

OCEANVIEW/OLD SEWARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/o 240 PACIFIC VIEW DRIVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2003

The next meeting of the Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council will take place on Wednesday November 12 in the library at the Oceanview Elementary School on Johns Road starting at 7:00 PM. Please note the change in venue. Oceanview ES is now within the revised boundaries of the Community Council and we will be making this our permanent location for all future Council meetings. Our thanks go to the Salvation Army for accommodating us at their church for the past several years.

This has been a busy month concerned with proposed budget cuts affecting the Fire Department, open meetings on roads and other open meetings on parks and trails. This newsletter summarizes these events and outlines the business we need to conduct during the November meeting.

ROADS IMPROVEMENTS

On October 9, there was an open house for the DeArmoun Road improvements that was attended by well over 100 people and resulted in more unanswered questions than answers.

So we decided that we needed another meeting and on October 16, The Huffman/O'Malley and the Oceanview/Old Seward Community Councils held a joint meeting to discuss the proposed road improvements in South Anchorage. Figuratively speaking, all roads lead to AMATS (Anchorage Municipal Area Transportation Solutions) so we invited representatives from AMATS to attend. We also prepared an extensive list of questions. Again, the meeting was well attended, indicating the strong interest in these road projects.

The conclusion held by many of the attendees is that the process for a road improvement is cumbersome and not responsive to the people that live in the area who will be directly affected, as well as the general road user and taxpayer.

A balance is needed that considers the homeowners who are directly impacted, safety of the road user as well as the pedestrians and bikers who also use the roads. The current system seems unable to bring all the users together to work out a solution that everyone can accept.

The next step is to pursue the dialogue with AMATS that enables the public to influence road decisions and get roads that are designed according to the needs.

We want to thank Mary Whitmore and Ryan Stencil for arranging this meeting.

Other road projects in South Anchorage that are receiving lots of attention from the public are:

Abbot Loop/Bragaw Connection.

Huffman Road Reconstruction from 140th Avenue to Hillside Drive. Construction scheduled for 2007.

O'Malley Road Reconstruction from Seward Highway to Hillside Drive. Construction scheduled for 2006.

C Street Extension at Minnesota scheduled for construction next year.

Converting Timberlane Road to a collector road. An Open House called by the engineers Lounsbury & Associates is scheduled for November 19 in the multi-purpose room at the Oceanview ES starting at 6:00 PM.

Lastly, what to do about making the children's crossing on Lake Otis at Hanshew a safe crossing.

FLISTER FAMILY

The Flister family are literally in the eye of the storm of the Dermoun Road improvements and own the home that is directly affected by the curve on DeArmoun Road. We have invited Mr. and Mrs. Flister to talk to us about a homeowner's perspective facing compulsory relocation resulting from a road project.

PARKS & REC DEPARTMENT

On October 14 there was an open house introducing the draft strategic plan titled Anchorage Bowl Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facility Plan being developed by consultants for MOA. This plan is a companion to the 2020 Plan that concentrates on parks and recreation and will significantly affect the quality of life in Anchorage. The Open House was very poorly attended so get involved now and make your views known.

Here are two contacts for further information: MOA Planning Department Project Manager Thede Tobish 343-7919. Also go to the Muni website at www.muni.org/planning/pri_ParksPlan.cfm.

MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

We will receive reports from our Assembly representatives Janice Schamberg and Dick Tremaine.

We would like to hear our Assembly representative's views on the proposed MOA budget and the proposed fire hydrant tax.

We also need to get an update of the status of the gravel pit at 120th Street.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

Please advise the Council officers of any reports that you want to hear from our Legislative representatives--Senator Ben Stevens and Representative Lesil McGuire.

ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firemen stationed at the Huffman Fire Station will inform us of how the proposed cuts in the Fire Department budget will affect fire service in the Council area.

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

We are due to receive a report from Lt. Norsworthy of the Anchorage Police Department on the problem areas in Oceanview identified by the Council during the September meeting. Because we have a full agenda for the November meeting, we will postpone this report to a later meeting.

ANCHORAGE SAND & GRAVEL

Steve Lovs from Anchorage Sand & Gravel will talk to us about the impact of the proposed extension of C Street and the overpass planned at the intersection of Minnesota Drive. This will affect the traffic pattern used by AS&G trucks. Mr. Lovs will also be speaking to the Bayshore/Klatt CC.

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Funding for the FCC may be cut or considerably reduced under the proposed new budget, which will affect our ability to communicate with Council members. Your Executive Committee has developed a work-around solution, which involves developing our own mailing list for the newsletter from the FCC distribution list. Currently, the newsletter is mailed to approximately 1,015 members and emailed to 96 members. We want to form a work party to review the mailing lists, purge the list of people we know have left and develop a new electronic mailing list. We will use that list to electronically distribute the newsletter. So we are asking for volunteers to help with this project. We need to complete this task by February when the current FCC support will likely cease.

REZONING PETITION

Mr. Don Duryea who lives at 13211 Venus Way has requested time to present to the Council his application to rezone the lot where he resides.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting occurs on Wednesday December 10. We need to decide whether to hold this meeting when it might interfere with Council members' Christmas preparations or to postpone the meeting to January 13, 2004.

Another consideration is that our newly approved by-laws call for election of officers to be held by the end of the calendar year.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your Community Council officers listed below:

- President Tim Bridgman 345-3614
- Vice President Hank Hosford 522-8638
- Secretary Margaret Klatt 345-5848
- Treasurer Mary Whitmore 344-2831
- FCC Rep Vicki Hudson 345-0011

Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Oceanview Elementary School on Johns Road. Meetings start at 7:00PM.

Distributed to you by the Federation of Community Councils
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