

Meeting Summary:

Interim Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB)

August 10, 2000, 9:00 a.m.
UH-Hilo Campus Center

Attending: Walter Heen, Moses Haia, Jim Kennedy, Arthur Hoke, Ed Stevens, Harry Yada, Barry Taniguchi, Gerald DeMello, Rose Tseng, Arnold Hiura, Stephanie Nagata, and Bill Kikuchi

Announcements:

1. Arthur Hoke has been selected by Ahahui Ku Mauna to serve on the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB).
2. MKMB members asked Ed Stevens to attend Board meetings as a representative of the Kahu Kupuna Council.
3. Travel costs for MKMB and Kahu Kupuna Council members will be reimbursed, retroactive to June 16. Mileage records should be kept and filed with the MKMB. In respect to those occasions when overnight stays are involved, hotel costs will also be covered by the Board.
4. With fall semester about to start, passes must be arranged to park on-campus. Vehicles without permits will be ticketed. Members were asked to submit pertinent information re: make, model, and license plate numbers of their vehicles.
5. Big Island residents needing to contact State of Hawaii offices located in the downtown Honolulu area (prefixes starting in "586" "587" and "538") are advised to dial 974-4000. Following the instructions given over the phone, calls can be completed toll-free to Oahu.

The meeting was officially called to order by Interim Director Walter Heen at 9:15 a.m.

Budget Sub-Committee

The Budget Subcommittee met on August 7. Attending were: Barry Taniguchi, Harry Yada, Jim Kennedy, Moses Haia, and Stephanie Nagata. The committee shared its budget worksheet, reflecting anticipated operating costs for the fiscal biennium 2002-2003. Staff, operating expenses, equipment, travel, public relations and contingency costs were estimated to cost approximately \$800,000 per year.

Discussion followed regarding the formula used to calculate the number of man hours needed to provide interpretive and enforcement services on the mountain. Board members pointed out that issues such as: hours of operation, travel time, and the rising volume of traffic anticipated will impact staffing.

C.I.P. issues affecting the proposed visitor kiosk, parking, and renovation and expansion of the visitor center are yet to be discussed. It was recommended that if these issues were to be addressed within the three-year timetable identified in the Master Plan, funding for planning (\$250,000) and design (\$250,000) phases should be developed into a C.I.P. request by the MKMB – separate from operating expenses.

Funding levels for programs were also discussed. Subject area committees will meet to plan education, environment and Hawaiian culture programs. It was agreed by the Board that each subject area would need approximately \$500,000 to implement meaningful programs.

It was pointed out that the operational costs of maintaining the Mauna Kea Support Services was self-contained – paid for by the observatories. Although administration of Support Services are to be transferred to MKMB under the Master Plan, a gray area exists in the language regarding what responsibilities will remain with the Institute for Astronomy (IFA). Negotiating this division of responsibilities will be an important aspect of the MKMB's tasks in the near future.

Questions arose regarding the monetary value of the viewing time now allocated to IFA by the individual observatories. While largely defined as "in-kind" and existing only on paper, some members suggested that the Board investigate the potential cash value inherent in the tremendous demand for viewing time.

Objectives, Goals & Tasks

The MKMB addressed a task list identifying short, mid- and long-range goals. Much of the discussion focused on fundamental issues defining the Board's status:

1. The draft Master Plan now in circulation does not reflect final changes made to the plan prior to adoption by the Board of Regents. One important issue is the agreement to drop the word "Advisory" from "Mauna Kea Management Advisory Board." The body is now "Mauna Kea Management Board," implying that greater decision-making power will rest the Board.
2. Other changes to the final Master Plan could also impact the work of the Interim MKMB. Ahahui Ku Mauna was promised an opportunity to review the final draft prior to publication and dissemination. The Board will investigate the status of the draft, presently in the hands of Group 70.
3. The MKMB also discussed the issue of establishing itself as a private, non-profit entity, independent of, yet related to, the University of Hawai'i system. Some examples of such organizations were discussed. Walter Heen will speak to UH legal counsel Walter Kirimitsu to determine the process needed to achieve such status.
4. The make-up of the MKMB was discussed. Seven individuals named to the original Board were selected by UH-Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng to represent key stakeholders in the use of Mauna Kea. These names will be sent to the Board of Regents for approval. Chancellor Tseng suggested adding Gerald DeMello to the Board. It was further suggested that the Office of Mauna Kea Management's Director also be named to the Board, which would bring it to nine members.
5. Discussion followed surrounding the Board's relationship with the University. Those involved with the lengthy Master Plan process commented that the MKMB's autonomy was an important issue in how others might perceive the integrity of the MKMB's decisions. "Trust" was raised as a key issue.
6. Other items, including Board rules, policies, terms of office, etc. were still undetermined. The question was raised whether it was the purview of the interim Board to be defining their own rules, or if there should others involved in defining these guidelines.

The task list was covered, with timelines and deadlines established for the next MKMB meeting (8/16).

Community Outreach

Several Board members noted that they are being asked, "What's happening?" with Mauna Kea. There is growing sense that the Board must do its best to keep interested parties and the general public informed of progress in this implementation stage. Since some parties have been involved throughout the Master Plan process, care should be taken to provide these constituencies with good, up-to-date information. Good communication with the general media is important, but other avenues should be explored as well.

A progress report needs to be sent to the University President and Board of Regents, with a more general press release to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.