Aesthetics Committee Meeting
April 24, 2015
Friday at 2 pm.
Palanakila 117

Carol Cunha, Kevin Ishida, Lillian Cunningham, Charles Whitten, Mariko Kershaw, Paul Nash, Joe Ciotti, Floyd McCoy, Laura Sue, Bonnie Beatson, Ryan Koo

Guest: Ingelia White (Botany and Microbiology Professor)

Agenda:

1. Inge White (Trees)
2. Approve March minutes
3. Library steps has cracks
4. Oahu Master Gardeners (Jayme Grzebik grzebik@hawaii.edu)
5. Imiloa Garden
6. Rain Garden #2 Hui o Koolaupoko (Todd Cullison)
7. Lunch Wagon Generator
8. Priority List Update
9. Construction Area/Hale Kakoo
10. Mildew/Mold on Campus
11. Handrails on Campus

Meeting came to order at 2:00 pm

1. Inge White visited our committee during this meeting as requested to share her knowledge about possible replacements for the banyan trees on campus. What follows are her suggestions:

Non-desirable trees on the campus:
- Weedy trees (seeds that are eaten by birds and scattered on the mountain to germinate and endangering Native Hawaiian plants)
- Toxic leaves, flowers and roots
- Allergenic pollen or strong smell emitted by flowers/fruits that can cause skin rash and sinusitis
- Wide canopy trees will more likely have longer spreading roots (the roots spread 10x longer/wider than the canopy of the tree) that might damage buildings
Note: severely pruned trees will be infested by ground termites since the trees have no longer own their natural protection and are left in weak condition. Termites will soon penetrate further into the root tips and will soon attack the building above them.
- Edible fruit trees (inviting fruit pickers, crimes and liability issue), unless a designated maintenance worker is the only fruit picker and fruit distributor on the campus.
- Poorly trimmed trees (i.e. some of the current banyans on campus) can have the side effect of attracting the Taiwanese termite species (ground termites)

It would be possible to grow fruit trees if there are minimum 5 of the same fruit trees are grown on the campus to provide enough fruits for everyone to enjoy and the fruits can be distributed from one designated location on the campus.

Desirable trees on the campus:
- Provide shade, strong wood (not easily be broken by the wind)
- Easy to grow and low maintenance
- Non-deciduous
- Friendly trees (non-toxic, non-allergens, non-weedy, not too big)
- Valuable wood (for furniture, flooring, canoe, housing). The pruned wood can be donated for the carpentry class

Polynesian plants or Native Hawaiian plants that have cultural values (for educational purpose)
   Note: Some desirable trees are:
   Koa (Acacia koa)
   Kamani (Calophyllum inophyllum),
   Kou (Cordia subcordata)
   Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus citriodora syn. Corymbia citriodora)
   Wiliwili (Erythrina sandwicensis)
   Mountain apple (Eugenia malaccensis)
   Ohia (Metrosideros polymorpha)
   Noni (Morinda citrifolia)
   Soapberry tree (Sapindus saponaria)
   Mamane (Sophora chrysophylla)
   Tamarind (Tamarindus indica)
   Milo (Thespesia populnea)
   Ylang-ylang (Cananga odorata)
   Cinnamon (Cinnamomum verum) etc.
2. Approval of March Minutes:

Motion to approve March minutes with minor corrections: Carol, Bonnie seconded. Passed unanimously, 11-0.

3. Library steps have cracks:

There is one cracked tile and one loose tile in the grand staircase inside of the library, which were reported in the spring of 2014 semester to WCC Maintenance. Paul looked at the tiles and suggested that we pop off the entire surface of the bad tile step and repair it with mortar. Kevin explained a previous attempt to repair the cracks did not go well. The initial repair attempt of tile covering step resulted in the realization that there are many “hollow” places under tile where grout is missing. Kevin also explained that the original contractor would not come back and replace this problem. Kevin explained that these repairs are as of right now the fiscal responsibility of the college due to lack of contractor support. Kevin explained that this is a major job and that WCC wants a contractor to come out and test the grout along/under all steps. So this is basically a much larger issue that needs to be addressed.

The Community College System Office is now involved and Kevin has written to the CC system explaining that they should get involved so that the cost isn’t solely the responsibility of WCC. If the Office of Capital Improvements cannot take care of this issue, then CC system office should become involved and help with or cover entire cost. Another issue is that the contractor did not have extra stone so right now WCC does not have replacement stone/tile for the repair job. In the past, contractors used to have a 10% contingency built into contract to deal with faulty/shoddy craftsmanship, but as of now it is down to 5% - 0%. Kevin will continue to investigate this issue and report back next meeting.

4. Oahu Master Gardeners (Jayme Grzebik grzebik@hawaii.edu): Bonnie will follow up on possible volunteer garden help.

5. Imiloa Garden: Garden in back of Imiloa? The committee agreed that this should be cut back or even totally cut down and replaced with something more practical/useful (i.e. use the riverbed stones from the Palanakila courtyard and add benches to create an aesthetically pleasing and accessible space for students/faculty.
Motion to give science department the right to transport river stones from Palanakila courtyard to the new planned courtyard at Imiloa: Joe, Floyd seconded. Passed unanimously, 11-0.

As for possible addition of benches, Lillian suggested that WCC might follow precedent set in past—donations of tables from McDonalds or other donors (i.e. Hawaii state warehouse)

Palanakila courtyard will be paved, but the Palm Trees will remain in the courtyard. Bonnie suggested that whatever is put in as a replacement should utilize the ground to design a beautiful pattern. Perhaps use bricks with donor names on them. Kevin will talk to consultants and see if there are any suggestions.

6. New Rain Garden: Todd Cullison (worked on previous rain garden) could not be here but will attend next meeting.

7. Lunch wagon generator: This issue was solved. Original plan was to use outlets but the power needed from truck caused the power from outlet to shut down. Right now they are using one of WCC’s generators, but on Sunday (26th April) at Slim’s Power Tools, the owners of the lunch wagon (Uahi Grill?) will purchase a generator on sale. The owners are planning on painting their truck.

8. Priority List Update: Tabled until next meeting. Paul will bring list to next meeting.

9. Construction Area/Hale Kako‘o: Floyd sent an email earlier this week with the suggestion of using graffiti art to cover the blackout fences surrounding the construction area. During the construction of the new library, the graffiti urban artist community was attracted to our campus through Nancy Heu (Librarian) publicizing through Midweek and other media sources. Before anything can happen, Kevin must also talk to the contractor to receive permission to paint the blackout walls.

Motion to approach contractor and move forward with plan to use graffiti urban art to transform the black blackout fences into works of art: Floyd made motion, Bonnie seconded. Passed unanimously, 11-0. Kevin agreed to approach contractor with proposal in order to begin this process.
10. Mildew/Mold:

Kevin followed up on the mildew prevention product he found, MODEC MDP-500. Because it uses Hydrogen Peroxide, it will kill mildew, mold, spores, algae, etc. Process: Spray on affected areas followed by a pressure wash. This product is reported to prevent the regrowth of new mold/moss/mildew (unlike bleach or other cleaning products).

11. Handrails around Campus: Kevin also wanted clarification of colors of rails. The committee agreed that the rails attached to buildings should be the same color theme as respective buildings. All other rails should be painted forest green.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Minutes by Ryan Koo
Aesthetics Chair: Paul Nash