

**Huffman-O'Malley Community Council
Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 20, 2011**

1. The meeting was called to order by President Pete Nolan at 7 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Stevens.
3. Welcome and introductions were made. Other Steering Committee members present were: Treasurer Matt Burkholder; Wayne Crayton; Joan Eastlack; Vice President Christine Monette; Secretary Katie Nolan; Brian Partch; Paul Rasmussen; Melissa Schmiedt; Mark Schroeder and Tim Stevens.
4. Consent Agenda items:
 - a. The minutes of September 2011 were approved.
 - b. Treasurer's report by Matt Burkholder shows a balance of \$934.14 with an outstanding check of \$50.
5. Presentations
 - a. Phil Steyer and Ed Jenkins of Chugach Electric appeared to give an update on efforts to build the Abbott Substation. The Hane Street property has been re-mediated. Two other potential sites have been studied but are not good alternatives. The soccer field is available but has about 20' of peat. The electric load has lessened considerably, which will enable Chugach to delay this project an additional year. Site must have room for a 'mobile' substation and room to expand for future load growth; most of the expected growth is expected uphill. If the expected load does not materialize, the substation will not be built. The substation will also include a communications tower. A solid fence around the project should contain much of the expected sound. Transmission lines need a 50' ROW. Steyer will try to keep the Council informed on this project.
 - f. Brenda Hewitt and Scott Thomas, State DOT, appeared to discuss the Huffman roundabouts and Huffman/Elmore safety concerns. Thomas indicated that plans are for another series of roundabouts on Huffman between Lake Otis and Elmore Road. These probably will include Lake Otis, Pintail and Elmore. Pedestrian safety has been a major council concern. Thomas explained that they cannot sign everything. The new flashing yellow arrow at Lake Otis is planned and is supposed to flash yellow caution even during red lights. When asked about safety concerns at Huffman/Elmore, Thomas explained that it is a priority but needs funding. He also reiterated that DOT cannot sign everything. HOCC members offered suggestions gathered by Crayton, including "squiggly" lines before the intersection that will cause driver attention; larger 'stop' sign size; perimeter lights on stop signs; large 'stop' painted on road. All these ideas can be done at a very minimal cost. Thomas explained that he prefers a flashing overhead signal at the intersection but that this will take time to fund and install. HOCC members briefly discussed the high accident rate at this intersection and that immediate steps should be taken, and that these suggestions could be done within a few days at minimal cost. Thomas appeared to prefer his suggestion of installation of overhead flashing yellow and red lights until a roundabout can be built.

6. Continuing Business

a. John Weddleton submitted a proposed resolution in support of a Hillside District Plan Hillside Roads, Drainage and Transportation Service Area implementation committee, which will request the Muni appoint a board to create the basic plan that will be submitted for voter approval. Motion by Crayton, second by Monette, to adopt the resolution with appropriate HOCC wordsmithing; 10 yes, 1 no; motion passed. Secretary will adapt resolution to HOCC format.

b. Motion by Crayton, second by K. Nolan, to write a letter to DOT regarding Huffman/Elmore intersection safety and HOCC recommended immediate solutions; motion unanimous. Secretary will write letter.

c. Home owner Jeff Snyder of Seawind Drive and spouse Vickie Snyder appeared to refute statements given from area residents regarding greenbelt encroachment at the September meeting. Snyder was especially disturbed upon reading the approved minutes. Snyder stated that he does use a pellet gun to shoot at moose that enter the greenbelt encroachment area, attracted by the flowers and other plants his wife has planted outside his fence in the greenbelt. However, he just “shoots them with a pellet gun in the butt” but he “don’t pump 9 or 10 times”, but “just 1 pump”. He stated that there was a neighbor that had a structure on the greenbelt, but it has since been removed; there were fences around the trees they planted to protect them from moose, but they have also been removed; and that there is nothing else on the greenbelt. He refuted that anyone in the area chases local children away from the greenbelt, but that one man flies a helicopter in the area. No one complains about the encroachment, and his improvements to the area are a positive, not a negative, for the entire neighborhood. He only mows weeds and uses insecticide to help keep mosquitoes down, and has done it to improve the greenbelt. Snyder stated that the rock pile was left over from the old lake that was in the area before the subdivision was built, and not something new. The rocks were from the old pond and have not been moved. Snyder also stated that there is no way to access this greenbelt area except through private yards, as the trail that used to be there is gone and now disappears into the area he mows. President P. Nolan explained the role of community councils in addressing neighborhood concerns, and invited Snyder to join the HOCC and attend meetings regularly.

d. Burkholder discussed Chugach Park Plan and how the HOCC should address comments. It was ultimately decided that council members submit individual comments.

e. Brief discussion was held regarding the new meeting location. Steering Committee members are asked to arrive early next month to assist everyone in finding the new location. Monette will have her spouse hang out at our former location to point lost individuals to the new location, and will adapt current signage to new location. Donations to both locations will be discussed in November.

f. Discussion of HOCC response to Transportation Plan. Todd Logan and Crayton will formulate HOCC response.

7. Motion to extend by 15 minutes made by Schmeidt, second by Rasmussen; unanimous.

8. Reports

a. FCC. Monette reported on the FCC meeting, which was a “state of the city” report that included discussion of the Title 21 revision. Of the 37 suggested changes Dan

Coffey submitted, only 5 were approved by the Planning Department. **Chris, can you add a brief synopsis of the rest? I was listening and didn't write!**

- b. HALO, Inc. Monette reported on current HALO activities.
- c. Hillside District Plan. K. Nolan will be looking at the suggested Title 21 revisions and how they integrate into the HDP. She will also formulate and submit official HOCC response to Steering Committee.
- d. Membership Outreach. Monette made available the "Welcome Neighbor" letter and asked that each Steering Committee member hand one to someone new. She will also prepare for meeting location change.
- e. South Anchorage High Neighborhood Liaison Committee. Monette and Eastlack reported on issues with buffer plantings. Apparently, the original contractor was replaced with a local lawn service. Although trees have been planted, in the process the service destroyed or stripped much of the existing vegetation and berm. The trees appear very young. Eastlack and Monette will request a meeting with Mike Abbott at the location to examine actual conditions.

9. President's Report

- a. Incoming Correspondence
 - (1) Transportation Plan
- b. Outgoing Correspondence
 - (1) Resolution re: greenbelt encroachment

10. New Business

- a. SAHS Government Class Constitution Day activities were held at Carr's. Students read the Constitution aloud for 12 hours. President will try to have students attend an upcoming HOCC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Nolan, Secretary

Action needed:

HRDTSA Resolution (Secretary): sent to SC on 10/21

Letter to DOT re: Huffman/Elmore Safety (Secretary & Crayton): sent to SOA 10/20

HOCC response to Transportation Plan (Logan & Crayton): to SC for response

HOCC response to Title 21 suggested revisions (K. Nolan)

Examine SAHS buffer planting with Abbott (Eastlack & Monette)