

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council
Minutes of Meeting – March 27, 2019

Called to order at 6:30 p.m. Roselynn Cacy, Vice President presiding. Quorum in place.

Agenda changed to allow Juneau call-in by Representative Chuck Kopp to proceed at 6:30 p.m. Agenda approved.

Notes from Representative Kopp:

- Finance committee diligently going through budget and all related subcommittees. Healthy discussions are ongoing; all are working toward a proper balance. The operating budget should be ready by 1st week of April. Cuts will be included. The Governor is willing to negotiate. Community listening sessions on the budget are concluded.
- Public Safety – Working on bills to increase penalties for repeat sex offenders and drug traffickers. Revisiting re-entry programs for greater effectiveness.
- School district cuts for our District 24 are proposed at 25%.
- It is anticipated that new and existing oil and gas fields will yield increased production levels which will add to the state coffers through royalty payments.
- Work continues on property rights issues with private landowners, public landowners, and the Alaska Railroad. Co-sovereignty needs to be worked out.
- Question from audience: What other forms of revenue will enhance the state coffers? Answer: Possibility for fuel tax, sales tax, income tax

Minutes approved

Treasurer's report: Bank account balance is \$1,538.42

FCC Notes:

- APD highlights –
 - Crime trends are down 60% from a year ago for auto thefts;
 - APD Patrols are in force aligned with community council boundaries. Officers will be permanently assigned to area and will patrol three 8-hour shifts for 24-hour coverage in your community council area. APD website will have officers' names for contact info.
 - APD has 430 officers now, one academy in progress, and new recruiting in June
 - **APD** wants to attend the community council meetings – Please call and schedule in advance.
- Vote by Mail - contact 907-243-VOTE (8683) with questions about ballots. Election results should be known by April 2, 9 p.m. Visit this site for more information about the April 2 election: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/VoterInfo.aspx>
- Property Taxes - Dunleavy budget will take back the 60-70% state coverage on school bonds. Property taxes may be increased by +\$430. This will also increase after the April school bonds vote. Dunleavy budget will also impact municipal budget. Total property tax increase may reach +\$1,400 per \$100,000 property value. (These figures are fluid and subject to change as the budget gets further redefined.) Make your thoughts known to the Assembly and the Governor's office. Attendance at public hearings required tickets being distributed by Americans for Prosperity – Alaska, which is a political conservative group supporting Dunleavy. You were required to register your real name and agree to a lengthy list of terms and conditions.

Notes from Senator von Imhof: Stan Moll read von Imhof email to Community Council. This is included on the last page of the Minutes – Attachment 1. Summary – House and Senate undertaking the budget evaluation. Key issues are education, Medicaid, the University structure, and the ferry system.

No Mayor's Office Report

Assembly Report – Adam Lees reporting for Suzanne LaFrance and John Weddleton:

- Discussed Vote by Mail – 243-VOTE. Voter Assistance closest venue: O'Malleys on the Green and Loussac Library. Drop-offs: South Anchorage High and Dimond High.
- The Board of Equalization is looking for volunteers. The Board reviews appeals on property tax challenges. There are 15 members on the Board – currently 7 vacancies to be filled. Interested? Go to the Muni.org Mayor's office page to apply. The Equalization Commission may be found on this page: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Pages/Boards.aspx>
Other Boards and Commissions:
<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Boards/Pages/BoardsCommissionsList.aspx>
- Assembly approved the Anchorage School District budget; a budget must be in place as required by law. The Muni of Anchorage is not supporting the multimillion-dollar cuts as proposed by the state and has submitted a symbolic letter showing support for ASD. Provide your concerns and comments to Chuck Kopp and Natasha von Imhof.
- On the April 9 agenda, the Assembly will progress the ordinance dealing with enforcement of the trash and bears problem in residential and commercial areas of Anchorage.
- The Mayor's office/Fire Chief are restructuring the fire department to reallocate resources. The trend has turned to require greater emergency response for medical and drug issues versus structure fires. AFD Union contracts had to be renegotiated and the issues were addressed productively. Assembly to vote on this Administrative Agreement Resolution 2019-71.
 - Questions from Jeff Childs: (paraphrased) – Is the issue to be able to deal with emergency medical responses in high risk areas like Downtown and Fairview, and what changes happen to the other areas of town for proper response for fires and emergencies? Answer from Adam: Drug and Medical responses are happening all over town. Fire prevention around town has improved with better building materials and tree clearing around properties. Current coverages will not change, must adjust for medical and drug responses.
 - Questions from Roselynn Cacy (paraphrased): When the fire station was relocated from Huffman to DeArmoun a couple years ago, were issues around home/business fire insurance resolved? The issue was whether a fire station was now too far from residences and businesses previously covered under home/business insurance, and were policies affected? Answer from Adam: The policies were not affected by the move.
- Dick Traini has introduced an ordinance to prohibit smoking within 10 feet of a playground.
- Also in play is raising the age to purchase tobacco to 21.

No Anchorage School District Report

Announcements

- Alaska Railroad – Tim Sullivan - reminded that the slough-off areas caused by the November 30, 2018 earthquake remain hazardous and dangerous. Looki-loo's are visiting the sites; however, engineering evaluations are still being conducted, and with the arrival of Spring, the conditions of sloughing are getting worse. Please stay away from the areas.
- Comments are due April 10 for S12474 regarding subdividing 9 lots into 2 lots – Area: north of 120th and south of Uncle Joe's. The Hearing date is May 1st at the Platting Board Meeting at the Loussac Library. This information request was provided in a previous community council meeting by an associated party. Reasons given were regarding easements and access; however, we did not hear from the petitioning party.
- An additional request for change to a plat to subdivide two lots into one lot under S12471. Lots are located on Old Seward Hwy at on the East side between Klatt Road and Hanes Street. There

is no public hearing. Comment period had closed prior to the March 27th community council meeting.

- Voting information handout showed the Parks Bond for Hamilton Park, and the Bond for reconstruction of 120th Street.
- Challenge Grants program. Request to interested parties who have projects involving manpower and resources to apply to the muni for available Community Challenge Grants through the Anchorage Park Foundation. If you have a project for the community within our council area and have manpower and some funding and in-kind donations already in place, you may apply for the grant which will match the funds.
- Traffic Calming – Review the handout and contact Steve Beardsley, President, with your priority street requests for Muni traffic calming. President will present list to Tim Myland at Muni Traffic Department.

Guests

- Renewable Energy Systems of Alaska – Karl Solberg and Adrian Chavez presented the residential group purchase program to install solar energy systems in your home, within a group in a particular area, to achieve maximum energy production and storage to be able to sell it back to Chugach Electric. The community area would buy a block of solar systems, then when the maximum Kw is achieved, the excess gets sold back to the power grid with certain restrictions and limitations. Workshop to be held May 2. Call 907-561-7941 if interested.

New Business

- Discussion regarding a vote of confidence for a Best Beginnings Little Free Library to be placed in Oceanview Park. Best Beginnings is a public private partnership seeing a Community Challenge Grant through the Anchorage Park Foundation to coordinate the installation of free little libraries in over 50 parks and trails in the Anchorage area. This is a library share box for pre-school aged children. Best Beginnings is asking for a letter of support by April 12, 2019 from our community council. Member discussion – Members supported the idea; however, vandalism was expected and maintenance and upkeep by Best Beginnings was to be messaged to them and expected. The letter of support should express concerns for monitoring and maintaining the library boxes. Members voted 8-1 in support. See Attachment 2 following the Minutes.
- Members reviewed the Capital Improvement Project recommendations and approved. Regarding capital improvement projects, Jeff Childs discussed the resurfacing of Hancock Road and how the recommendations on the list are not always carried out as planned.
- Airport runway reconstruction – schedule and noise discussed.

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Nancy Joseph, Minutes-taker - alternate

Attachment 1 – Following is the statement by Natasha von Imhof, provided via Steve and read into the minutes by me in tonight's meeting:

----- Original message -----

From: Stan Moll <shm99516@yahoo.com>

Date: 3/28/19 1:05 AM (GMT-09:00)

To: Nancy Joseph <mosesna@gci.net>, Mike Fenster <m1fenster@alaskan.com>

Cc: Steve Beardsley <beardsleysn@ak.net>

Subject: Statement by Natasha von Imhof

Following is the statement by Natasha von Imhof, provided via Steve and read into the minutes by me in tonight's meeting:

> Dear Steve and Nancy Beardsley and the members of the Oceanview Community Council,

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> I apologize that I am unable to call in this evening to the community council meeting. I did want to provide an update on what is happening in Juneau.

>

> Right now both the House and the Senate are actively involved in evaluating the Governor's budget. We are holding subcommittee meetings for every agency, diving into the details of the Governor's proposed budget, looking at the impacts to Alaskans, evaluating the cost vs. value of various programs and government services. Primarily we are looking at the following areas:

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> Education: There are many different opinions on the right level of funding for education. I am focusing more on where the existing funding should be spent. Our research shows that small class sizes, effective teachers, and early literacy (kids reading on grade level in elementary school), generally lead to the best educational outcomes for students. I have meet with superintendents and educators across the state this week on several occasions discussing how to develop a vision for education.

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> Medicaid: Any funding for Medicaid largely depends on third party agreements from the Center of Medicaid and Medicare Services. This 3rd party permission usually takes months, if not years, to come by. So, any reductions in Medicaid spending may take time.

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> University: The focus for the University is to look at how its currently structured. How should the UAF and UAA campuses interface with each other? How separate, or cooperative should they be? What does that mean in terms of funding? And, how many community campuses should the state have? And how can we efficiently support them that is affordable over time?

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> Ferry: Senator Stedman from Sitka is taking the lead on this. I suspect that the ferry will be downsized and focused more on the main routes. It may take time to downshift this large system, but I suspect that we may see some of the smaller routes we serviced by private operators.

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> I plan on filming another video newsletter in the near future with updated power point slides regarding the budget and our choices moving forward.

>

> Thank you!

> Natasha

> Senator Natasha von Imhof

> District L

> 907-465-2995

Stan

Stanton H. MOLL

shm99516@yahoo.com

Attachment 2 –

From: "Beardsley" <beardsleysn@ak.net>

To: "Amie Collins" <acollins@bestbeginningsalaska.org>

Cc: "Roselynn Casey" <roselynnacy@gmail.com>, "Mike Fenster & Jeanne Meinert" <m1fenster@alaskan.com>, "Stan Moll" <shm99516@yahoo.com>, "NANCY MOSES" <mosesna@gci.net>

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2019 4:22:27 PM

Subject: Re: Little Free Libraries & Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council

Please add to the agenda for a vote of confidence, not a resolution

Steve

On Mar 18, 2019, at 9:27 AM, Amie Collins <acollins@bestbeginningsalaska.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Beardsley,

Best Beginnings is applying for a community challenge grant through the Anchorage Park Foundation to improve a park in your area, and would love your community council's support! Best Beginnings plans to coordinate the installation of free little libraries in over 50 parks and trails in the Anchorage area. Our team has identified 50 parks and trails based on places young children frequent including one in your area, *Oceanview Park*, to become the new home to a little free library in the summer of 2020.

About Best Beginnings

Best Beginnings is a public private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. Research shows that children who have increased access to books are more likely to succeed and better prepared for school, so we focus our current efforts on activities that promote early literacy. It's the first step in a long road to improving reading proficiency scores at the fourth-grade level for our state.

About the Anchorage Little Free Library Project

The officially registered little free libraries would be stocked annually with titles from the Anchorage Imagination Library as books are available, geared towards children under the age of 5. Of course, park patrons are encouraged to take a book and leave a book, too. Best Beginnings will work with local businesses, community councils, and volunteer organizations to help install and maintain the libraries in exchange for public recognition – much like the adopt-a-road and trail programs.

We have a motivated and enthusiastic team working on this project including myself, a volunteer landscape architect, and Anchorage Park Foundation staff member excited about the opportunity to get more children out on trails and using our public parks.

Can you help us?

To strengthen our application, we're asking the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council to write a letter of support for the project. We would need this letter **no later than April 12, 2019**. In exchange for your support we would of course keep you updated and involved in the project, should the grant be awarded. We're going to need lots of volunteers and people to help make this project a reality!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Project Timeline:

Award notification in April 2019. Community match campaign between May 2019 - March 2020

Little Free Library construction to begin May 2020

More information about: [Best Beginnings](#) | [Anchorage Park Foundation Community Challenge Grants](#) | [Little Free Libraries](#)

Amie Collins

Communications & Development Director

Best Beginnings

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Help Us Get to 3 Million!