

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council

MINUTES: Friday, May 12, 2023, 6:30– 8:30 pm

Location: 12100 Old Seward Hwy, Rabbit Creek Church Huffman Campus
Zoom.com Meeting ID: 844 5795 0064 - Audio and Video Recorded
2023 Winter/Spring Schedule: Jan 13, Mar 10, May 12, July 14, Sept 8, Nov 10
Website: <http://communitycouncils.org/osovcc>

Board members present: Kevin Skiba (Vice President), John Henry (Treasurer), Peggy Kircher (Secretary), and Gary Meader (FCC Delegate). **Absent:** Joan Henry (President)

A sign-in sheet was provided at the entry table and attendees were directed to fill-out their information.

Establish Quorum / Call to Order – A quorum was established with 18 people in attendance and 1 person attending via Zoom. Vice President Kevin Skiba called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and explained the meeting protocol and defined voting members versus non-voting guests.

Zoom Protocol Review – John Henry read the Zoom protocol and advised that the meeting is also being recorded.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Kevin Skiba outlined the Agenda. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and minutes of the March 10, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports – *Treasurer John Henry* reported a balance of \$1,509.12 (12 cents in interest). We also took in \$48 in donations at the March meeting.

FCC Delegate Gary Meader reported that the FCC had two meetings since we last met. Links to their minutes are provided here: [March 15](#) and [April 19](#). Gary also highlighted that the Anchorage Audubon Society and Mr. Whitekeys are sponsoring the annual tree seedling giveaway to be held Saturday, May 27, at the Farmers Market. They will give away 10,000 12-inch white spruce trees. The next FCC meeting will be Wednesday, July 19.

Committee Reports

Community Patrol – Jeff Childs reported that John Henry is in the process of joining the community patrol group and will be onboard soon. He and Pete Caruso have been surveilling property dealing drugs in Oceanview and a possible second property involved in illegal activity. They are providing APD with video and photographs for evidence to hopefully get it taken care of by the end of the month. Jeff reminded people that if you suspect illegal activity you can call the APD drug hotline; APD prefers that you share your contact information. If you don't want to share your contact information, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously. You can also contact the OSOV Community Patrol and we can get law enforcement involved, if needed. The different avenues to report problems can be accessed through

APD's website, which you can find the link on Muni.org by clicking on the "Police" link. OSOVCC Community Patrol contacts: Jeff Childs 907-240-7880 and Pete Caruso 907-250-5379

Eldon Subdivision WDID and LID – Joe Alston, Whitney and Justin Blount reported on the status of funding for the Eldon Subdivision work. They are looking for \$2.75 million in supplemental funds. There are no available funds through the Municipality nor through the State this year; however, Senator Giessel found \$11,700 from an unused Old Seward Highway fund that she was able to set aside for Eldon Subdivision. AWWU administrators have been working closely with Senator Murkowski and staff and have been lobbying in DC to get competitive grant funding through the Senate Appropriations Committee. AWWU plans to go back to DC in six months to follow up on lobbying. If all goes well, it could be signed into the budget by the end of this year so we can begin design in 2024 and plan construction for 2025. They believe the project could result in an 80/20 split but that percentage can change as assessments are not billed until all construction costs are completed. The Blounts reminded the group that they are working to coincide construction with the 120th upgrade which will save a substantial amount of money in the end. The 120th upgrade is slated to cost \$5 million.

Some members unfamiliar with the issue had questions and the Blounts explained that their own home was built in 1969 and cannot be upgraded due to the inability to get loans. There are 29 lots, some are empty, others consist of mobile homes and older homes, and there hasn't been any new construction in the area. Loans cannot be acquired to upgrade homes because of code issues and the upgrades already needed.

OSOVCC Trails and Bike Paths – Guest speaker, Beth Nordland, Executive Director of the Anchorage Parks Foundation (APF) provided a report on the grant they submitted to the State of Alaska for funding a \$1 million study for a trail from Oceanview Bluff Park to Potters Marsh. Concern was expressed by members at OSOVCC's March 2023 meeting over the map that was submitted to the Legislature in their funding request because it bordered private property, Alaska Railroad (ARRC) right-of-way, and the Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Ms. Nordland explained that APF thought the trail shown on the map was public lands and she wanted to dispel concerns expressed through a previous conversation with OSOVCC, Trail Committee Chair Lucas Smith. Given that the study was not funded, Ms. Nordlund said it is no longer an issue.

However, members pointed out the importance of speaking with community councils before attempting to put forth such a proposal in the future. When a map is part of a grant request presented to the Legislature, it visually shows a route set in stone. Members further explained that the area was studied 20 years prior under a million dollar grant, so there is ample information available showing why the proposed project failed.

Members expressed ideas for consideration in future plans such as: polling bike riders on routes they currently use to access Potter Marsh and where they might stop/start to access these trails if driving from another location. OSOV parks have limited parking in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The OSOVCC members appreciated that Ms. Nordlund attended the meeting to answer our questions and hear our concerns.

Representatives/Community Reports

There were no representatives available for this meeting and no reports.

Old Business

10-Year Review of OSOV CC Boundary – Stan Moll reported on the Boundary and Advisory Committee meeting held May 1. He provided on screen maps showing the potential boundary changes that affect the OSOV area. The study areas involving OSOV are 33, 34, 35 and did not approve adding area 36 to the OSOVCC boundary. The committee will make their final recommendations to the Assembly in September. The OSOV Board will draft a resolution for introduction at the July 14, 2023, meeting and have a final vote to approve the resolution at the September 8, 2023 meeting. OSOVCC is just shy of 10,000 people.

A motion to extend the meeting was approved unanimously.

New Business

Housing & Homelessness Committee – Secretary Peggy Kircher announced a meeting of the South Anchorage District 6 requested by Felix Rivera that 10 Community Councils meet to choose 1 person to represent them at the Housing and Homelessness Committee. The first meeting will be on May 18, 5 pm, at IHOP.

Election of Alternate FCC Delegate - Secretary Peggy Kircher nominated Donna Delevante for alternate FCC delegate position. It passed unanimously.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Minutes prepared by the Secretary, Peggy Kircher. This meeting was recorded and if you wish to hear the full discussion contact the FCC.