

LEILANI ESTATES NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING MINUTES – August 25, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Greg Armstrong

Present: Greg Armstrong, Richard Skidmore, Donna Lee DeBaets, Rob Olchin, Lorraine Bass, Jane Whitfield, J.W. Henry, Harry Messenheimer, Richard Willing, Gloria and Jay Turkovsky, Mike Bond, Richard and Ruth Weiner, Jan Patnod, Ed Rollick, Claudia Greco, Mark Hauanio, Roberta Van Goethem

Star Yamada from the Hawaii Humane Society was the guest speaker. Star provided several brochures about the Kea'au Shelter, Problem Solving for Noisy Dogs, etc. She noted that the Humane Society is a non-profit contracted by the Hawaii Police Department. Their primary activities are (1) adoption, (2) catching, and (3) euthanizing stray animals. About half of their animals are dogs and half are cats.

The Humane Society processes a large volume of animals – over 600 so far this month in Kea'au and many thousands per year. At the time of intake, animals are assigned one of four categories: (1) healthy and adoptable, (2) treatable and rehab, (3) treatable and manageable, or (4) unhealthy.

Adoption fees are very reasonable - \$40 for dogs and \$9 for cats, which includes free spay-neutering.

Feral cats are a huge community problem in Hawaii – the result of not spaying or neutering the animals. Cats roam at night, climb trees and kill birds and rats. House cats have an outdoor radius of 14 miles! Star recommends that all cats be microchipped so that they can be returned to their owners should they get lost and/or turned into the shelter. There are no laws pertaining to cats so they can be euthanized right away if taken to the Humane Society.

For dogs, the law only requires food, water and shelter to be provided. The leash law only applies to schools and the airport. (LE has its own leash law.) Star pointed out that the Humane Society does not deal with problems involving barking dogs. The Hawaii Police Department should be contacted and they will issue a citation.

Another law, “Permit to Stray”, can be applied to loose dogs, but it's difficult to enforce. All the owner has to do is say they didn't “permit” the dog to stray!

For problems with consistently loose dogs, Star recommends first speaking to the owner about the situation and try to get it resolved. If that doesn't work and the problem persists, then take a photo of the dog and call the Humane Society. The Humane Society issues a citation and the owner has to appear in court (mostly and inconvenience, since it's also traffic court). Fines for conviction are low: \$25 for first offense, \$50 second offense and \$75 third offense.

Greg noted that LE policy for dogs off-leash consists of first, a warning. Second offense results in a \$50 fine and third offense is a \$200 fine. After the third notice, LE notifies the Humane Society. Donna DeBaets recommended NW drivers/walkers or LE residents to take photos of the loose dog(s) in the street and then a photo of the mailbox street address. If using your own phone camera, then e-mail the photo and address to Donna at: leisure88@sonic.net.

Greg noted that Community Police Officer Kamalii was not able to attend the meeting. Based on the HPD Newsletters from July, two burglaries were reported in Leilani Estates. On July 11th at 11:39 am on Leilani Ave. and on July 28th at 5:01 pm on Kupono Street. No other incidents were reported in Leilani Estates.

The July 28 Neighborhood Watch Meeting Minutes were provided as handouts. Jay Turkovsky made the motion to approve the July minutes and Jane Whitfield seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by those attending.

Roberta Van Goethem reported that five new volunteers have joined Neighborhood Watch as drivers or walkers. Greg provided them with NW t-shirts at the end of the meeting.

Greg noted that at the last Puna Watch meeting Emergency Preparedness Plans were discussed and that Leilani Estates is working with Hawaii Civil Defense on preparing a plan locally.

Mark Hauanio discussed block captains' role – to meet their neighbors and be the “eyes and ears” for Neighborhood Watch and the HPD. He also reported that the first group of four people went along Kahukai Street doing albezia control. Another outing will be held next month and he hopes more people will volunteer.

Roberta updated the group on the status of the NW application for 501(c)3 status. It's just a matter of finishing up the tax forms and approving the By-Laws (which were also available as a handout). Members were encouraged to review the by-laws and be prepared to vote on them at the September meeting.

Greg also provided draft documents to be used for abandoned vehicles on LE roadways. After a notice is placed on a vehicle, if it is not removed within 24 hours, then it will be towed at the owner's expense.

Comments related to the NW By-laws or the Abandoned Vehicle notices should be turned in to the office.

Greg is also creating a form to report trees hanging over wires or LE streets.

Those attending were reminded that Bingo night is coming up Tuesday, September 1 and the monthly garage sale is Saturday, September 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Next Meeting: September 29, 2015, 7 pm Leilani Community Center