to address this problem as soon as possible. Paul mentioned that there are similar issues with Palanakila women’s restroom.

10. Mana’opono Signage and Handicap Accessibility: Paul mentioned these issues to Kevin but it will probably take a while unfortunately. This is a safety issue and should be directed to the Safety Committee. Paul will do that. Sherri explained that there is a shortage of maintenance workers (on leave due to injury/illness). Tom has replaced Derwin for now, but there is a massive backlog with campus maintenance issues. The committee stressed that the campus should prioritize these issues with health and safety issues as an immediate priority (i.e. handicap accessibility). Roy brought up that we should draft a stronger statement of support for the hiring of more Maintenance staff. Roy explained that most of the aesthetics issues that are unaddressed and unresolved, are rooted in the lack of maintenance staff.

Motion: As many of the ongoing and unresolved issues concerning the Aesthetic Committee agenda cannot and will not be addressed due to the severe shortage of Operations and Maintenance Staff, including the lack of specialized maintenance staff (i.e. electricians, plumbers), the committee strongly recommends that the Administration and PBC prioritize the support of hiring of more Operations and Maintenance Staff and to ensure that the aesthetic issues of the campus can be appropriately and expediently addressed.
Roy moved, Paul Seconded. Passed unanimously

Further discussion: Charles questioned whether the specialized maintenance (i.e. electrician, plumber) should be outsourced to address these concerns as soon as possible. For example, Paul brought up example of his kilns. We used to have an on campus electrician on campus. However, Elizabeth brought up danger of outsourcing with the example of subpar instillation of projector in Hale Imiloa 106 (subpar building materials, exposed wires, no conduit).

11. Signage near Entrance to Campus: Paul already approached the Highway Department but they say that it isn’t their kuleana. Paul mentioned to Kevin about
this discussion. There needs to be a discussion with the Department of Parks and Recreation for perhaps a replacement of the sign by Kahekili/Kea‘ahala Road. The Highway Department did tell Paul that they would put up a new sign on Kahekili Highway heading towards the college from Likiliki. It will take about three months.

Meeting started at 10:25 AM
Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

Minutes by Ryan Koo

Paul Nash
Aesthetics Committee Chair