

**Orchidland Community Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Approved Minutes  
May 19, 2020**

**Call to Order:** President Steve Lyon presiding; this is the Board of Directors meeting of May 19, 2020 at the Neighborhood Place of Puna in Keaau, the time is 6:45pm.

This meeting is limited to 10 persons or less: RMC, BOD and administrative support. All social distancing standards recommended by the State are being followed and some BOD members will also be joining the meeting via conference call.

**Roll Call on location:** President Steve Lyon, Vice President Doug Anderson, Secretary Ric Wirick, RMC Chair Sky Platt, RMC Vice-Chair John Anderson, Hershel Hood, Brennan

**Roll Call for via conference call:** Betty Saleh, Jeremai Cann and Tegen Greene.

**On leave:** David Guinn

**Special Guests:** Lloyd Swierenga and Carrie Walters

**Motion to approve the Agenda for the BOD meeting of May 19, 2020 as distributed.  
Seconded, called to vote, 10 in favor, unanimously approved.**

**Motion to approve the Minutes of the BOD meeting of April 21, 2020 as distributed.  
Seconded, called to vote, 10 in favor, unanimously approved**

**President's welcome announcement to members and general public:**

Aloha and welcome to the 2020 May Board of Director's meeting for fiscal year 2019-20.

In accordance with State Covid-19 safety provisions: the OLCA Board and special guests are practicing social distancing, sitting about 6' apart from one another. And this meeting is being audio recorded.

(Bypass general introduction below)

OLCA members and the general public are welcome to attend but are asked to please not interrupt the proceedings and agenda. Guests will be given the opportunity to speak at the end of meeting. Sign-in and suggestion forms will also be provided at the meeting; these forms will be reviewed and addressed by the BOD at the next scheduled meeting.

One final notice, this is a public meeting and it is being video recorded.

**RMC report summarized by RMC Vice Chair John Erickson (full report as distributed):**

**Updates on pothole filling:** As anticipated lower Orchidland Drive, primarily used as the business access road for the commercial district, continues to crack and break away in every rain storm. The worst potholes developing where lower Orchidland Drive adjoins Hwy 130. This has created a Public Safety Hazard and Risk. During the past months many large potholes have opened up, one

had spanned inbound lane of traffic. OLCA maintenance crews have attempted cold patching between storms and gravel has been used while the road is flooded.

Due to this increased Public Safety Hazard and Risk during heavy rains and flooding, OLCA has requested that the County temporarily close this section of road in order to help prevent vehicular/ pedestrian injury and/ or fatality. This short section of roadway receives heavy commercial traffic, including large delivery trucks (including tandem fuel trucks) and school bus traffic (loading and unloading for and of school children). In addition, the flooding in this section is made worse by the church's lower parking lot draining directly onto lower Orchidland Drive.

Letters were sent to commercial property owners on lower Orchidland Drive in 2017 and a complaint filed with the Hawaii County Works Department in 2018 concerning the road flooding and ponding issue. Letters and/ or emails will be sent to business owners in early 2020 -- plus County, State, Federal officials, politicians and the media regarding this increased Public Safety Hazard. We anticipate a workable solution in the future, in order to avoid the closure of this section of roadway.

Over the past two months OLCA made requests with the State Hwy Dept for assistance in opening natural drainages on lower Orchidland near the inbound lanes at the intersection with HWY 130 to prevent flooding and ponding during heavy rains. No attempts were made by HDOT to assist with our request. This month, OLCA road crews opened the natural drainage to the best of their ability, removed road side debris and dispersed gravel. This additional drainage work has reduced the flooding on the inbound lane. Flooding and ponding remain an issue on the outbound lane with rainwater drainage directly from the Mormon churches parking lot.

Other potholes are filled once a month as part of ongoing road maintenance.

**Unpaved road maintenance updates:** sustained heavy rains and flooding in March washed out some areas on unpaved roads. Hokori Construction was directed to check out all 30 miles of unpaved roads and repair as needed (specifically repair/ fill washed out areas and large potholes). Their road repair service was completed in about a week at a cost of just over \$12,000 = \$4,000 labor and equipment and \$8000 materials (1 ½" or 2 ½" base course). About 13, 20-ton truck loads of base course with a skid steer loader for dispersal of materials.

With the extended heavy rains and flooding in April, the RMC recommended another round of road repair similar to those noted above. Horkori Construction is scheduled this month to complete this road repair service.

**Vandalism and theft of OLCA road signs and posts:**

This past month two STOP signs and posts were stolen at the intersection of 40<sup>th</sup> and Pohaku Drive. Plus, two STOP signs and posts at the intersections of Laniuma Drive and 39<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave.

In addition, the entry signs at 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and Ainaloa were knocked flat to the ground. RMC, Doug Anderson called in these reports of theft and vandalism with an estimated replacement cost of \$1500. The HPD incident number is 20-033442.

OLCA's road side maintenance crew replaced signage at Pohaku Drive and 40<sup>th</sup> Ave and Laniuma and 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. No confirmation of STOP sign and post replacement on Laniuma and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. Also, the entrance signage at 35<sup>th</sup> Ave and near Ainaloa Blvd is still flat on the ground.

**Abandoned Vehicles (AVs) on OLCA roads or in the right-of-way:**

**Discussion:** Abandoned vehicles and the arson of abandoned vehicles in Orchidland Estates has been on rise over the past years. One major reason is that vehicle recycle centers stopped paying for metal recycling and now charge a fee. Technically, dumping vehicles is a criminal littering offense, up to \$1000 fine and 200 hours of community service.

If an abandoned vehicle (AV) is dumped on an Orchidland road or in the right of way, and it is reported to the HPD and they follow-up with an incident report. The AV should be towed or removed by the County within a week or two. If not, follow-up with the HPD on a weekly basis until the vehicle is removed.

The process is to call the HPD non-emergency number at 808-935-3311

Report an abandoned vehicle: provide the HPD with the date of incident, location, type vehicle and be sure to get an incident number and HPD officer contact name.

**Additional updates regarding trash dumping and collection:**

OLCA is now registered with Matson shipping for their community clean up assistance program. If approved, Matson will supply a 40' container and hauling services plus provide a grant of \$1000 to OLCA to assist with community clean-up operations.

This Matson grant would help OLCA fund road-side clean-up. For the past 4-years OLCA roadside mowing crews have removed excessive trash before mowing road sides at least 2 to 3 times per year, and when directed by the RMC.

**New Business:**

On April 1, 2020 the RMC received an email from an Orchidland resident, Anne Kamau, on 34<sup>th</sup> Ave between Ilima Drive and Ainaloa Blvd. She reported excessive traffic from Ainaloa Blvd. cutting through Orchidland Estates to by-pass the road construction on Hwy 130, the new roundabout construction location. Anne Kaumau indicated that this has already become a public safety hazard and will get even worse when the "stay at home" ban has been lifted. She asked if OLCA could temporarily block/ barricade the entrance on 34th from Ainaloa Blvd. to prevent the excessive traffic and reduce the damage to OLCA private roads.

OLCA contacted County Council District rep, Matt Kleinfelder, via email concerning this recent issue -- since Ainaloa Blvd is a County maintained road. He is unable to assist us with the problem.

Last month, the RMC and BOD approved funding up to \$2000 for econoblock concrete barricades and necessary signage: Road Closed sign at Ainaloa Blvd and 34<sup>th</sup> and No Outlet sign at 34<sup>th</sup> Ave and Illima. We have coordinated with Anne Kamau – who helped us notify Orchidland residents living the area of 34<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Installation of the econoblock concrete barriers and signage is scheduled with Hokori Construction sometime after mid-May 2020.

The RMC is anticipating that cut-through/ by-pass issues from Ainaloa Blvd through Orchidland Estates private roads (35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Ave.) will become an ongoing problem with the roundabout road construction on Hwy 130 and Ainaloa Blvd. Plus, illegal dumping on Illma Drive has increased since the road construction started.

Anne Kamau indicated that the County originally proposed to barricade the entrances/ exits to and from County road, Ainaloa Blvd into Orchidland Estates from 34<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup>. If we can locate these County documents, there is a chance that the County might reimburse OLCA for providing the service for the County.

The following Motion was approved by the RMC and recommended for BOD approval:

**Motion** to approve funding for additional econoblock barricades and signage at the entrances of 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Ave, if and when needed, to block cut-through/ by-pass traffic from Ainaloa Blvd. related to road construction on Hwy 130.

**Seconded**

**Discussion:** as noted in the initial Motion for econoblock barriers on 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, there has been a substantial increase of cut-through/ by-pass traffic from Ainaloa Blvd through Orchidland Estates since the construction began at the intersection at Hwy 130. This excessive cut-through/ by-pass traffic has caused substantial road wear and road damage to newly maintained roads. In addition, the excessive traffic has created a safety issue for Orchidland residents. Plus, illegal dumping on Illima has increased since the road construction began.

The RMC will use the econoblock barricades and signage at 34<sup>th</sup> and Ainaloa Blvd as a test model and monitor traffic conditions over the next month determine whether OLCA will also close 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Ave entrances from Ainaloa Blvd as well. Cost estimates will be based on the 34<sup>th</sup> and Ainaloa Blvd. project, currently up to \$2000.

Written notice will be distributed to Orchidland residents on these sections of roads as well as the County Fire Dept and HPD. If these roads are closed at Ainaloa Blvd, residents could enter and exit onto Hwy 130 at Illima or Auli'i Drives.

**More discussion, call motion to vote, 10 in favor, unanimously approved.**

**Old Business:**

**The OLCA letter** regarding the Public Safety Hazard and Risk at lower Orchidland Drive and Hwy 130 -- will be to be sent soon (via mail and/ or email) to the businesses and the church on lower Orchidland Drive as well as County, State and Federal agencies and representatives, reporters and more.

At the March 2020 RMC meeting a few motions were discussed regarding the potential costs and funding for necessary repairs and the overdue reconstruction of lower Orchidland Drive from Hwy 130 to the intersection of 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. Repairs and reconstruction are needed in order to prevent the temporary road closure of lower Orchidland Drive during heavy rains and flooding which creates hazardous road conditions.

It was determined by the RMC that it would be best to wait until after the 2020 letter was sent to businesses, church and County, State and Federal officials/ representatives and reporters before moving forward with costs and funding suggestions. The RMC suggested meeting with all parties to discuss a workable solution.

This meeting with all parties was proposed for April or May 2020, but with the recent virus scare and stay a home orders the meeting will be postponed.

**More RMC discussion:**

-- USDA Rural Development grants and/ or loan options for possible additional road repair, maintenance and improvement funding. For instance, additional gravel, basecourse, materials to bring unpaved roads up to minimum Federal standards.

RMC members will follow-up with the USDA Rural Development when they are back to their regular schedule.

**More topics of discussion:**

On May 11<sup>th</sup> while exiting Orchidland Drive at 5:30am there was an abandoned vehicle (older Toyota truck) left in the outbound lane facing upslope (in the wrong lane). Both the front and rear tires were flat. It was dark, no emergency flashing lights on the vehicle and no occupants. I called it into the HPD non-emergency number.

When I returned home about 2pm the vehicle was gone but they had left their blown-out tire and rim on the edge of the road in the right of way. I called in a second complaint for criminal littering. Met with officer, Tam, he checked but was unable to come up with the morning report for the abandoned vehicle, if and when we locate this report we should have the necessary information to complete the criminal littering complaint. The HPD officer moved the evidence of the road and well into the right of way.

I updated Officer Tam, regarding the 4 stolen STOP signs and posts over the past month and vandalism to the entry sign (knocked flat to the ground) at 35<sup>th</sup> Ave near Ainaloa Blvd.

Plus, updated Officer Tam regarding OLCA's intent to block entrance and exit onto Ainaloa Blvd. from 34<sup>th</sup>. And the possibility of repeating the road blockage at 35<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Which would essentially close off Orchidland Estates from Ainaloa Blvd. Officer Tam thought that was a good idea for a number of reasons. He indicated that vehicles use Orchidland's private roads to bypass Hwy 130, bypassing HPD law enforcement. He gave me the contact information for Capt. J. Brisk at the Pahoa station to update the HPD regarding future road entrance/ exit closures.

In addition, Officer Tam and I spoke about the increasing problem of reported squatters on properties and/ or in abandoned homes and/ or apparent drug houses in Orchidland Estates. I asked if he had any suggestions so that OLCA could work more closely with HPD to evict squatters or the like. He suggested a method that worked for Lailani Estates association. They would contact the out of state property owners regarding the problem with squatters or the like, and suggest that the Association might serve as the property owner's on-location representative (property only). In other words, the owner would state in writing that no one is allowed on or access to the property and that the Association has the authority to contact the HPD on the owner's behalf. If person(s) were seen squatting on the property, the Association could file a complaint with the HPD on behalf of the owner, and the HPD would process the paperwork for the eventual eviction.

The RMC discussed this possibility and came to the agreement that we would review the legal aspects and take this recommendation to the BOD for approval.

**Special guest input:** President Steve Lyon mentioned that cracks in the pavement on upper Auli'i Drive are getting worse. It was noted by the RMC that crack sealing is on the list of upcoming asphalt pavement maintenance and repair to be completed with the removal of overgrown vegetation and opening of natural drainages on these asphalt paved roads.

That completes this month's RMC reports, updates and discussions.

**Social and Community Lot Committee Report:**

The OLCA First Saturday Harvest Share and Farmers Market was cancelled on May 2, 2020. Due to vendor concerns regarding the virus scare, Covid-19.

The next monthly OLCA Harvest Share and Farmer Market is scheduled for June 6, 2020. For more information on upcoming events please visit [www.Orchidland.org](http://www.Orchidland.org) , in addition, on the website there is a direct link to the OLCA group Facebook page. For vendor information please contact either Committee co-chairs Merlin Forman or Sharon Walker at the monthly events or by calling 808-464-5598.

**Community Lot Development Committee Report/ Update by Secretary Wirick:**

The OLCA Committee met via Zoom video conference call.

Chairperson Norman Kauahi, Vice-Chairperson Lloyd Swierenga and Secretary Ric Wirick.

Discussion included transitioning from the OLCA Community Lot Development Committee to the Board member of OLCA Agri-Cultural Center.

The following Community Lot Development Committee motions are recommended for OLCA Board approval:

**Motion** to approve funding of up to \$1000 for the OLCA Agri-Cultural Center website and donation button, letterhead, email, bank account, book and record keeping as a 501c3 non-profit -- in order to be able to receive and account for upcoming tax-deductible donations.

**Second**

**Discussion:** These basic requirements that will allow the OLCA Agri-Cultural Center to move forward with fundraising efforts and more. Funding would come from the OLCA Community lot account to help promote fundraising for site improvements.

**More discussion, call Motion to vote, 9 in favor, unanimously approved.**

**More discussion and final announcements:**

Join us for the reopening of the OLCA 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Harvest Share and Market on June 6, 2020 from 10 am to 2pm at the Hui Hoaloha, Community gathering place on the corner of 36<sup>th</sup> Ave and Orchidland Drive.

**That concludes the OLCA BOD meeting for May 19, 2020, motion to adjourn, call to vote, 10 in favor -- the time is 7:36pm.**

**Submitted by:**

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**Frederic Wirick, Secretary**

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**Date**