

# Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council

MINUTES: Friday, January 12, 2024, 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 (Acting Secretary), Gary Meader (FCC Delegate).

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 11 members present, one member online, and two guests. 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 minutes of the previous meeting that were posted online. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda and minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Officer Reports** – *Treasurer John Henry* reported on our account balance as of December 31, 2023 to be \$1,540.67, which includes \$0.07 in interest.

*FCC Report.* There was no report because the FCC canceled the December meeting. The next scheduled FCC meeting will be [January 17, 2024](#).

## Representatives/Community Reports

Alaska State Senator Cathy Giessel – Unable to attend; no report. Senator Giessel publishes a weekly [newsletter](#) every Thursday morning. Subscribe if interested. Contact: [sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.cathy.giessel@akleg.gov).

Representative Craig Johnson - Not present; no report provided.

Anchorage Fire Department. No presence or report provided.

Anchorage Police Department. No presence or report provided.

Assembly member Zac Johnson. Not present; no report provided.

Assembly member Randy Sulte – Randy Sulte reported on recent Anchorage Assembly issues. If you have any issues with snow berms, visit the MOA website to get help or to see the areas they've finished or have yet to do. They respond faster for senior citizens and the disabled. If they've missed your street (that can happen during shift changes), contact them to report it.

Upcoming meetings – Special Assembly meeting Tuesday 1/16/24, Item 13C only; Housing and Homelessness Committee, Wednesday 1/17/24; Budget & Finance Committee Thursday 1/18/24; Friday 1/19/24 there will be two worksessions on short-term rentals and municipal hiring process.

The Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting next week will discuss two hotels and the solid waste facility. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness coordinates nonprofits only (Hope Center, Beans, etc.), and provide free, three meals/day to the homeless. Health & Human Services oversees Golden Lion Treatment/Recovery facility, rent is \$800/mo and no meals provided. Many addicted homeless don't want to go to the treatment option and the homeless population continues to grow.

Kevin Cross (Eagle River) resigned; there will be no special election and no assembly replacement. Recent Assembly actions – Don Young Port of Anchorage name was approved; drive through marijuana did not pass but edibles did; Holton Hills is back and will likely pass, but there will be no short-term rentals allowed without ADU on site. Bonds – Final round for ballot; authorized capacity, not paid until issued. Mayor Bronson does not approve unless an equal amount is retired.

Portland Blues toilets around/ but others \$5 million-RFP & locations near water & sewer; Portland Loo-\$110K each, sterile, sink on outside, self-cleaning; A member asked about Park Service restrooms – for homeless & tourists; Bathrooms – \$5M will buy X amt of restrooms. Near water/sewer. Locations important, if in parks then problem w/homeless camps developing. Many other options have come up.

ASD \$62 million – passed; Chugach State Park access \$4 million for Canyon Road – passed, runs through Limited Road Service Areas, setup for full taxes by residents; Cemetery Bond 1/23/24 – Anchorage is out of space (bond to include Girdwood, Anchorage, Eagle River), Anchorage will pay the most; AO 2023-130 changes 3-plexes to residential code rather than commercial code to speed up the process;

Port of Anchorage – Terminal 1 with alternates for Terminal 2; still looking for funding, bonding capacity is covered by fees at the dock, goal is \$400 million to get state funding.

Hiring Fair on 1/12/24 – Currently 60-70 vacant APD positions. Community members asked how they hire more people, what are the goals to understand the process. The MOA is trying to figure out where the problems are. There are online software issues–good candidates are getting kicked out and bad ones are getting in. Timeline is extremely slow and pay is an issue, as well as defined benefits.

Randy Sulte is available to the public every Saturday 8-10am at Kaladis off Huffman Road. The Anchorage Assembly publishes a monthly Newsletter you can [sign-up for at this link](#).

Anchorage School Board – Pat Higgins reported. ASD is on a fiscal cliff. It's unknown what funding may come from the State of Alaska. Last year ASD received one-time funding. The Board is looking into using half the savings to reduce what they have to cut. They are not cutting the teacher-pupil ratio

in K-6. Middle school isn't going away; do not want to add 6th grade to Junior High; support is needed for kids with social & emotional learning. Sports staying in passed 4-3. State will be discussing constitutional requirements for adequate funding of ASD, administration and teachers. ASD is underfunded by \$150 million, not competitive, underfunded for teachers. In comparison, Mat-Su has a lower cost of living than Anchorage and receives more funding per student, so more money for more teachers. ASD cannot fill 165 jobs, there are less adults working in Anchorage and we're losing half our kids to school, career and life ready classes. Need to explore link with businesses, get college credits while in high school, apprenticeship programs with businesses in city,

Bonds – Inlet View School again, renovate vs. rebuild. May get help from the State. Two schools in need of roofs will be on bonds; there are many roofs leaking.

Academics – Next year late start times; studies show scores go up when high school starts later. However, getting out after elementary schools is a big issue; Board push back—cut administration vs. school needs. Budget, Assembly is limited on amount they can supply. Have to cut \$95 million, if you cut teachers, there's no music, art, etc. No school cuts next year. When schools are cut and combined, funding is lost because they assume efficiency with more kids in one school. Additionally, there are negative academic impacts. It is better overall with smaller school size rather than closing schools. Looking into open option classes where more kids but more teachers as well, TEAM Teaching; Montessori style. Larger elementary classes, 40 students, combined classes.

## **Committee Reports**

Community Patrol – John Henry reported for Jeff Childs in his absence. 498 hr for 2023. More help is needed. The old RV that was moving around in our area recently caught fire. Be vigilant and 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.

Eldon Subdivision WDID and LID – Joe Alston reported. He has lived in Eldon Subdivision since 1976 and they are all on well water. In 2006, the MOA approved permitting for a topsoil processing facility to move in, which is now owned by a second owner. Eldon subdivision is Zone R5 and put in a request to get city water, including Angeles Cemetery Park. They would be assessed by the amount of area they have. MOA was helping with water/sewer. Angelus Memorial is a non-profit so had the ability to get grants, but they refused and won't help with funding. Mr. Alston looked into what type of water line systems were in place and discovered they are inadequate throughout Eldon Subdivision and the surrounding area neighborhoods, including the Oceanview elementary school.

Johns Road has 6-inch lines, Daily Avenue has 4-inch lines, North. Oceanview cast iron lines, 6", 8" by school and OceanPoint, private fire hydrants in compact, new neighborhoods. Mainlines should be 12-inch waterline at Furrow Creek and Huffman Road ROW. Eldon Subdivision needs 8-inch lines and fire hydrants. Sanitary Sewer lines are needed for Bill Street and 120th Avenue because the septic systems are failing at this time.

They've put in requests and are set with AWWU; pending federal level approval—this is public health and safety concern, as well as for economic development. There is potential for property values to increase for land that doesn't have homes on it or have mobile homes. Joe Alston provided a map of vacant lands and mobile homes to build new homes—this is a MOA decision, pending MOA funding. Need their support to make this move forward. This project is design ready pending funding. There are 8 vacant lots (in red) and lots bordering.

Randy Sulte explained the challenge is that this is a problem all over the city of Anchorage. Joe Alston has put in time and effort to do the work needed to get this project off the ground. Pay on connection, pay on completion. AWWU uses Capital Improvement Plans to make their decisions on priority. Another project that succeeded was off of Scooter Drive where there are mobile homes and framed houses.

120th Upgrade – There was no update on this subject.

A couple members requested that the Board reach out to MOA street maintenance regarding some dangerous snow piles that are blocking views of children on Klatt Road, Brandon and Old Seward. They had already called themselves, but had not received attention.

## **Old Business**

Alaska Railroad Trail on Easement – John Pletcher had planned to brief the group but needed to leave the meeting early. This item will be taken up at a later meeting. Further information can be found in these links: [Alaska Long Trail](#), [Fish Creek Trail](#).

10-Year Review of OSOV CC Boundary – Joan reported that our resolution to adjust our boundary to include an area north across Klatt Road (currently part of Bayshore Community Council) passed at the December meeting has been turned into the Department of Transportation. Their review process is two months long, followed by a public comment period, then they will bring their recommendations to the Assembly (six months total).

Clean Slate Strategy and Housing & Homelessness – The assembly is still looking for low barrier housing and is evaluating Municipal area properties that meet their criteria. Kevin Skiba reported that the Chugach Electric Co-op is moving into one facility, so their old building near Ship Creek will be available by spring/summer and wondered if the MOA could use that building for housing the homeless. Randy Sulte explained that Catholic Social Service buys the land and then handles the groups using them.

Draft Position Statement on Housing & Homelessness in OSOVCC – Our position statement was read for the second time at our January 2024 meeting.

We will post a white paper prepared by our community patrol officer, Jeff Childs, to the OSOVCC website for members to review and comment on at future meetings.

[Safer Seward Highway](#) – This project is for the section of Seward Highway between Rabbit Creek and Bird Flats. The map was projected and there was no further discussion.

Election of 2024 OSOV Officer for FCC Alternate Delegate – Gloria volunteered for the position of Alternate FCC Delegate. She was elected on a vote of 9/0.

[People Mover Bus Service](#) – The link to the map was projected and Joan reported the Bus route in our area will be running on weekends now.

#### Announcements / Current Issues of Note

Joan announced that a volunteer needed to report on the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions ([AMATS](#)) meetings and how their planning will affect the OSOVCC.

[Community Garden at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church](#) – located at 1612 Oceanview Drive. Joan reminded members about the Community Garden if anyone is interested in raising their own garden space this year, it is very inexpensive and a wonderful community activity.

#### **New Business**

##### 2024 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Kevin reviewed the list of 2023 projects and asked if the members know of any roads to add. Additions to the list will be submitted in May.

Liquor & marijuana licenses up for 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.

#### **OSOV CC Members only**

Members reported the following concerns:

- 120th snow grading has caused one lane in some areas
- Snow berm needs to be cut back on Klatt Road at the exit of Value Liquor store.
- The narrow one-lane alleyway off John's Road between Daily Avenue and Huffman Road needs directional signs and posted speed limits. People are using it as a main through-fare, going each way .
- Division Street speed limits are also needed as there is a similar issue.
- John's Road would really benefit from speed bumps, and or flashing speed signs.

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

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