

Huffman O'Malley Community Council Minutes
February 20, 2014

1. Call to Order 7:02 by President Chris Monette

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Welcome and Introductions: Steering Committee Members Present: Christine Monette-President, Matt Burkholder-VP, Brian Partch, Wayne Crayton – Treasurer, Katie Nolan, Paul Rasmussen and Diane Shellenbaum. Absent (excused): Tim Stevens, Melissa Schmiedt, Mark Schroeder, Susan Richards

4. Consent Agenda Items

A. Minutes: None

B. Treasurer's report: Wayne reported no change from last month. \$714.14 in the account.

5. Presentations

A. Assembly Member Updates: None

B. Legislative Update: None

C. Fire Department updates:

- Brian Partch reported in March there will be a 'soft' rollout of a Safe Citizens Academy, a free one day program intended to educate attendees on the Fire Department, basic CPR, disaster preparedness, and fire extinguisher training.
- Diane Shellenbaum (HOCC representative on the Fire Station #9 Design Committee) reported that the committee has started meeting to choose the architect to lead the construction project. The committee consists of 6 people, Diane (HOCC rep), Claudia Christiansen (whose property backs onto new FS site), two fire chiefs and two MOA project managers. The goal is to make a recommendation by late February/early March, with the intent to start construction in Spring of 2015, completion by the end of summer 2016.

D. Chugach Electric – Phil Styer.

- Reported on a new substation planned for the Hillside, on O'Malley just east of Lake Otis. He provided history of the project, including explanations of how power is currently provided to the Hillside, why the additional substation is needed, and details and results of attempts to find a location more acceptable to neighbors and HOCC. He showed a schematic of a typical design, which in this case would include a tall fence (not chain-link) with no barbed wire except on the gate. Lighting would be dimmed when personnel not present, and there would be landscaping for screening. The location is permitted for an 80 ft communication tower, monopole microwave, on north side of lot. The tower is available for co-location, meaning there could be future requests for a taller tower, which presumably would require a new permit(?).
- Planned summer cable injection, replacement in the Turnagain View Subdivision, a proactive measure to replace cables showing signs of weakness before they fail. Minimal impact expected on neighbors.
- Planned within next year, undergrounding cables in 2 miles stretch on Huffman, from Elmore to Carrs. Chugach will notify GCI of plans so GCI could choose to add their lines at the same time.

E. Bowman Elementary Pedestrian Improvements – Brooke Blessing, MOA Engineering.

- Seeking feedback on possible concerns about a sidewalk project planned, could be built this summer if there are no objections or complications, on the west side of Gregory (north/south road from Huffman to Bowman). Goal to improve safety for the children walking to and from school. There is currently a paved area, striped, but not plowed,

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and not useable for much of the winter. Putting in a sidewalk would minimize the number of times the kids need to cross the street. Brooke will get back to Chris who requested the grant from which the project is funded. Wayne requested that Brooke notify property owners of project, she agreed. Chris also will try to reach out to neighbors that will be impacted. Brooke agreed to come to a future meeting to keep us in the loop.

F. Great Alaska Schools Anchorage Coalition – Alison Arians

- Reported on new grass roots parent based (created 3 weeks prior, 500 people signed up) with the goal of supporting our public schools through increasing the BSA, the per student allocation, by \$404 to catch up with inflation from the last time it was increased, and also tie the BSA to inflation in the future. The flat funding since 2011 has eroded what goes into classrooms, leading this year to the expected loss of 200 staff, including 150 teachers. She agreed that current monies could be spent better but made the point that many things are counted towards the school district budget that do not go directly to students, and are outside of district control, such as TERS retirement obligations, fuel costs, capital projects (such as 7 new football stadiums) etc. Additional funds can only come from the legislature, as a previous bill SB 192 (182?) sets a limit on how much the municipality can give, and that is maxed out.
- She would appreciate a resolution in support, but main goal is to get information out to the public.
- Contact is Alison.arians@gmail.com for those interested in signing up and supporting the organization's goals.

6. Continuing Business

- A. Greenbelt Remediation: No report. It was noted that the only cases of greenbelt encroachment that the Parks department acts upon is related to the coastal trail, otherwise it is ignored.
- B. Parks committee report: Chris reported- HOCC letter went out this month. This issue has also been taken up by FCC, the Federation of Community Councils.
- C. Council Survey update: no report. Brian is working on it, should go out once new FCC website is ready to go.

7. Reports:

- A. FCC : Monette
- New website training to be offered soon. Beta version is out, looks very good.
 - Meeting was very contentious.
- B. HALO : Monette
- Candidates forum to be held March 5th at O'Malley on the Green.
 - Presentation on well water study to look for nitrates.
- C. Crime Statistics : Wayne Crayton provided written report, attached.
- Observed that the highest crime rate in our area is the Huffman business district.
- D. South Anchorage High Neighborhood Liaison : Monette
- P+Z vote was no, but possibly only because 5 votes were needed to allow the construction. There were 3 votes no, and 4 votes yes, with two members absent. The school district has 20 days to appeal, which is considered likely.
 - Chris testified with the HOCC position of opposition to building the stadium.

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- HOCC provided written comments, which is expected to be the final involvement from HOCC as an organization. The home-owners association will stay involved.

8. President's Report:

- A. Incoming correspondence: Bank Statement
- B. Outgoing correspondence: Letter to John Rotta(?) and the Anchorage Assembly recommending dedication of our parklands.

9. New Business:

A. Anchorage Assembly(?) passed a new ordinance which will require all Community Councils to rewrite their By-Laws and submit them for approval.

- Chris testified in person against the ordinance, which states that all CC members at any meeting be allowed to vote on all issues and resolutions.
- The concern is how to avoid meetings controlled by one issue groups, without appropriate balance on the issues.
- Katy submitted an amendment that provides for flexibility within each CC on the minimum age to vote. (Original language defined the minimum age as 16.)
- HOCC current by-laws provide for votes by the steering committee, with a minimum number of meetings to be attended defining eligibility, so by-laws will need to change.
- Discussion followed on related issues, how to confirm all voters are actually HOCC members (meaning they live in, or own property in, the HOCC area), etc. Require ID to sign in?
- They'll send the new ordinance to all CC's, who then are to edit by-laws and send to ombudsman for approval, he will return with edits, after which we'll have 120 days to adjust.

B. Katy motion to spend \$25 to support the HALO candidates forum. 2nd Matt and Paul, passed unanimously.

10. Open Forum: None

Chris adjourned 9:00

Submitted by Diane Shellenbaum