

**Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting – April 28, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - Meeting Held Online via ZOOM**  
**2021 Meeting Dates: Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26**  
**OSOVCC Website: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/25.html>**  
**Meetings are Audio and Video Recorded**

**Board Members: President, Roselynn Cacy, Vice President Carol Fuller, Treasurer Stan Moll, Secretary Nancy Joseph.**  
Email address for the OSOVCC President and Board Members: [osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:32 p.m. **President Cacy** presiding. Quorum reached at 7:20 p.m.; all attendees were required to state their name, street address in the Old Seward/Oceanview area, or whether they were a guest to our meeting providing their name and affiliation. Agenda items were amended to accommodate guest speakers' time commitments. **Agenda and March Minutes** approved at 7:20 p.m.

**Juneau House Representative Tom McKay** – Briefly mentioned the following: 1) Budget is being worked on/passed between the House and Senate. 2) The session is supposed to end May 19, but an extension is expected to last until 5/29. Summer and Fall special sessions are also expected – one to deal with the PFD, and one to deal with the American Recovery Plan. 3) McKay was able to secure monies for two projects in his area - \$25,000 for Bayshore ice rink and additional monies for the Klatt Sports Park. To reach Representative McKay with comments or concerns: Toll-Free: 866-465-4993 and [Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov)

**APD, Officer Nelson** was available for questions and comments about our area. He offered the link to the Muni crime map so that residents can see the types of crimes happening in our area. A member mentioned the recent dog shootings on Oceanview Drive, the tree cutting by vandals in Johns Park, and speeders/stop sign running on residential streets. Officer Nelson asked members to call 3-1-1 when traffic violations are observed. They will come to the area while on patrol. The new Muni crime map is here: <https://www.anchoragepolice.com/crime-analysis>

**Announcements** were read from the Agenda. Not Present: **Anchorage School District Board, OSOV Community Patrol Jeff Childs.** Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880.

**FCC Report – Nancy Joseph** – By attachment, the FCC briefing appears at the end of these Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report – Stan Moll** – No expenditures occurred over the past month. Balance of account is \$1,537.41.

**Senator von Imhoff Update:** Unable to attend this meeting, Senator von Imhoff sent an email update which was read to the meeting attendees. Content is shown at the end of this document.

**Assembly – Suzanne LaFrance** – We received a briefing on the following:

1. An Assembly resolution was passed providing \$25,000 in funds to the public information communication effort about the Alaska Railroad suit against Flying Crown HomeOwners Association and the land issues involved.
2. On April 16, the Emergency Declaration was extended to June 11. It was opposed by some because some of the code definitions of a health emergency don't seem to fit this situation. The Assembly would like to remove restrictions re: Covid-19 but keep the mask mandate and align the Muni's position with CDC guidelines.
3. The run-off election is underway; in person voting will begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voting centers will be open.
4. The Muni is getting \$100 Million in two \$50 Million tranches. The Assembly is meeting with community leaders to determine the best way to spend the money and to try to avoid duplicating what the State is designating as their spend priorities. On May 12, the Assembly will provide a resolution to introduce the first round of allocations; this will be revisited on May 21, and perhaps voted on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Assembly.

Questions from the members regarding homeless shelters and licensing: We know only a bit of the information on this upcoming program. Will the homeless shelters be operated by private businesses as "for profit" businesses, and if so, who will pay that bill to the licensees – property owners paying property taxes? Will there be regulations and processes they must follow? And if these all cost more than the \$1 Million/month that the Sullivan Arena shelter is costing, who will be tracking this as it will be more expensive than the original solution? Answers came from **John Weddleton**: The Muni wants out of the homeless shelter business. It is most likely that the licensee applicants will be the same entities that operate in the Muni already as shelters, such as Catholic Social Services, the Rasmussen Foundation, etc., and these operations will have to follow Federal and HUD rules and regulations. The money will come from federal funding.

**Assembly – John Weddleton** – Please note that the Muni has many boards and commissions for public members. There are over 600 seats to fill every year. One of the Boards, the Board of Equalization requires duty only during the month of May of each year and hears appeals for property assessments. Please consider sitting on a board or commission. Go to <https://onboard.muni.org/apply/> The Budget is \$550 Million and should include some of the following:

- A Budget amendment seeks to add funding for the municipal attorney's office to add more legal support.
- Another amendment adds funds to the new MTP – Metro Transportation Plan for long range planning.
- Girdwood emergency medical services provided south of Indian are not fully funded, and the group is not being paid what it costs to respond to emergencies and do their job. Muni is trying to get more funding.
- Monies are being added to the Girdwood community plan funding.
- One more comment on the AKRR/Flying Crown. The Muni has intervened in the lawsuit.

Tim Sullivan from the Alaska Railroad said the Muni involvement seems off. Member discussion ensued regarding relationships amongst the AKRR and homeowners and other affected parties becoming adversarial.

To receive the Assembly quarterly newsletters, sign up at [wwmas@muni.org](mailto:wwmas@muni.org)

**Assembly Contacts: Suzanne LaFrance**, Anchorage Assembly – District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, 907-351-7199 mobile/text, E-Mail: [Suzanne.LaFrance@AnchorageAK.gov](mailto:Suzanne.LaFrance@AnchorageAK.gov)

**John Weddleton**, Anchorage Assembly – District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, 907- 770-0685, E-Mail: [John.Weddleton@AnchorageAK.gov](mailto:John.Weddleton@AnchorageAK.gov)

#### **GUEST SPEAKER: Denny Hostetter, Community Outreach from JBER:**

- Update on Military Exercises: Exercise Northern Edge, April 29 - May 14, large exercise with operations from Fairbanks to Gulf of Alaska to King Salmon, definite increase in aircraft traffic/noise, approximately 2,500 additional people and 300 additional aircraft will be on base/in town for this event.
- For access to JBER, your ID card must be valid and not expired. July deadline to get it up to date.
- GATE CLOSURES: Post Road gate closed 5/1 – 6/30; Boniface gate closed 7/1 – 8/15 for construction upgrades.
- ARCTIC THUNDER: Coming July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – Next year.
- JBER is hiring over 150 positions for civilians. Go to [JBERlife.com/jobs/](http://JBERlife.com/jobs/) if interested.
- JBER 9<sup>th</sup> Army Band will be playing gigs around town May 14, 22, 29, 31. Look up JBER 9<sup>th</sup> Army Band FB Page
- Honorary Commanders program is available if you are interested in working with the Commander for a day as a resident of our community. Go to JBER Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK/>
- For any beneficiaries that use JBER medical facilities, there is a new JBER Pharmacy Facebook page with good info, also you can order prescriptions by texting "Get in line" to 1-855-856-5501. The JBER Pharmacy Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy>
- JBER Public affairs phone number is 907-551-8996; email address is [jber.pa@us.af.mil](mailto:jber.pa@us.af.mil)
- For the Conservation Law Enforcement Office on base to assist with iSportsman recreational purposes – 907-552-8609

**Guest Erin Whitney**, Candidate for the Chugach Electric election - Members of Chugach Electric, please vote during the election from now through May 18th.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

As mentioned in the March OSOVCC meeting, the **Capital Improvement Projects ("CIP") Survey** is ready for residents of Old Seward/Oceanview input. The primary goal of the survey is to have Community Councils provide an overall priority ranking of all capital projects in their area and suggest any additional projects to the Municipality. Go to the following link to download item 9a for review. Send your input, questions, and comments to the Board referencing "CIP Comments" in the email Subject Line to [osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com). The OSOVCC Board will finalize the list and submit it to the Muni by the May 31 deadline after our last CC meeting in May. As previously mentioned, we don't always get what we request, and Muni budgeting does not always include our requests in bonds. **John Weddleton** mentioned that we should keep asking for capital improvements that we know we need and be persistent.

The document is here: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=18749>

**NEW BUSINESS** topics AKRR vs Flying Crown (covered above), and West Anchorage Snow Disposal site are covered in FCC Notes attached).

**PRESENTATIONS** – After two meetings with the developer’s representatives about the new Sonic site and the development of the North lots near Industry Way/Huffman Park Drive and at Huffman Road/Industry way, the OSOVCC Board took concerns and issues to the Municipality Traffic and Planning Departments. The Traffic Department accepted the invitation to speak at this month’s meeting to give us a briefing and update as to the status of traffic issues, and the following is a recap of what was said by the group in conversation, including Kris Langley from Muni Traffic Dept. The OSOVCC letter and attachments to both Departments can be found on the OSOVCC website as item(s) 11a for downloading.

<http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=18749>

**GUEST SPEAKER KRIS LANGLEY, Associate Traffic Engineer, Transportation Planning, Municipality of Anchorage**

This site location and traffic change for the future is complicated and problematic. When Sonic contacted the Planning Department, Planning made a decision that the “remodel” was not a change of use – not a new construction building, so new reviews of impacts to the local area were not going to be necessary. The Planning Department did not contact the OSOVCC about the new Sonic location and did not interact with the Traffic Department due to the determination that the remodel was not a change of use to the site. However, like the OSOVCC members, the Traffic Dept found that this would be an impact to the local community and the Muni and State street traffic patterns and levels. Had the Planning Department made a different decision, a traffic study compliance report would have been warranted. Planning decided that all fast food places are equal for this decision. The permit has been issued for the remodel. The developer is requesting replatting of the North property to use for additional parking for Sonic; however, the permits for the North lot have not been nailed down. Muni Traffic is aware that Sonic is trying to get a better parking situation.

Traffic Dept. contacted the State, as Huffman Road and Old Seward Hwy are state roads. The State DOT would have to ask for road changes if they see that traffic to Sonic is a problem, meaning, DOT said that temporary traffic controls may be sought out when the restaurant is first opened up.

The OSOVCC Board asked for traffic counts for Industry Way, Huffman Park Drive, Huffman Road so that all agencies would be aware of the high traffic impacts already at these sites. Traffic Department mentioned that now that this is an issue raised to the Municipality by OSOVCC, there may be a special consideration to do the study on traffic counts. Currently, the State DOT is studying E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Old Seward Hwy because of the issues raised by OSOVCC and the Stakeholders on the Committee for the E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Upgrade. Turn restrictions may be in the future for that intersection. NOTE: Without community input, these critical safety concerns may have not been the Design Plan for the Upgrade.

OSOVCC members asked these types of questions: How do we get in front of a traffic problem with Sonic, similar to the traffic problems experienced for over a year now with Sonic in Wasilla? What is the responsibility of the developer to deal with traffic problems caused by their properties? What kind of mitigation is warranted to ensure the community does not have to deal with increased traffic without resolution in the future? Knowing that our Capital Improvement Projects priority list sometimes takes up to 10 years for road improvements to make it into the budget (e.g., E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Upgrade), how do we get in front of this with the assistance from Traffic and Planning?

Answers: If the restaurant receives 100 trips per afternoon peak hours, that would meet a threshold for a land use study and possibly traffic mitigation. Developers’ mitigation is based on the proportion of their ownership as it relates to the problem. Remember that the State deals with Huffman Road and Old Seward Hwy roundabout, the Muni deals with Industry Way and Huffman Park Drive. Again, given that the concerns have been submitted in writing to the Municipality, they will have to be considered within the Planning and Traffic Departments’ actions on this site.

**Question:** If 95 trips per afternoon during peak hours occur to the restaurant, does that negate the forward plans of action for a land use study? **Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** What is the process forward as this issue advances with Planning? Does it go from Traffic to Planning, to the Assembly for action. **Answer:** Yes, and remember it is complicated with State, Municipality, and Private jurisdictions.

If you would like to provide comments or feedback on this situation, please write to the following, and contact our OSOVCC email as well at [osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

Municipality Planning Department  
Michelle McNulty, Director  
4700 Elmore Road, Anchorage AK 99507  
[Michelle.mcnulty@anchorageak.gov](mailto:Michelle.mcnulty@anchorageak.gov)

Municipality Traffic Department  
Kris A. Langley, Associate Traffic Engineer  
4700 Elmore Road, Anchorage AK 99507  
[kristen.langley@anchorageak.gov](mailto:kristen.langley@anchorageak.gov)

**SEE BELOW FOR ATTACHMENTS**

**Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:21 p.m.**

Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

**NOTES:**

AKRR- Alaska Railroad

APD – Anchorage Police Department

CC – Community Council

FCC – Federation of Community Councils

HUD – Housing and Urban Development

JBER – Joint Base Elmendorf / Richardson

OSOV – Old Seward/Oceanview

OSOCC – Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council

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**FCC Notes – Meeting April 21, 2021 – Nancy Joseph, Delegate**

**1. Assembly:**

- a. Ballots mailed 4/21. Please Vote. Questions about the ballot or the process, call 243-VOTE.
- b. Assembly proposing to allow homeless and transient shelters in B-3 zones in Anchorage. Shelters will have to be licensed to operators (similar to the marijuana licensing requirements for retail shops).
- c. Anchorage to receive \$101 Million from the American Rescue Plan; Assembly still awaiting federal guidance on how it can be spent.
- d. Assembly extended the Emergency Declaration to June 11<sup>th</sup> to increase the vaccination facilitation period. The # of COVID cases is going up.
- e. Unauthorized members of Community Councils are presenting resolutions at Assembly meetings without the backing of their Community Council. This is a no-no.

**2. Chugach Electric Board Election** – For members of CE, please vote during the election. Two raffles: If you vote, you are entered to win 1 year of free service up to 10kw hours. If you sign up and attend the May 18<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting, you have a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a local business. Watch your email or snail mail for instructions. One member (household) – one vote.

**3. Anchorage School Board – Margo Bellamy**

- a. Four Board Seats are to be filled via the April election.
- b. May 10<sup>th</sup> is High School graduation week. In-person outdoor events will be held. Tickets per family will be based on the Venue size and the number of graduated in your family. <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/7988>
- c. School registration is ongoing.
- d. Two Summer School sessions to be offered. Check the Anchorage School District website for details: <https://www.asdk12.org>
- e. Two new policies
- f. Two new policies have passed: An Antiracial policy and an Instructional Equity policy
- g. 87% of ASD staff are vaccinated.

**4. Governor’s Office**

- a. The American Rescue Plan – How to spend all the money is still being worked on, including how to help the homeless – awaiting Federal guidelines.
- b. Plans are in play to decompress the Sullivan Arena as the homeless shelter.

**5. Title 21 – Planning Department – Tom Davis – Parking requirements for certain new construction**

Received a briefing on new development requirements involving high density and mixed-use new construction. Muni is trying to help developers build bigger at less cost in existing neighborhoods by reducing the parking dimensions required for larger lots. This will mean more on-street parking in urban areas such as Downtown, Fairview, Spenard, and Mountain View, but will eventually spread to the rest of Anchorage. A draft plan will be out by Summer for community discussion.

**6. The Muni has hired HDR, Inc. to develop a plan for the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project** (a new large snow dump area) at the Northeast Corner of Conners Bog Dog Park in Class A wetlands. This 17.5-acre parcel is currently designated as municipal park land; the Group faces a tough uphill battle as some Community Councils are pushing back on it as a poor location choice and an undesired “take” of park land. Also problematic will be the wetlands disturbance and environmental impacts, and the cost to use fill to prepare the site for use. The parcel will be next to De la Vega ballpark (near Minnesota/International Airport Road) and will be visible as a large mountain of snow next to Minnesota Drive, just like our “O’Malley Mountain” at O’Malley and Old Seward Highway. Note: This information was presented in the OSOVCC meeting as a presentation under New Business. Maps depicting the area and detail were presented.

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**Juneau Representative Senator Natasha von Imhof** email briefing:

1. Emergency Declaration bill will be on the floor in the senate this Wednesday. If it passes, I suspect the house will not concur and it will go to conference committee. We’ll see where we land.
2. The house appears to be wrapping up the operating budget. I don’t know of the exact timing, but I hope they are able to pass it over to the senate in the next week or so. The senate has done all of the budget prep, so I think it will move quickly from there.
3. The capital budget is being worked on now. That will pass from the senate to the house in the last two weeks of session, so early to mid-May.
4. We’re still hoping to be done in Juneau on day 121, which is May 20<sup>th</sup>.
5. I don’t have a definitive list of the “hot” bills this session, but I’m always happy to answer any questions via email: [sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov)