

Hillside Community Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

NEW MEETING LOCATION:

In person: On the corner of O'Malley Rd & Rockridge Dr.

Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, State Headquarters Building

6100 O'Malley Road, Anchorage, AK 99507

Zoom: Meeting ID: 865 9049 3825 / Passcode: 372912

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86590493825?pwd=YkZhcGVaTW9ZNGorM2Uzd25xcVZXZz09>

Welcome

Call to order: 6:35 pm.

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Sign-in & membership verification for voting was completed.
- Voting Requirement – Must have attended one Council Meeting in the preceding 12 months.
- Board members present: President Carmela Warfield, Bob Redlinger, Daniel Robbins, Bruce Vergason, Dr Helena Wisniewski
- Excused: Todd Brownson.
- A Quorum was established.

2. Approval of December 2023 HCC Meeting Agenda

Items 3 and 4 were tabled:

3. Approval of the draft October 2023 HCC Meeting Minutes

4. Approval of the draft November 2023 HCC Meeting Minutes

5. Business updates

- **Treasurer's Report** – Daniel Robbins
 - No debits or transactions reported to date.
- **FCC Delegate Report** – Carmela Warfield
 - Meeting held on November 15, 2023
 - Dr. Kevin Berry provided a good report.
- **HALO Delegate Report** – Bob Redlinger
 - Meeting held November 2, 1023

- Assemblymen Sulte and Senator Kaufman attended in person, Senator Giessel attended via zoom.
- Not sure about a January 2024 meeting
- **President's Report** – Carmela Warfield
 - President Warfield recognized DOT for the pedestrian path clearing and discussed the construction of sound barriers for the homes at O'Malley and Elmore.
 - She appreciated the attention to snow cleanup on walkways.
 - There is a schedule for snow plowing with priority ratings on the State of Alaska's website.
 - Mentioned that graffiti hit the retaining wall on O'Malley and Lake Otis, which was called into the MOA Graffiti hotline by Warfield for remediation.

6. Reports from elected officials and community representatives in attendance (5 minutes each)

a. **Legislative Updates**

District E – Senator Cathy Giessel

- Senator Giessel was at Jackson Hole attending an energy conference on power grids.
- Please refer to her weekly newsletter.

District F – Senator James Kaufman –

- Meeting to discuss getting community capital project requests into CAPSIS.
- Developing new legislation on regulatory reform.
- Trying to get CACFA to better help citizens navigate interactions with federal government.

District 11 – Representative Julie Coulombe –Attended conference on zero carbon in North Dakota.

- She is a representative on child care task force and recommended licensing background checks, providing a subsidy for wages, and making licensing applications and processes easier and smoother.
- Has a bill to be amended regarding municipality of Anchorage Licenses on child care.

Assembly Member Randy Sulte

- Friday, December 8th, a joint meeting between assembly and the school district will be held.

- New fiscal year budget was approved.
- A \$5M bond for 10 public restrooms will be on Anchorage election ballots.
- Pending are drive through pot shops with free samples. Shop owners are against it.
- Make fourplexes commercial buildings – will not impact Hillside.
- Capital project priorities
 - O’Malley Rockridge intersection
 - Abbot Birch intersection
 - Hillside fire protection

b. **Anchorage School District Board Representative - Board President Margo Bellamy**

- She uploaded her report on the website.
- The board started the budget development process.
- The reasons for the decrease in revenues includes lower enrollments. They are discussing what stays in the budget and what to eliminate.
 - However, they took action on one-year contracts for ASD members providing salary increases.
- This year enrollment down 500 students, and next year even more.
 - Discussions about possible school closings is a year out.

7. Discussion Item/Action Item

a. **Rockridge Drive – Safety Concerns, Capital Improvement Needs and Access to O’Malley Elementary**

President Warfield –

- Many French Immersion students are driven by car to school; in the winters, traffic can sometimes back up to the Zoo per staff and families.
 - We had hoped for a turn lane from O’Malley to Rockridge to help with this problem; however it was not included in the Phase II reconstruction.
- Due to the snow accumulation and lack of plowing on Rockridge, O’Malley was the only school not open after the November snowstorm.
- The upper O’Malley LSRA currently maintains Rockridge and no longer wishes to do so.
- Carmela led a discussion with concerned community members in attendance about possible solutions/suggestions and provided a detailed map of the Rockridge area under discussion.
 - This discussion included – was there a way for the ASD to pay into LSRA? Or for ASD to be a part of LSRA? Or for ASD to pay for snow plowing?

- Question – how is Mountain Air Dr (Bear Valley Elementary) maintained?
- Mark June moved to extend the meeting to 8:20pm.
 - Bob Redinger seconded.
- **President Warfield discussed Capital needs priorities for the Hillside:**
 - Priority one – fire mitigation.
 - O’Malley and Rockridge pedestrian traffic safety improvements
 - For example, flashing lights.
 - Pedestrian path and road frost heaving repairs.
 - Accessibility through Forsythe Park should be enhanced; trail is dark, need lighting improvements for student safety.

Related documents can be found on the Hillside CC website, under Rockridge Dr, Safety Concerns & Access to O’Malley Elementary.

8. Candidates (3 minutes each + HCC member Q&A as time allows)

- Senator Kaufman said a few words and suggested people go to his site: Kaufman4Alaska.com for additional information.

9. Open Discussion (3 minutes per person, time permitting):

- Dr. Helena Wisniewski discussed the importance of the FBI Anchorage Citizens Academy Alumni Association’s upcoming event – *The Truth About Fentanyl in Alaska* on January 26th and invited members to attend.

10. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.