

HOME FOR LIFE TASK FORCE
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Tuesday, November 16, 2010

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Coral Andrews (Healthcare Association of Hawaii), Jackie Boland (AARP), Bill Brizee (State Building Code Council), Lei Learmont, Tony Lenzer, Lucy Lessard (American Physical Therapy Association), Amy Monk, Toby Morris (Contractor), 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 Communication Access Board), Hannah Wong (Architect, Pacific Atelier), and Joy Yadao (St. Francis Hawaii)

Members Excused: Karen Iwamoto (Building Industry Association), Jack Levin (Architect, Cleve and Levin), Marni Murdock (Architect, AHL Design)

Others in Attendance: Questor Lau, Mike Lau, Curt Kiriou, and Melissa Vomvoris (Sen. Ihara's office)

I. Call to Order:

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

II. Review and approve the minutes of October 5, 2010:

It was moved by Richard Port and seconded by Holy Boling Ruiz to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Member, Richard Port motioned to add to the agenda; *Task Force Member Nominations*. Seconded by Bill Brizee. **Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Task Force Member Nominations:

It was moved by Bill Brizee and seconded by Richard Port to add Questor Lau, Architect, to the Home for Life Task Force. **Motion passed unanimously.**

It was moved by Jackie Boland and seconded by Richard Port to add Curt Kiriou, General Contractor, to the Home for Life Task Force. **Motion passed unanimously.**

IV. Reports from the attendees - National Conference on Universal Design Summit: Co-Chair Wai circulated materials that were picked up at the conference and noted that it was a great benefit in attending and thanked AARP National for donating the funds to allow three HFLTF members to attend. Co-Chair Riggs noted that the energy at the conference was very positive and many engaged in sharing their expertise in area of Universal Design. The conference focused mainly on the public housing and commercial end and not single family homes and renovations. She feels that the Home for Life Task force will be in the forefront in these areas.

V. Reports from Working Groups

Group 1 - Codes & Laws: Bill Brizee reported that a letter was sent out to the four counties requesting information/requirements on Codes, and the group is waiting for responses. Bill Brizee was invited by PABEA Chair, Eudie Schick, to attend a meeting she had with Mayor Carlisle. Brizee, shared the Accessible Dwelling Unit video with the Mayor explaining that these types of units are not currently allowed in Honolulu and that Rules would need to be changed in order to make them allowable. Mayor Carlisle was attentive but made no commitments. Other Task Force members (Eudie Schick and Tony Lenzer) also attended the meeting and made presentations.

Group 2 - Home Modification for Accessible Living: Valorie Taylor reported that the working group had a Building Contractor focus group to gather more information on barriers. Most common barriers are; entries to home difficult to modify, single wall construction, wheel chair access within the home, bathrooms small and hard to modify, master bedrooms upstairs, adequate lighting issues, cost of upgrading older homes to current building codes, financial programs offered require code violations to be addressed resulting in increased costs, multigenerational living under one roof.

Professionals guesstimate that 45%-75% of homes in Hawaii don't meet current codes. Contractors are required by law to update any codes that are not current that they see, thus increasing costs for the modifications. The working group found that "Visitability" was a main issue for homeowners who are active community members. Visitability is not just making the home accessible. (written reports submitted)

Group 3 - Assessing At-Risk Persons and Home Environments: Coral Andrews reported on the recommendations that the working group is preparing. To propose a resolution for creating a website to help consumers access the tools and resources needed to make choices. Currently local resources are hard to find. Existing efforts by the ADRC in their new website could possibly help in this area. Another possibility is asking the construction industry to help fund and/or produce information to contribute to a website. The consensus is the need for a one stop shop website for info/resources and help. The group has determined that you have to "Make the crisis happen before it happens".

Group 4 - Universal Design: Holly Boling Ruiz gave a brief update on the group's recommendations on developing an interdisciplinary course for Architects, contractors, draftsmen, and professionals in Universal Design. She also discussed an archive of best practices and examples in Universal Design of which can be linked to a website.

VI. Public Input: None

VII. Timeframe for Task Force Work:

The Interim/Preliminary report is due to the Legislature on December 31, 2010. Co-Chair Wai requested each working group to submit their interim reports recommendations by Wednesday November 24th. The Task Force ends its term by June 30, 2011. If the life of the Task Force needs to be extended, it will need to be requested in the interim report.

a. Next Meeting date:

Tuesday December 7, 2010 at 4:30pm, Hawaii State Capitol, Conf. Room 229

VIII. Adjournment:

Co-chair Wai adjourned the meeting with no objections at 6:22pm.

Handouts:

- AARP Public Policy Institute – In Brief: Increasing Home Access
- AARP Public Policy Institute – Fact Sheet: Expanding Implementation of Universal Design and Visitability Features in the Housing Stock
- AARP Public Policy Institute - Fact Sheet: Home Modifications to Promote Independent Living