

**ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU
ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MONARCH ROOM
DECEMBER 11, 2018
PRESIDING: PRESIDENT BUB WO**

The Inspiration was given by **Ron Tsukamaki**, who spoken with passion about eulogy virtues, the importance of our Rotary Friends and family, and the value and joy he experienced knowing all the Club members represented by those in the room. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Nancy Grekin**. The singing of "God Bless America," was led by **Lyla Berg**, accompanied by **Craig Robinson**. **Carolann Biederman** introduced visitors, who included Rotarian District 5000 Governor Win Schoneman, Inyo Bauernfund from Germany, a guest of **Max Besenbruch**, Barbara Saromenes-Ganne (a Waikiki resident), Georgette Deemer, Deputy Managing Director of the City and County of Honolulu, Jason Woll of the Parks Department, Jim Fulton from the Waikiki Transportation Management Association, and Allison Schaefer from the Star-Advertiser.

Don Anderson introduced new member **Ananda Chou** to the Club. Ananda is the Director for the Atherton YMCA, a Board member for the Organization of Women Leaders, and past board member of the Kailua Chamber of Commerce and the Honolulu Professionals Foundation.

Birthdays this week include **Diana Sakurai** on December 14, and **Signe Godfrey** celebrates 24 years as a member.

Club Annual Assembly: **Past President Terry George** convened the Annual Assembly of the Rotary Club of Honolulu and reported to members the results of the nominating committee for Club President and for Club Directors. The nominating committee is made up of all RCH past presidents who are current club members. After careful deliberation they submitted the following nominees for member endorsement:

President nominee for Rotary Year 2020-2021: **Rich Proctor**

Club Directors for 3 year term 2019-2022: **Sarah Nordwall** and **Lyla Berg**

The Club voted to endorse all nominees.

President Bub introduced our presenter **Past President Rob Hale** to update the Club on the **Centennial Park Project**. Rob gave a brief history on the project which has its roots in a proposal made to the Waikiki Neighborhood Board back in 1998. In more recent years it was revived and reconceived by past member Dave Benson in 2014 and has in the intervening years been shepherded by a committee that has had over 30 club members, over time, participate in its planning.

Rob structured his presentation around dispelling 8 myths he said were sources of confusion or misinformation about the Project:

Myth 1: “The Park was a Simple Project”. Rob sought to bust this myth by describing the various stakeholders and aspects of the Park that made it particularly complex and difficult, including varying stakeholder expectations and interests.

Myth 2: “The Revisions to the Park have driven up the cost”. Rob described how the park design was modified over time, in each case increasing the overall cost. Current modifications are being made to return the park as close as possible to the original scope.

Myth 3: “Permits are Easy”. They are not, and the 8+ approving agencies involved show why. Rob has split the permitting into three distinct elements.

Myth 4: “You can build the whole thing for \$450k”. Park champions made an initial estimate of \$450k for park funding requirements. That figure grew to \$550k when fundraising began in earnest for the Park Project in 2016 upon Mitch D’Olier’s taking lead of major fundraising. To date, approximately \$525k has been raised from all sources including RCH members, District 5000 Rotarians, community members and corporate sponsors. The initial figure used for budgeting and fund raising was not based on due diligent estimates. Subsequent professional estimates placed the Park costs per original design parameters at \$3.6 mil - \$4.3mil. Design changes initiated by Rob bring the figure to between \$1.2 mil - \$1.9mil, with the lower figure in each range assuming significant Rotarian labor and in-kind donations.

Myth 5: “If we just get started the money will show up”. Rob laid down “Rob’s Rule”: It’s ok to phase the project over time and break up fundraising but that no phase will start before all money necessary for the phase is in the BANK. Phases Rob nominated with best case estimates were: Make it Green: Trees and Sod (\$580k); Walkways (\$83k); Signage (\$75k), Fence (\$0), and Landscape enhancements (\$107k). Rob’s best case cost estimate was \$855k for construction and approximately \$255k for other project costs to reach a total of \$1.085mil.

Myth 6: “Every Rotarian that visits Waikiki will visit the Park”. The probability of a large number of Rotarians over time visiting this bit of Waikiki green space is actually modest and it will more likely be primarily enjoyed by community residents. There is also a major educational component being incorporated into the park.

Myth 7: “It’s all HECO’s Fault”. The design and overall utility of the park are not hostage to the 10x30 foot corner that HECO proposes to use for a switching station. The station will be aesthetically integrated into the overall park design and will not detract from the enjoyment of the park. HECO will contribute effectively \$100,000 to the Park project with fees and a direct contribution from its foundation.

Myth 8: “WOW! Let’s do something ELSE”. There is a lot of RCH credibility and reputation on the line with the City, District 5000, and the Waikiki community. There is a need to work through the problems and stay the course.

Rob left the members and audience with the commendation “When the going gets tough, the tough (Rotarians) get going”. In response to questions, he assured members that the City & County of Honolulu will take over the maintenance of the park upon completion. The Club would likely have a voluntary relationship with park beautification efforts along the lines of the adopt-a-highway program. Rob acknowledged that we need to have better communications between the Park committee and our members, as well as with the community going forward.

President Bub closed the meeting by apologizing for the lack of time for questions and assured that there would be follow-up sessions to address member questions and concerns. He reminded members that the December 18 meeting will be our annual Holiday Program and will feature past member and opera singer Dr. Kalani Brady performing holiday favorites.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted, **David M Shanahan**, Scribe