

MINUTES OF THE MAUI
COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

DATE: July 7, 1975
PLACE: Cameron Center, Conference Room, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii
CALL TO ORDER: 4:15 p.m.
PRESIDING: Monsignor Charles Kekumano
MEMBERS PRESENT: Monsignor Charles Kekumano
Paul Mancini, Commission Attorney
Lloyd Sodetani
Catalino Agliam
Joseph Souki
Hideo Abe
Margaret Cameron
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Edwina Bright
Ralph Murakami
Allan Sparks
Stephen Petro
OTHERS PRESENT: Jan Dapitan/Parks and Recreation Director
Sugiichi Hiraga/Fire Chief
Carl Longo/Press
David Slocum/Press
Wilma Stegmuller-Secretary of the Honokowai-Napili
Taxpayers' Union

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the Charter Commission meeting of June 30, 1975 was deferred.

Materials Distributed

The following materials was distributed to the Commission:

- a) Schedule of Commission Expenditures from April 21, 1975 to July 7, 1975.
- b) Report from Committee on Electoral System:
Scenerios for composition of Council
- c) General Plan Dilemma: we need help
Thomas H. Creighton
- d) Activity Flow Chart
Decision Making Model: P.R. Mancini

Monsignor Kekumano introduced Mrs. Dapitan, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mrs. Dapitan was asked to give her opinion with regard to the department of Parks and Recreation and its status in the Charter.

Mrs. Jan Dapitan

Mrs. Dapitan gave a brief summary of the functions of the Department of Parks and Recreation. She related that a major activity within the department was the acquisition of parks for the purpose of preserving open space. Planning functions are shared with the Planning Department and activity is often coordinated with the federal programs coordinator.

Key performance areas for the department has been the maintenance of parks and the planning and implementation of programs. The department provides preliminary studies on the needs and interests of communities as a bases for their program development. To carryout the maintenance function of the department there exists a pool of skilled tradesmen working as the departments construction and building division. There also exists a facility

Mrs. Jan Dapitan

supervisor and staff maintaining the caretaker, custodian function.

Separation of Maintenance Function

Mrs. Dapitan stated that it was her opinion that the programs developed by the Parks department were as good as the support given to them. For that reason she maintained that the maintenance function should remain part of the department. She indicated that she had studied the problem and had read reports on the issue and has concluded that the success of programming is a function of the control over work schedules. Therefore, the maintenance and custodial function must be responsive to the department. Mrs. Dapitan indicated that possibly this could work through public works but responsiveness to the Parks department was essential. She commented that the construction and building division could be shared with other departments with little loss to the Parks department but the custodial function should stay within the Parks department.

Mr. Souki asked whether the skilled tradesmen were administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation?

Mrs. Dapitan responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Sodemani asked whether the Department of Parks and Recreation maintained its own equipment?

Mrs. Dapitan answered that they did. She explained the administrative structure of the department and its separation into west, central and east divisions.

Monsignor Kekumano questioned whether parts of the enabling ordinance for the department should be integrated into the Charter?

Mrs. Dapitan indicated that she was not familiar with the ordinance in any detail.

Monsignor Kekumano questioned whether the qualifications for the Director of Parks and Recreation should be amended?

Mrs. Dapitan indicated that she found the Charter vague in this area but felt it created no real problem.

Mr. Sodemani asked whether there should be a Parks Commission with executive powers to direct the Department of Parks and Recreation?

Mrs. Dapitan indicated that an Advisory Commission did exist to serve the department and she saw no necessity for an executive commission.

Provision for Specific Responsibilities

Mr. Abe made reference to the Honolulu Charter and its identification of the specific responsibilities of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Mrs. Dapitan stated that the Maui Charter provided certain flexibility, yet it was her opinion that responsibilities should be clear. She could not determine whether it was better to identify the responsibilities in the Charter or by ordinance.

Department of Human Resources

Mr. Mancini asked whether there existed any justification for reorganizing the Department of Parks and Recreation into a Department of Human Resources?

Mrs. Dapitan responded that a certain overlapping did exist between the department of Parks and Recreation and other people oriented activity by the County. She felt that an umbrella organization could provide for certain continuity in programs. She stated that

Department of Human Resources

Parks and Recreation encompassed more than sports, space and facility development.

Mr. Souki asked whether there would be philosophical problems integrating the programs for the elderly, youth, poor and manpower programs under one organization?

Mrs. Dapitan was not certain of what philosophical gaps might exist but she saw no problems in merging the recreational and manpower programs.

Mr. Souki asked if there was planning for social programs?

Mrs. Dapitan stated that planning seemed to be a function of an immediate need. This was not real planning but merely a catch-up technique. She stated that more had to be done in the area of comprehensive planning.

Monsignor Kekumano thanked Mrs. Dapitan for her efforts in appearing before the Commission.

Mr. Sugiichi Hiraga: Chief/Department of Fire Control

Mr. Hiraga explained the operations and administrative structure of the Maui County Fire Department. He reviewed the rules and regulations under which the department operates as well as outlining the department's six stations.

In response to a question from Monsignor Kekumano, Mr. Hiraga indicated that he felt it was better to identify administrative responsibilities of the department through ordinance rather than through a Charter provision. Mr. Hiraga explained that needed flexibility is provided in this manner.

Mr. Hiraga identified the various responsibilities that now emanate from the Fire department including building inspection; rescue, emergency care and ambulance service. He stated that the Council has always been reasonable with the department with regard to appropriations and ordinances.

Mr. Sodehani asked whether the Fire department came under the civil service laws?

Mr. Hiraga stated that such laws governed his department.

Mr. Abe questioned whether the Charter should be more specific with regard to the traditional responsibilities of the department?

Mr. Hiraga stated that for a County of the size of Maui, this seemed unnecessary. He also commented that Honolulu provides a large budget for the various responsibilities whereas Maui does not have that flexibility.

Mr. Mancini asked whether the Charter provision concerning the qualifications of the Fire Chief should be amended?

Mr. Hiraga stated that in his opinion the provision was adequate.

After discussion on various administrative issues in fire control, Monsignor Kekumano thanked Mr. Hiraga for his presentation.

Commission Procedures

Mr. Mancini reviewed tentative Commission plans for the months of August and September and discussed the decision making model previously distributed.

Commission Procedures

A discussion followed outlining the various work before the Commission and its committees. The concensus reached was to adhere to the activity flow chart and decision making model that had been distributed.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Next Commission meeting will be on July 14, 1975 with County Attorney Arthur Ueoka as guest speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonora Balido, Secretary