

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – May 26, 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, FCC Delegate Nancy Joseph Email address for the OSOVCC President and Board Members: osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. **President Cacy** presiding. Quorum in place; all attendees were required to state their name, street address in the Old Seward/Oceanview area, or if they were a guest to our meeting, provide their name and affiliation; all were asked to add their email address to the Zoom Chat. Agenda items were amended. April Minutes were corrected to show \$1,537.48 balance for March account balance. **Agenda and April Minutes** approved. **FCC Report (Nancy Joseph)** mentioned that all notes taken were about Assembly business and deferred to John Weddleton/Susan LaFrance for Assembly news. **Treasurer Report (Stan Moll)** for April - \$1,537.54. Member question – What are the funds used for? Answer: We do not get funded by any entity, so funds are spent on CC business like a meeting notice Sandwich Board, mailouts, postage, etc. A member suggested fund raisers. Northeast CC member Rick Phillips mentioned they have community picnics and ask for donations from banks and businesses in Muldoon. Other members suggested we do city cleanups and the historical “Clean and Green” at Johns Park. Board member mentioned that previous attempts at picnics (before COVID) gleaned zero interest, and at times, attendance at the CC meetings has been low.

OSOV Community Patrol Jeff Childs. Little to no activity to mention in our area except for a couple of assaults and burglaries. Patrollers are asked by the Muni and APD to not get out of their cars when crime is involved. Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880. Members mentioned recent crimes to Johns Park and Oceanview Park and the involvement by APD and the Muni Parks Arborist. Anyone seeing destruction or vandalism in our parks should call Muni Parks at 343-4355 and APD at 3-1-1 if the crime is being observed. Take pictures with your phone. If something is vandalized or playground equipment is broken, make the call to Muni Parks. Report homeless camps and motorized vehicles on our trails. **If You See Something – Say Something.**

Anchorage Police Department, Anchorage School Board, and Natasha von Imhof not Present

Juneau House Representative Tom McKay – To reach Representative McKay with comments or concerns: Toll-Free: 866-465-4993 and Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov

1) Special Session 1 is upcoming to resolve budget differences between the Senate and the House.

2) The PFD is the next main issue. A proposed dividend of \$2,350 has gone to the conference committee but is expected to fail. Governor is expected to call a second special session to promote the Governor’s agenda on taking a PFD revenue windfall and establishing an endowment; the plan is to take a proposed PFD 5% annual draw and split it into a 50%/50% dividend spend and government spend. Governor wants to make this a constitutional amendment and Senate Bill #6 and House Bill #7 have been drafted. Members mentioned that the 50/50 proposal has already been vetted showing it will cause significant deficits in spending in the future. McKay mentioned that the plan is to use the earnings reserve without employing new taxes. Representative Tuck is writing HB #208 to introduce next session. Member mentioned the von Imhof position was not consistent with this point. Another member mentioned that the state’s incentives to oil companies is because oil companies donated money to reelection campaigns, and it is the wrong thing to do; accused oil companies of stealing from the citizens of the state. McKay mentioned that many oil companies discovered oil and gas because of the incentives and there are a lot of facts to be understood about this policy that was in place. A Member mentioned that the previous Governor took incentives away after they were legally committed, and smaller oil companies went into bankruptcy and jobs went away. Another Member also mentioned that oil companies spend millions of dollars to keep charities and other non-profits functioning and supports communities in many ways that are not publicized, that without oil companies putting money back into communities, there would be a big difference in how local communities survive.

3) Discussed the Flying Crown/Alaska Railroad (AKRR) lawsuit that is in federal court. Rather than getting a court case decision, the Governor is being asked to weigh in on the case by others (von Imhof) and to get Don Young involved to ask the AKRR to abstain from the claim for exclusive use of the properties within the corridor, and to abide by the legal decisions already in place. The Muni has a resolution in place to communicate to the public the private landowner/AKRR

dispute. Member question – The Governor’s actions may be superseded by the next Administration. Why not wait for a court decision? Other members thanked Tom McKay for the briefing and mentioned that a state agency suing private citizens with state money appears to be a misguided situation. This case affects every private property owner, business, park, commercial property, municipal and state land adjacent to the railroad corridor from Seward to Nome. A Member asked what our CC has done or could do to support the CC homeowners. **Steve Beardsley**, former CC President stated that our CC has gone above and beyond on this issue and recapped what it has been doing for the past number of years: Continuous involvement over many years, a 2014 Resolution, have involved Chugach Electric, Matanuska Telephone Association, the Muni, other businesses within the corridor (confirmed by another Member) which led to the Muni 2021 Resolution for the communication support. This issue has been discussed in numerous CC meetings over the past years.

4) Member input - Property Taxes were discussed next because of the State’s refusal to reimburse municipalities and boroughs for bonded indebtedness. Anchorage property owners are paying higher property taxes. We voted for bonds a few years ago based on the state’s contribution, which was withdrawn after bonds were approved by voters and we got stuck with the whole bill. If the state wants to know how to spend money it is taking from the Permanent Fund, it should honor its commitment to reimburse bonds at certain levels as previously performed.

Assembly – John Weddleton –

1) The Assembly is working on the Equal Rights Code known as Anchorage Title 5 to further clarify municipal liabilities, processes, and the role of the Commission. From the Muni Assembly website: “Ordinance No. AO 2021-30, an ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Title 5, Equal Rights, to update definitions; add Familial Status as a protected class under the Housing Provision; repeal Chapter 5.25 Fair Housing Act; add new sections; and make other procedural, structural, and technical updates, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission & Department of Law.” One case that came up was whether a women’s shelter (The Hope Center) should be required to let in a transgender person not identifying as female. As the women’s shelter is not a business, it is not subject to the equal rights code and can make that decision. Women and men together at a women’s shelter does not work. A Member mentioned that there seemed to be some confusion as to when public testimony is taken and a certain person getting to testify. Weddleton clarified that this certain person decided to wait until later in the meeting to provide testimony and missed the window regarding the Hope Center issue. The audience member tried to present testimony after the vote. To learn how the Assembly meeting testimony works, review the website page: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/default.aspx> and review the Assembly 101 videos: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Assembly-101.aspx>

2) American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act allocations – A big chunk of the \$51 Million was allocated to fill the cracks in the CARES Act funding for businesses and individuals. ARP looks to the future to prevent events like COVID.

3) The Muni has joined the Flying Crown HOA/AKRR lawsuit.

4) Member questions and Weddleton discussion: Homelessness – The plan is to transition out of the Sullivan Arena. 400 people to be moved out by September. Traditional shelters are being urged to take more clients in and provide cheaper hotel rooms, case management, jobs assistance. Anchorage needs another shelter smaller than the Sullivan Arena and is looking at and possibly rebidding on the former Alaska Club on Tudor. The new mayor will decide whether to approve the proposal for shelters to be located in B-3 zones in Anchorage. All shelters will have to have licenses to operate and meet standards and conditions of care. Townhalls will be held at the Dena’ina Center on June 1st and 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Assembly – Suzanne LaFrance not present. To receive the **Assembly** quarterly newsletters, sign up at 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

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

Community Outreach from JBER: Luke Waack:

- JBER is hiring over 150 positions with benefits for civilians. Go to JBERlife.com/jobs/ if interested.
- JBER Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/JBERAK/>
- GATE CLOSURES: Post Road gate closed 5/1 – 6/30; Boniface gate closed 7/1 – 8/15 for construction upgrades.
- ARCTIC LIGHTNING AIR SHOW AT EIELSON July 31, 2021: <https://www.facebook.com/events/475697963611286>
- ARCTIC THUNDER: Coming July 30th and 31st, 2022 – Next year.

- JBER 9th Army Band will be playing gigs around town May 14, 22, 29, 31. Look up JBER 9th Army Band FB Page
- From March 2021 CC Minutes:**
- For access to JBER, your ID card must be valid and not expired. July deadline to get it up to date.
- 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
- For the Conservation Law Enforcement Office on base to assist with iSportsman recreational purposes – 907-552-8609

PRESENTATIONS –

Alaska Department of Fish and Game - We welcomed **Dave Battle and Cory Stantorf** to present a slide pack on Bear and Moose awareness in our neighborhoods and parks/trails during this time of the year. The presentation will be shared on our Community Council website; it has also been posted on Nextdoor for Old Seward/Oceanview. Key Points/Takeaways: BEARS

- Fish in streams throughout Anchorage bring bears, so they're all over town.
- Residential garbage cans are the #1 source of food in our neighborhoods. Once a bear finds it, you have introduced the bear to your home and your neighborhood for repeat visits. Don't do this.
- Don't put your trash out too early, don't have it easily accessible on your driveway, store waste food in the fridge until the morning of trash day, take down bird feeders.
- It is illegal to put your trash can out the day before pickup unless you have a bear proof container, which can be placed 24 hours ahead of pickup. Note: Garbage day is Thursday; most streets see the collection around 10 a.m.
- Citations start at \$320 for bears in trash and pictures of your residence/garbage can as evidence.
- All Bears Eat All Ready Food – Don't introduce them to your garbage can.
- Bear Safety regarding Defensive and Predatory Encounters are in the slide pack.

MOOSE

- There are more Moose attacks than bear attacks in Anchorage.
- From May through June, Moose are very defensive because Mommas are with calves and are being chased by predatory bears. STAY AWAY FROM MOOSE right now. Do not try to get cute pictures or get close. You may see a calf but no Momma. She is there and you may suffer physical consequences if you get in between the two.
- Keep Dogs On Leashes in parks that moose are in. Loose dogs cause problems for walkers, hikers, bikers on trails when they get ahead and startle any moose, especially during this time of year.

Download and enjoy the presentation from this site: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=18749>

Municipality Planning Department – Tom Davis, Senior Planner

Tom Davis was here to present the Title 21 – Parking and Access - Land Use proposed changes regarding the size and requirements for parking for new construction. It is described on the Muni Planning page as: "Parking and maneuvering requirements are typically the costliest zoning regulations for multifamily and mixed-use developments. Excessive parking can reduce the number of housing units, increase household rents on remaining units, stymie economic reinvestment, discourage transportation alternatives, increase road congestion, constrain good design, and degrade quality of life. This project carries out Actions 4-3 and 4-6 of the [Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan](#) to amend Title 21 to allow parking reductions by right, offer greater reductions in key development areas that experience less parking demand, and reform on-site driveway standards and other site access requirements." Here is a link to the presentation:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/Pages/Actions4-3%264-6.aspx>

Member questions centered around 1) the current issue with the Sonic Restaurant on Huffman Road/Industry Way and the request for replatting of the lots by the developer because of the lack of parking. Multiple buildings are planned for the North lot, and when finished is expected to be another drive-thru restaurant (Starbucks), a marijuana retail store, and additional parking for Sonic on the South end of the lot. Members mentioned that the parking concerns already in this area are not getting attention by Planning, as we have had Municipal Traffic Department representatives to our recent CC meetings express concerns that they were not included in the area planning, and our CC was not informed either. This area is already over-congested with traffic and complicated in that the State has oversight for Old Seward Hwy and Huffman Road, and the Muni has oversight for Industry Way and Huffman Park Drive. Our CC has written to Muni Traffic and

Planning with concerns for this traffic situation to come once Sonic is open. We expressed that we cannot wait many years for Capital Project Improvements to deal with a traffic problem caused by Sonic and increased congestion and development in this condensed area. We are hoping to fend off the problems in advance. 2) Recent new construction in Oceanview sandwiched three condos on one lot at the corner of a busy intersection – E. 120th Avenue and Johns Road right next to the elementary school - and has limited parking. The design does not facilitate emergency response vehicles. Limiting parking requirements in residential areas means more cars will be parked on streets, which causes problems for snow removal, street cleaning, and reduced visibility of oncoming traffic. 3) Huffman Park area, in the overall 2040 plan or other “town center community areas,” does not fit into the square peg because it is very condensed, has no bus service, has high traffic all hours of the day, is not pedestrian friendly, does not have bike trails, and is dangerous due to high speed and overly congested roads forcing bad driving habits trying to turn onto main roads. Adequate parking and traffic management needs to be in the Planning Department’s overall decision-making process for this area. Tom thanked members for input and asked for an OSOVCC point person going forward for this plan.

Residents of Oceanview asked to be included in our meeting (the afternoon of May 26th) to discuss a proposed 2,000 sf garage being placed on an adjacent lot on Johns Road. They perceive it will take away their property views, devalue their properties, change the wind patterns from the bluff, cause drainage problems from snow melt and rain off the garage roof, and challenged whether a commercial/industrial size building is allowed on a residential lot placed at the property line. The lot owner owns a paving and snow removal company, and homeowners believed the garage would be used for equipment storage. Residents were not informed of this permit or the construction until it began. As Mr. Davis was with Planning, we asked that they discuss their issue, but they would need to visit the Planning Department to resolve anything. Mr. Davis gave his contact information and said he may find someone in Planning involved so that they can make contact and follow the public process. The Community Council can help write a letter with them about their concerns; however, it will not take up the property owners’ issues with another neighbor. Covenants and restrictions for the Oceanview subdivision should be reviewed as there is no Homeowner Association for Oceanview.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Projects (“CIP”) Survey was finalized in May and will be committed to the Muni database by the deadline of May 31st. The list was reviewed in this meeting and has been presented in our past two Community Council meetings asking for input. The Community Councils are presented with the survey every year; we can discuss future CIP’s beginning with our September 2021 meeting. The final list is on our CC Website. Review April Meeting Minutes if you need further information about what CIP is and how it works. The website address is shown at the top of page 1 above.

Johns Park Vandalism was discussed again for the second meeting in a row. Spruce tree mutilation, live taking of trees, birch sap tapping, cutting down trees at the Johns Park/Coastal Refuge boundary, and kids on motorized vehicles have been reported to the Muni Parks, the Parks Arborist, and APD. Dog crap gross factor is at an all-time high which pollutes the creek and can make your dog sick as it deteriorates. Several young males around 9-10 years old have recently been observed killing trees with hammers and other home tools. Last year, young males were cutting down trees to build forts. The young spruce trees have been damaged so that they will not reach maturity in a normal way. Tree slash and waste is being cut in yards and tossed into the park, which is a fire hazard and is not permitted. Ferns and other foliage is being taken from the stream banks. CC Board members met with Muni Parks Arborist and have a way forward. Muni Parks will begin patrolling on bikes watching for vandals. They will be putting up additional signage, aside from the “pick up your dog poop” signs recently added, prohibiting the damaging and taking of trees in the park. As a neighbor to this park and to our other parks, STOP vandals by yelling at them, taking pictures, calling APD, and calling the Parks Department. APD is on patrol in our neighborhood. If you see this happening, call 3-1-1. Johns Park will not rejuvenate or survive within a generation if this destruction continues. It is enjoyed to a high level of use, but it is fragile and is being abused. Keep our park pristine for all of us to use. It may be close to our backyards, but it is NOT our backyard to decimate and destroy.

Attendees were asked to read through Minutes of this year’s meetings for information on what the Community Council is doing. They are available on the CC website.

Motion passed to Adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

NOTES: AKRR - Alaska Railroad APD – Anchorage Police Department CC – Community Council FCC – Federation of Community Councils JBER – Joint Base Elmendorf / Richardson OSOVCC – Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council