

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

P.O. Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511

www.HuffmanOmalleyCC.org

May 2004 Newsletter

Next meeting **May 20th** 7-9 pm,

Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley Roads

Coffee and tea provided, please feel free to bring sweets.

AGENDA for March 18th, 2004

Hillside District Plan; AFFT Tax Presentation (see article); Lake Otis Gravel Pit; Resolution regarding preservation of the Moen Historical Trail in upcoming development; Mona St. Rezone; Prioritization and support of the 2005 Capital Improvement Projects list (if you live on or use a road in the area that is Municipality maintained, this is you); Proposed FCC Ordinance governing community councils

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

At the April General Meeting, the following were elected to the steering committee: Betty Evans, Tim Stevens, Wayne Crayton, Jim Pekar, George Arcand, Paul Rasmussen, Laddie Shaw, Deborah Baines, Beverly Landes, Pete Nolan, and Joanne Ackerman.

Officers are: Tim Stevens, President; Ryan Stencil, Vice-President; Tami Holt, Treasurer; and Katie Nolan, Secretary.

WE NEED YOU!

The HOCC needs new members at its meetings. Please come when possible and help. We meet the third Thursday of every month. If you have some spare time through the month, there are a couple of meetings we need to have representatives for.

HILLSIDE DISTRICT PLAN

The Hillside District Plan (HDP) is a component of the 2020 Plan that has not been written yet and all of the hillside councils have been asking for start. The HDP will delineate the urban/rural boundary, levels of service for public facilities and services, Sewer feasibility studies, areawide drainage, transportation, land use, and public safety access...in other words, everything that makes hillside what it is.

At our May meeting, there will be a presentation by Ky Holland of Rabbit Creek Community Council regarding a grassroots effort to begin the drafting of the HDP by the members of Hillside, including the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding. In combination with the proposed Title 21 changes, if you haven't been involved with your community council, now is a good time.

MONA ST. REZONE

A few months ago, a rezone and replat was proposed for Mona St., across Lake Otis from the gravel pit. The rezone was to turn five 1/3-acre lots into nine lots and was denied by the Assembly as spot zoning. The developer of these lots will be at our May meeting to talk to the council to see if we can help find a solution to developing those lots.

FROM GOV. MURKOWSKI

To read the full report on action the Senate must take to get Alaska's financial house in order, go to the governor's web page at:
http://gov.state.ak.us/pdf/inside_track_111.pdf

Please take a brief moment to contact your elected representatives and thank them for taking action this session to let Alaskans vote on a solution to our state's fiscal challenges. Information on their toll-free phone numbers and email addresses are available at:
<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/infodocs/infodocs.htm>

ANCH. FIRE DEPT. & FIREWISE

Sue Rodman with AFD would like us to remind you:

1. AFD Foresters are available to do free home assessments. 2. The cost share tree removal program provides 70% reimbursement for tree work prescribed by AFD Foresters. 3. We will help neighborhoods coordinate projects to work on forested areas outside of the home ignition zone (100 feet surrounding a structure). 4. Firewise Communities are a great way to bring neighbors together to increase preparedness for wildfire. 5. Wood lots will be opening in May. Please save your Val-Pak coupons, otherwise homeowners will be charged \$5 per visit. Churches and non-profit land owners should contact our office.

You are welcome to call Sue Rodman at 267-4902 or on her cell 317-7236. Sue is also happy to attend homeowner association and neighborhood meetings to plan projects and discuss wildfire preparedness.

LAKE OTIS GRAVEL PIT

The Pit-To-Park project was created as a means to encourage development and provide additional housing in South Anchorage while protecting the exposed aquifer, addressing the pit's steep earthen walls and air quality issues, and protect returning bank swallows.

In the eastern half of the pit, the side walls 70 to 90 foot high and slope stabilization issues need to be resolved prior to any development. Air quality is also a great concern for those who will be living within this portion of the pit as the area's air circulation results in a gathering of pollutants into the pit during certain common weather conditions. The exposed aquifer is used as the sole drinking water source for many area homes. The elimination of the 'swallow hill' nests will cause these mosquito-eating creatures to find other areas to spend their summer. With West Nile expected in the Interior this year, mosquito-born viruses are a serious threat to Alaska. The mosquito's natural predator, swallows consume up to 100 times their weight in mosquitoes daily.

These issues are not glamorous, and provide few 'sound bites' for the evening news. Yet each of these problems needs to be addressed before any development can occur. The present slopes are unstable and must be reconstructed prior to development for reasons of public safety. Drinking water for the surrounding homes and families must be protected. Solutions must be found to issues involving air quality.

Many of these issues revolve around the eastern portion of the pit. The Pit-to-Park project reached agreement with the developer that would have solved many of these problems. The planned park portion would have minimum impact on the area hydrology; would include the difficult to stabilize and build slopes; and would have a positive effect on air quality.

Unfortunately, it is far late to save the 'swallow hill', which has already been razed by bulldozers. Those involved can only hope it is not too late to salvage the rest of this project, providing an asset to the community and improving life for all current and future neighbors. There is still time to create a win-win situation for everyone. Profit for the seller, and turning an abandoned, contaminated, over-excavated, dust producing gravel pit to both a residential area and a community recreation site that can be enjoyed by all.

For more information on this project, or to donate time or funds, please go to www.pittopark.com



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The Huffman/O'Malley Community Council exists solely to represent your neighborhoods. This Community Council was formed over 30 years ago to ensure that our area's concerns and values were reflected in local government decisions. Your voice can make a difference at this grassroots level. Decisions made here have real impact on the future of Lower Hillside.

Upcoming issues of importance to you include upgrades to all the major roads in the area; Title 21 Zoning revision including the large animal regulations and accessory uses; upcoming ballot propositions; the Master Parks Plan Review; Zoo upgrades; and the Lake Otis Gravel Pit & PitToPark project.

We hold meetings on the third Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 PM at the Christian Church of Anchorage on the corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley Roads. While you don't have to attend every meeting, your voice is important, and your input valuable to the future of our area.

Your annual membership contribution can be as little as \$5 or as much as \$250, and with membership you will receive our monthly newsletters and e-mail information updates. You can also post your comments to our bulletin board found at www.HuffmanOMalleyCC.org, or contact our Vice-President Ryan Stencel anytime at 345-4316 or e-mail at council@huffmanomalleycc.org. Either complete and return this membership application with your contribution or go online to join. We need your voice.

Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC.
Enclosed is my \$5 - \$250 contribution for this year.

Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail Address _____

Comments & Concerns: _____

Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, P.O. Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511

Your Community Council represents you every day with the Anchorage Municipal government. Want input and know what we're saying and doing on your behalf???