

HSCA Lava Strategic Planning Meeting - Sept. 18, 2014

Attending: Dena Smith, Graham Ellis, Robert Petricci, Leimana Pelton, Nancy Redfeather, Lyn Howe, Hilary Flaming, LJ Bates, Yvette Taylor, Kenneth Ferguson, Samuel Keli'iho'omalulu, Heather Moore, Victor Herrarra III, Steve Hiramaki, Millicent Cummings, Russell Ruderman, Geoff Last, Katarina Culina, Barb Cuttance, Vicki Craine, Jon Olson, Syd & Soma Singer, Eric Berger, Steven Lund, Robert Kent, Harry Kim, Matt Purvis, Terry Way, Tom Iaci, Diga Kern, Sheri Joy, Aileen Wilke, Tom Travis, Kristen O'Guin, Bill Smith, Terry Walker, Terra Ann

Introductions

Graham Ellis (Chair, HSCA) gave an overview of meeting agenda, proposed plan of action, and sustainability sub-committee list. He talked about the current lava flow situation as a "long emergency" and the importance of collaboration of knowledge and resources among residents, communities, organizations, and facilities in Puna Makai. Dena Smith (Secretary, HSCA) discussed community dynamics and lessons learned from Hurricane Iselle. A round table introduction of attendees and organization they represented, if any, followed opening statements.

Reflections on Iselle

Successes:

- CommUnity mobilization
- Clean water and ice
- Community cooperation and gifting
- amazon.com
- Neighborhood sharing of chain saws and other tools

Improvements:

- Communication (both in/out of area, as well as internal communication among neighbors/communities)
- Transportation
- Geothermal power plan (provide mini grid in the zone)
- CERT Failure

Sustainability Committee Categories

Dena led a discussion and inventory of the various resources and volunteers for the HSCA list of sustainability subcommittees. Thoughts and ideas shared were: the importance of the village center model of community, concern about air quality testing (Robert Kent requested a new committee category that he volunteered to chair), a concern about transfer stations, a suggestion to have a bicycle lending system, a company called "Exede" was a recommended telephone utility (currently used successfully at La'Akea community), question about bank ATMs locations (maybe Kalani?), suggestion to contact all the neighborhood association boards in Puna Makai so we can collaborate, create possible barter system resource center, and comments that Facebook is becoming a great source of local information (might be a good venue for the various HSCA committees to communicate with others in the lava zone). Russell Ruderman of Island Naturals stated that he is open to an alternate location for a store in Puna Makai. It may start as just a shipping container. IN provides more than just off-island staples; they are trying to offer as much fresh, local food as possible, too.

Volunteer Representatives of Committees

Food (Production, Distribution and Preparation)

Matt*, Russell, Geoff, Robert, Diga

Shelter

Leimana Pelton and PPA

Transportation

John Olson, the Singers, and Terry Way

Security/Safety

Suggestion of Ferris Etterlee (not present)

Energy/Utilities/Waste

PPA - Unknown names yet

Medical/Health (Allopathic medicine, alternative medicine, air quality, etc)

Air Quality (Robert Kent would like to head this subcommittee)

Social Services (Schools, childcare, churches, mental health, entertainment, etc)

Eric Berger, Graham, Dena, Millicent, Terra Ann

Reports from Area Community Groups:**LJ's Kalani Report:**

Food - Quadruple filtered water system. They also have a well onsite. They are investigating desalinization units to make their water less brackish. They are creating a food coop. Hale Aloha will essentially become a store. They have the ability to make and distribute ice. They also created extra refrigeration space for emergency storage of medication, etc.

Shelter - American Red Cross provider

Transportation - Current shuttles to and from Hilo

Communication - Ham radio operation

Security - Bobby St. Ambrosio (former police chief). Kalani is certifying two dozen CERT trained staff. Two AAD unit on campus (defibrillator units).

Energy/Utilities - Generators throughout campus with a free internet hot spot at Hale Aloha.

Medical Health - Two dozen therapists and a staff nurse onsite.

Social Services - Operating at normal capacity.

Dragon's Eye Report:

Food - They are doubling production of sheep and other livestock, they currently have a food coop, and they are open to providing various community services (they currently offer some services to the Koa'e neighborhood association but are concerned about the practical accessibility of their remote location on Railroad Ave.).

SPACE Report:

Focus on social services such as educational needs, HAAS school, after school programs, weekly youth night, community dinners, and entertainment (other considerations are cafe, clinic, food store, etc).

Uncle's Report:

Working on self-sustainability. They currently have a partial solar system and back up generators.

Transportation - Uncle Robert's and Kaimu store will be using boats to Hilo for their supplies.

Food - They will continue with two markets a week and are open to another market day, as well.

Energy - MJ from Pahoia Battery is putting in a 2,000 gallon propane tank onsite at Uncle's.

Intentions and Next Steps:

Graham revealed that the HSCA has been dormant since the end of the State legislative session earlier this year and since the organization has existing infrastructure (such as a large membership/ mailing list (600+), informational website, Facebook page, and credibility/presence for four years), it may be a good umbrella organization for this collaborative group. He stated that he is happy to relinquish his role as Chairman of the Board to a willing volunteer. There are also other officer roles and seats on the HSCA board available. He suggested that anyone interested in volunteering on a committee should also be on the board (the chairperson from each committee will automatically have a seat on the board). New board members will be identified at the next board meeting.

The next HSCA Board meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 25th at 3:00 pm at SPACE. The main agenda item for this meeting will be to identify new board members, elect officers, and assign committee chairs.

Minutes rewritten and edited by Dena Smith & Graham Ellis as there were multiple interruptions for the scribe.