

HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Tuesday, August 31, 2010

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Coral Andrews (Healthcare Association of Hawaii, Jackie Boland (AARP), Bill Brizee (State Building Code Council), Lei Learmont, Lucy Lessard (American Physical Therapy Association), Amy Monk, Marni Murdock (Architect, AHL Design), Richard Olmsted (AIA), Richard Port, Joan Riggs (ASID Professor of Interior Design), Holly Boling Ruiz (American Society of Interior Design), Eudie Schick (PABEA Chair), Dexter Suzuki (EOM Hawaii), Valorie Taylor (CFS), Francine Wai (Executive Director, State Disability and Communications Access Board), Hannah Wong (Architect, Pacific Atelier), Joy Yadao (St. Francis Hawaii)

Members Excused: Karen Iwamoto (Building Industry Association), Tony Lenzer, Jack Levin (Architect, Cleve and Levin), and Toby Morris (Contractor)

Others in Attendance: Ruth H. Kam (Realtor), Sen. Les Ihara, Jr., and Melissa Vomvoris (Sen. Ihara's office)

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Francine Wai and Joan Riggs at approximately 4:40pm. Introductions were made by everyone in attendance.

II. Review and approve the minutes of August 31, 2010:

It was moved by Eudie Schick and seconded by Dexter Suzuki to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. National Conference on Universal Design and Housing – October 9-12:

Co-Chair Wai announced that AARP offered to underwrite a portion of 3 people to attend the conference. It was agreed that Jackie Boland, Joan Riggs and Francine Wai will attend. Task Force members were asked to review the agenda for the conference to see if there are areas/workshops that the group wants them to attend. HFLTF is very grateful to AARP for the gift and a formal acknowledgment will be sent.

IV. Task Force Organization

- a. Acceptance of resignation of HFLTF member - Co-chair Wai announced that she receive a letter of resignation from member Bonnie Osaki, because of personal reasons.

It was moved by Holly Boling Ruiz to accept Bonnie Osaki's resignation, and seconded by Bill Brizee. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports from Working Groups:

Group 1 – Codes & Laws: Bill Brizee reported that the committee broke down into several Regulatory groups; Building codes, Zoning, and Sub Divisions. The Building Codes are dealing with International & Residential code from the Housing Act. These codes allow you to incorporate accessibility, not much to do in this area so primary focus was on zoning and subdivisions. Working on a spreadsheet of questions to send to the counties regarding open space requirements, parking space requirements, multi-kitchens allowed in same dwelling, etc. There is also an Infrastructure Group, which will deal with utilities. Also an Incentive Group that will work with the Regulatory and Infrastructure Groups to provide incentives for Home for Life as well as suggestions for financing and tax-credits. Question was asked if the group would look at wheel chair ramps as a part of the infrastructure. Coral Andrews recommended that the group look at a 2005 study that was done on Barriers and Building Codes conducted by Patty Johnson so not to be redundant.

Group 2 – Home Modification for Accessible Living: Valarie Taylor reported that the group decided to do focus groups instead of surveys. In process of pulling people together to do the focus group. These focus groups will be with health care professionals not consumers to find out about obstacles to home modifications and then doing a survey to consumers to find out what they have done for home modifications. Focusing on what are the barriers, things that are unique to Hawaii. Is it geographic, salt water, rain in Manoa, etc? What are the resources people have used? Old style homes converting to new standards? One of the obstacles is finding the people to talk to. Who has done home modifications? Items/tools/supplies are also difficult to find as they are specialty items. Many supply merchants don't carry these items therefore profitability is small yet cost for the modifications are high. The modification section, because of time issues with the reporting, may need to be done in phase 2. Surveys will go out the end of September.

It was suggested to ask Bonnie Osaki on the survey that she did with big builders. Coral Andrews suggested that there are other organization groups that are having conversations about barriers and so overlapping work is not done she will communicate with these other groups to find out exactly what areas they are looking at. Dexter Suzuki asked if the group would also consider including communication technology as a home modification need.

Group 3 – Assessing At-Risk Persons and Home Environments: Coral Andrews reported that the group is looking at mechanisms by which personnel may be trained to analyze and make recommendations for structural modifications to existing structures. The group is looking at how clinical and architectural backgrounds intersect. Learning from existing areas, best practice models that are doing home assessments and identifying the gaps. Possibly having consumers tap into the assessments to find out what they need. Come up with a self assessment tool for families as well as a professional caregiver assessment. Seeking help from DCAB for best practice models for resources, if they are

aware of any. Dexter Suzuki suggested looking at www.adaptmy.com as an example resource.

Group 4 - Universal Design: Holly Boling Ruiz reported they are examining incentives for applying Universal Design principles in new construction and renovation of existing homes. We are looking to see if there is any state, local or federal laws that give people incentives to build and to identify realtors, developers, with expertise or experience in this area. Also is there a retail market for Universal Design. In order to evaluate educational efforts directed at industry professionals, architecture and interior design students, and the public to recommend improvements in Universal Design, we are targeting professional organizations as well as local universities with a survey. We have found that some states do have incentives, tax credits, and requirements for Universal Design. Unfortunately Hawaii doesn't have any. They will be following up on the educational survey sent out.

VI. Timeframe for Task Force Work:

Meetings are scheduled at 5 week intervals to give the permitted interaction groups time to meet, research and compile. Each group shall determine the scope of their work accomplishable in Phase I by November 16, 2010. The Interim/Preliminary report is due to the Legislature on December 31, 2010.

a. Next Meeting date:

Tuesday November 16, 2010 at 4:30pm, Hawaii State Capitol, Conf. Room 229

VII. Adjournment:

Co-chair Wai adjourned the meeting with no objections at 6:08pm.