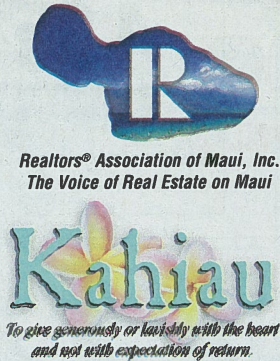


Should you be serving on the KCA planning committee?

By JOSEPH W. BEAN

Prudential Iwado Realtor® Michael DiBella is “all about details.” That’s how he characterizes himself on his website. In the ’70s and until 1985, according to michaelsellsmail.com, he “worked in the restaurant industry as a Chef/Kitchen Mgr. for a California based corporation with 90 stores in 33 states. Consistency was imperative. Most important, attention to detail.” Then he worked in the building industry. His focus was on finish work, “building and installing custom cabinetry. Again, attention to detail.” He went from building to real estate in 1990, and has lived for a decade in South Maui, “where my focus is on assisting buyers and sellers realize their dreams in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Attention to detail is key.”

So, it is no surprise that the Kihei Community Association (KCA) relies on DiBella to keep a close eye on the details of upcoming developments in the area. He’s been with KCA since 2003, and has chaired the Planning Committee for four years. Everyone has opinions about



development. You can’t browse a silent auction or take a outdoor stroll during a Maui theater intermission without running into a conversation about development. Most people think development is like the weather – something you can talk about, not something you can do anything about.

It is safe to say that DiBella would disagree.

KCA is doing something about development in South Maui. Board member Bob Richardson said, “The Planning Committee is one of the most important functions of the Association, and we are looking for additional members to serve with Michael on this committee.”

Here’s what DiBella and Richardson are inviting you



The fact that Michael DiBella chairs an important Kihei Community Association committee doesn’t get him out of the regular chores, like lining up chairs for a monthly community meeting.

to help them do: “Developers of any size project come to the KCA Planning Committee as directed by the County Planning Department and the Planning Commission,” DiBella explained. “They bring their proposal to the group, and it is the responsibility of the Planning Committee to emphasize the important liv-

ability features of any project that are key to Kihei residents. Ideas like considering alternative forms of transportation to the traditional auto-centered one, connectivity from their site to surrounding neighbors by bike and on foot, location and landscaping features of street-side access, compati-

bility to existing safe routes to and from school, the use of solar and photovoltaic alternatives, plus the efficient use of recycled water and other water options.”

The projects that come through the Committee, DiBella said, “end up being the new neighborhoods and shopping centers, the homes and condos in our corner of the island.”

DiBella is not necessarily pro-development or anti-development. Rather, along with the KCA, he is pro-livability, pro-connectivity, pro-environmentally sound development. To that end, the Planning Committee is making a checklist of the things they want to see in new developments, which will help KCA members understand and support (or lobby for change in) what the Association is requesting. It also will make clear to developers what expectations they will have to meet if they want to go back to the county with the approval of the KCA Planning Committee.

DiBella’s interests, according to his website, include motorcycles, golf, fishing, scuba diving, flying, and cooking. He doesn’t mention “Making Kihei as pleasant and livable as possible,” but

his commitment to that unstated goal is surely reducing the time he has for the listed recreations. If you are interested development, and you live in Kihei, maybe you’ll want to stop just talking about what is being built and how it is right or wrong. Consider a seat on the KCA Planning Committee.

Check out www.GoKihei.org to learn about Kihei Community Association. Click the top listing on the left, “Development Project Review.” That will take you to an archive of recent Planning Committee reports. On July 18, reports showing for A&B North Kihei Residential Project, Nelsons Wedding and Catering, Broadfoot Duplex. DiBella said, “Most people probably don’t know when projects are being proposed, so they’re surprised when the bulldozers arrive. Serving on the KCA Planning Committee, you know what’s being proposed, and how it will affect life in our community. If a project is not looking good, you can take part in steering the development in a better direction. You really are doing something good that will matter for many, many years to come, because building don’t come and go all that fast.” □