

## Minutes of the Rotary Club of Honolulu Meeting

August 9, 2022

Meeting via Zoom

**President Lyla Berg** welcomed Club members and called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. President Lyla talked about the intro music: *Imagine* by John Lennon, as it relates to Rotary International's 2022-23 theme, "Imagine Rotary."

The Rotary Participants for today's meeting included **Lee LaBrash** who handled IT. **Erin Auerbach** gave us an intriguing Inspiration in which she asked the question, "Why are you here" in four different ways, giving emphasis to each of the words in the question. Interesting and thought provoking! **Past President Rich** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Kent Reinker** led us in *America the Beautiful*. **President Lyla** introduced our visitors.

The members then went into breakout rooms to talk about "What is a memorable work of architecture found in a place you have visited or lived in?"

**President Lyla** introduced the program.

**Past President Rob Hale** introduced our speaker, **Bettina Mehnert**.

Bettina is the president and CEO of AHL, formerly Architects Hawaii, a large architectural firm based in Honolulu. She is licensed as an architect in Germany, Hawaii and Guam. Her talk was entitled, "Design to the Rise: The Architect's Role in Climate Change." Bettina gave a fascinating talk about leadership in the design and construction of projects which are zero net carbon. Bettina discussed the difference between "embodied carbon" and "operational carbon," and noted that, while critical to our survival, building and construction account for 39% of global Co2 emissions. The American Institute of Architects ("AIA") developed a framework for design excellence toward this goal, entitled "AIA 2030 Commitment." Under the AIA 2030 Commitment, design professionals agree to work toward designing carbon neutral buildings, developments, and major renovations. AHL became a signatory to the AIA 2030 Commitment in 2019, at a time when only 2.5% of all architectural firms world-wide had signed on. Bettina reminded us that Hawaii is a leader in the goal of carbon neutral buildings, by setting a target date of 2045 for carbon neutrality.

**President Lyla** announced that our next meeting will be on August 16 at the Outrigger Canoe Club. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting – in person and via zoom. Please sign up ASAP.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. **President Lyla** ended the meeting with a quote by Marianne Williamson, and the video of *Hawaii Aloha* played.

Aloha,  
Scribe, **Karin L. Holma**