

Hillside Community Council

Draft Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 4 2023, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In person: Shepherd of the Hills Church - 11600 Elmore Road, Anchorage, AK 99516

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

1. Welcome/Call to Order at 6:36 pm

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Sign-in & membership verification for voting
- Voting Requirement – Must have attended one Council Meeting in the preceding 12 months
- Establish Quorum –
 - Present: President Carmela Warfield, Daniel Robbins (on Zoom), Bruce Vergason, Dr Helena Wisniewski
 - Excused: Todd Bronson, Robert Redlinger
 - A Quorum was established.

2. Approval of October 2023 HCC Meeting Agenda

- Move - Bruce Vergason
- Seconded – Dr. Helena Wisniewski
- Motion Carried.

2.a. Approval of September 2023 HCC Minutes

- **Moved** – Josh/ **Seconded** – Jason Warfield

3. Business Updates (10-15 minutes total)

- **Treasurer's Report** – Daniel Robbins -
 - Budget of \$1,778.46, no withdrawals or debits since last report.
- **FCC Delegate Report** – Carmela Warfield
 - Meetings resumed.
 - The Mayor, Assembly members, and the School Board gave reports.
 - FCC is currently revamping the organization.
- **HALO Delegate Report** – Bob Redlinger
 - Dr. Jen Schmidt, UAA, provided insightful and helpful data on fire mapping and fire risk.
 - Meetings will be held at 7 pm.
- **President's Report** – Carmela Warfield
 - She is retaining bids for signage to notice meetings.

- Discussed work on local issues, in conjunction with elected officials.
- President Warfield mentioned that no turn lane from Birch onto O'Malley is causing traffic issues.

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

a. Legislative Updates

District E – Senator Cathy Giessel – represented by Paige Brown.

- Senator Giessel is preparing for the January session.
- She is attending conferences on:
 - Nuclear energy.
 - Healthcare.
 - Insurance.

District F – Senator James Kaufman

- Area priorities include:
 - A focus on the port of Anchorage
 - Homelessness
 - Oil and gas production
 - Fisheries
 - Bootstrap Manufacturing efforts
- He will be attending a conference in DC on Alternative energy
- As Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, he works closely with the Department of Transportation and the Operations Board to understand the challenges and the structural and situational issues the Alaska Marine Highway System faces and engage with them meaningfully.

District 11 – Representative Julie Coulombe

- Representative Coulombe is working on daycare task force solutions to increase daycare availability and quality.
- She's working with UAA Early Education and Workforce programs and met at UAA about their new Early Childhood Education Program.
- She is visiting District 11 Anchorage School District schools.
- DOT Delayed the O'Malley and old Seward traffic study to ensure it works with diverging diamond interchanges.
- She is working on road issues, including maintenance and plowing.

Anchorage Assembly Reports, District 6

Assembly Member Randy Sulte

- The Chugach State Park Access Bond for \$10M is coming up. It includes a variety of projects -AO 20/22-50.
- Cold weather Sheltering – solid waste Transfer Facility is a possibility
- Repairs underway for Sullivan Arena
- 2040 land use plan meeting Friday October 6

- AMATS upgrading their plan
- October 30 is a housing summit, including the topic of affordable housing

d. Anchorage School District Board Representative (Board President Margo Bellamy)

- The board held its first meeting of the month last night (October 3). Topics discussed included the transition plan for moving sixth graders to Middle School. To ensure a smooth transition and to help mitigate risks, planning for the 6th grade to middle School should be completed over the 2023/24 school year, with implementation for the 2024/25 school year.
- A Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum implementation is underway. Students in K-3 will follow CKLA beginning in Fall 2023. Students in grades 4-5 will follow the curriculum beginning in the 2024-25 school year.
- College, Career, and Life readiness is a goal the Anchorage School District is planning to implement.

5. Discussion Items

a. Hillside Community Council Capital Improvement Projects – planning and review - Carmela Warfield, President

- **President Warfield brought forward the top priorities** provided by Hillside residents for the CIPs. The CIPs are also posted on the HCC Website. Most improvements focused on health and safety issues, for example:
 - Fire prevention and disaster evacuation issues.
 - O'Malley Elementary School – Pedestrian path safety at Rockridge Drive.
 - The lack of a turn-off lane from O'Malley to Rockridge causes traffic backup to the Zoo during winter drop off and pickup times, per information from parents/staff.
 - Birch and Abbott intersection issues.

Community discussion ensued.

b. Clean Slate Strategy, South Anchorage District 6 Community Councils, Housing & Homelessness Committee - Bruce Vergason, Hillside CC Representative to District 6 Community Councils

- The committee has not met since the previous HCC meeting.

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

- Senator Kaufman is running for office and filed the intent to do so.
- Representative Coulombe is running for office. Her website is: Julie for Alaska.com

7. Adjournment

Bruce Vergason moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.