

# Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council

MINUTES: Friday, December 8, 2023, 6:30–8:30 pm

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Location: 12100 Old Seward Hwy, Rabbit Creek Church Huffman Campus  
Zoom.com Meeting ID: 844 5795 0064 - Audio and Video Recorded  
2024 Winter/Spring Schedule: Jan 12, Mar 8, May 10, July 12, Sept 13, Nov 8 (elections)  
Website: <http://communitycouncils.org/osovcc>

**Board members present:** Joan Henry (President), Kevin Skiba (Vice President), John Henry (Treasurer), Peggy Kircher (Secretary). Members absent: Gary Meader (FCC Delegate), Donna Delavante (FCC alternate).

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. There were 13 members present, one member online, and one guest representing Senator Giessel. President Joan Henry called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and Vice President Kevin Skiba explained the meeting protocol and defined voting members versus non-voting guests.

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

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – Joan Henry outlined the Agenda and Peggy Kircher provided a brief overview of minutes of the previous meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and minutes of the September 8, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Officer Reports** – *Treasurer John Henry* reported on our account balance as of November 30, 2023 to be \$1,540.88, which includes \$0.67 in interest and \$75.00 in donations in 2023.

*FCC Report.* There was no report because the FCC canceled the December meeting. The next scheduled FCC meeting will be [January 17, 2024](#). Donna Delavante has resigned as the alternate FCC delegate.

## Representatives/Community Reports

Alaska State Senator Cathy Giessel was out of state attending an energy conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. A staff member (Paige) attended in her absence and reported they attended a meeting Monday on the Anchorage School District's \$900k budget deficit. The senator has not addressed this issue in her newsletter yet due to her travel schedule. Senator Giessel publishes a weekly [newsletter](#) every Thursday morning. If interested, please subscribe, or contact her [sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov).

A member requested that our minutes reflect that, to date, we have not received a report nor the presence of either Representative Craig Johnson or Assembly member Zac Johnson.

Anchorage School Board. No presence or report provided.

Anchorage Fire Department. No presence or report provided.

Assembly Member Randy Sulte. Treasurer John Henry provided Mr. Sulte's report which was received by email and follows.

- The joint Anchorage School District/Assembly meeting was canceled due to a planned lack of attendance. He has received numerous complaints about not taking a snow day and adding days to the end of the school calendar instead. Remote learning should be a last resort as families with multiple students do not have the bandwidth for multiple learners, during the recent storm some had no services to participate. There is no substitute for in-person learning.
  - ASD is facing an approximate \$96 million budget shortfall.
  - ASD Enrollment is 1,084 less students than last year, down ~4,800 in the last 10 years. ~7,000 fewer than the peak 21 years ago.
  - By ASD's own projections the number of kids in ASD facilities in 2028 will be lower than they were in 1980 when ASD was 5 million square feet.
  - Currently, ASD sits at 7.9 million square feet.
- December 12, 2023 1:30-2:30 pm - Special Assembly meeting with executive session regarding legal briefing from the MLA legal department.
- December 13, 2023 11:00 am to 12:30 pm - Housing and Homeless Committee meeting

Recent activity from Tuesday (12/5/23) Assembly meeting –

- Ballot propositions: the last date for ballot propositions to make the April ballot is the January 23, 2024 meeting for approval.
- AO2023-114 and initiative for restrooms throughout the municipality estimated at \$9 million was postponed to January 9, 2024.
- AO 2023-59 Chugach State Park service area was postponed to January 9, 2024.
- There will be a work session the first week of January most likely a Thursday or Friday.
- Cemetery bond (Girdwood, Anchorage and Eagle River): has not come before the body yet.
- AO2023-110 Short-Term Rentals was postponed until January 23, 2024 to allow more time for community feedback and allow the sponsors to agree on an S version.
- Budget: Mayor's veto was overridden. Please look to his veto for a list of items that had been proposed for veto and the reasoning.
- Legislative priorities: this was agreed to on Tuesday and are the joint priorities of the municipality from the administration and the assembly. These will be the priorities we will work and push with our state legislators.
- The Utility and Oversight Committee met last Wednesday with the Municipality and State of Alaska DOT to discuss the recent snow response. While the crews did well with the record snow, there's room for improvement as always. Communication was greatly improved showing which roads were state versus Municipality/Parks versus LRSA versus Private. Sectors were displayed to get current updates on plowing and sidewalks. There was a snow hotline as well

as a senior citizens snow hotline to allow citizens to request plowing, provide information and make complaints.

- AO2023-87 HOME initiative is currently before planning and zoning and due back before the Assembly within the next month.
- AO2023-130, an initiative to make it easier to build three and four plexes in areas that are already allowed, will come back before the Assembly December 19, 2023.

Randy Sulte is available to the public every Saturday 8-10am at Kaladis off Huffman Road. The Assembly publishes a monthly Newsletter you can sign-up for on their website.

## **Committee Reports**

Community Patrol – Jeff Childs reported that they have logged approximately 450 hours of patrol this year through November 30, 2023. They cleaned up a vacant homeless camp behind the dog kennel/boarding lot off Old Seward. It took 5 hours and involved disposing a lot of trash, washing and donating useful items, and turning over laptops that appeared to be stolen to APD. Vice President Kevin offered to help if other sites are discovered. Two homes they've been monitoring for two years, with help from neighbors and Anchorage Police Department (one on Bounty, the other on Mariner) have both been vacated by the problem residents and currently there are no other homes of concern. The coffee shop in the parking lot of Rabbit Creek Church Huffman Campus was broken into twice and burglarized (window damaged and register stolen) during the night very recently. APD was notified and it is being investigated. He also noted there's been an old RV and red car parking around the neighborhood, usually around commercial buildings. They have a homeless-type situation but seem harmless and are not causing trouble, so they are not concerned. Jeff reminds us to leave lights on during dark hours, don't use social media to post when you are out of town, ask neighbors to pick up packages or mail that could alert strangers to an empty home. Remain vigilant, report any illegal activity to the Anchorage Police Department via 911 for emergencies and 311 for non-emergencies. If you have other concerns, contact OSOVCC Community Patrol: 907-240-7880 or 907-250-5379.

Member Terika (coffee shop owner) was present to update on the break-ins. She informed us that both businesses next to her coffee shop (the church and storage unit) have also experienced multiple (4) break-ins. They all have cameras and she is looking into other camera monitoring options. APD is patrolling the area.

Eldon Subdivision WDID and LID – They are waiting on a follow-up meeting and the funding being signed off by President Biden, which is scheduled for next month. Lots 2 and 3 of the Quick Subdivision are having properties built and builders started the home construction with the sanitary sewer to Division Street. The builders/owners have been brought up to speed on the status of the water, sanitary sewer, and fire protection project, which is currently in progress.

120th Upgrade – There is no update; they are still anticipating grant funds to come through in the coming months and hoping for full-steam ahead of next year when the road upgrade is scheduled to start.

## Old Business

10-Year Review of OSOV CC Boundary – The OSOV Board provided Resolution 2023-01 that would adjust our boundary to include an area currently part of the Bayshore Community Council. This was the second reading, which passed 13/0.

Ellen Avenue Street Maintenance – Member Robert reported water seems to be plugging up at 123rd now, so the MOA will be watching for issues at that site. There are huge frost heaves every spring at 121st Avenue, which is the area of Ellen Street that will be upgraded to Klatt Road next season.

Clean Slate Strategy and Housing & Homelessness – Jeff Childs and John Henry attended a few of the assembly committee worksessions on this issue. They noted that there was limited public involvement. The assembly is looking for low barrier housing and has evaluated Municipal area properties that meet their criteria. Randy Sulte recommended the old transfer station. Felix Rivera and the Coalition to End Homelessness in Anchorage have no responses or suggestions on what to do with the disruptive homeless that are kicked out. Jeff Childs read a draft position statement prepared for our community council following numerous meetings on this topic with board members from other of the South Anchorage District 6 Community Councils. These meetings were held throughout the summer in response to a request by Felix Rivera. Jeff noted that it would be helpful to attach to our statement the background information he prepared while doing research on the homelessness topic, since it supports our position. The Board agreed his white paper will be attached to our position statement as it references studies with published facts supporting our position (especially including the 1.5 mile barrier). The Assembly is talking about low-income public housing/shelter (i.e., pallet housing) for long-term (two years) that the MOA (taxpayers) would pay for. A member suggested that “low-income” housing should be defined in detail so everyone understands what it refers to. There was a lot of discussion on this topic and members wondered who manages these shelters. It was our understanding that it would be someone employed by the City. In response, a member noted that there are currently 579 open positions in the MOA out of 2000. Another member addressed the concern that some homeless people with pets do not want to stay in shelters and that the SPCA will keep pets for the homeless.

Joan noted the results of the OSOV survey, which were distributed to members throughout the summer, are available by email upon request. Our position statement will be read for the second time at our January 2024 meeting.

Seward Highway - O'Malley to Dimond AK DOT – Vice Chair Kevin reported the project has been postponed to 2027.

Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Trail on the easement – Member John Pletcher reported that the lawsuit by Flying Crown is still bouncing around in 9th Circuit Court so we're waiting on that. He wrote to the planner for Fish Creek Trail and Alaska Long Trail. They are expecting 300,000 people to be using this trail system. Oceanview will have to make a huge parking lot at Oceanview Park and Jarvi in

order to try to accommodate that amount of visitors. Mr. Pletcher reminds members to read up on the historic and current information of the [Alaska Railroad Transfer Committee](#), where you can also read Congressman Don Young's 1982 letter on the intent of the Alaska Railroad Transfer Act.

He recommends forming a committee on the Long Trail before they get too far along in with their plans. Mr. Pletcher prepared a draft resolution that was not discussed at this meeting. It will be available for discussion at the next meeting on January 12, 2024.

[Safer Seward Highway](#) – This project is for the section of Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek and Bird Flats. It has been discussed for quite some time due to many vehicle collisions, injuries and even deaths resulting from this dangerous section of road. You can learn more about the proposed changes by clicking the link provided in the title. The public comment period is December 5, 2023 through January 4, 2024.

## **New Business**

Liquor License Renewal – There were no items to review. Remember to call, write, and attend the assembly meeting, when these licenses are on their agenda, if you disapprove.

Elections of OSOVCC Officers for 2024 – Joan Henry, President; Kevin Skiba, Vice President; John Henry, Treasurer; and Gary Meader, FCC Delegate; were re-elected on 13/0 votes.

Peggy Kircher resigned as Secretary and there were no new nominations for the position at this meeting. She agreed to continue in the position for the next meeting until someone volunteers. Gloria is interested in the Alternate FCC Delegate position and will follow up with Gary.

## Announcements / Current Issues of Note

Volunteers are needed to report on the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) meetings to keep the OSOVCC members aware of changes to our area and roads.

A new Anchorage LDS Temple & Meetinghouse is proposed at 13111 Brayton Drive.

## OSOVCC Members only

Request that MOA not use front-end loaders on Oceanview Drive and on Reef.

The school bus stop at the Oceanview Drive intersection of Reef and Nora should be moved because of the icy hill leading down to the intersection, vehicles are unable to stop.

There is a dangerous snowpile blocking the ability to proceed safely through the intersection of Highview and Oceanview.

Johns Road is the State's responsibility; however, the sidewalk is Municipality's.

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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