

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – January 26, 2022, 6:30 p.m. - Meeting Held Online via ZOOM
2022 Winter/Spring Dates: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25
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/FCC Delegate Nancy Joseph
Email address for the OSOVCC President and Board Members: osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m. **President Cacy** presiding. Community Council/FCC Zoom meeting protocol guidelines were read into the record. All attendees were required to state their name, street location in the Old Seward/Oceanview area, or if they were a guest to our meeting, provide their name and affiliation. When Quorum was in place, the January 2022 Agenda and November 2021 Minutes were approved. **FCC Report (Nancy Joseph)** mentioned that notes taken were about Assembly business which would be covered by Assembly members in attendance. **Treasurer Report** - bank account balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$1,538.07. Some expenses will be incurred to update decals for meeting notice sandwich boards; the FCC will reimburse some funds.

OSOV Community Patrol Jeff Childs – Not Present. *OSOVCC Note:* Report all suspicious activity and traffic hazards to 3-1-1; if you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. Anyone seeing destruction or vandalism in our parks should call Muni Parks at 343-4355 and APD at 3-1-1 when 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.**

Members are reminded to contact the OSOVCC Board with questions and issues at the following email address so that we can respond and assist as appropriate. osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Committee Report: E. 120th Avenue Upgrade Stakeholders Meeting Notes – History: Members have expressed interest in the road upgrade in past meetings, especially the Johns Road school zone intersection with E. 120th Avenue and the intersection at E. 120th Avenue and Old Seward Highway (“OSH”). At the November Stakeholders meeting, we learned that the E. 120th Ave/OSH intersection design was not being included in the project. At our November CC meeting, we asked Rep. Tom McKay about state funding for the Highway Safety Improvement Project (“HSIP”) for the Old Seward Highway, and as a result, he invited DOT professionals Scott Thomas and Orion LeCroy to provide updates to this January meeting. Also discussed was the Johns Road (state road) intersection. A summary of the briefing is below, and the presentation materials can be found on the OSOVCC website at <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/home.html>

E. 120th Avenue/OSH

- There is no project funding yet for the HSIP for OSH.
- The OSH/Industry Way/E. 120th Avenue location has been identified as a much bigger problem because of accidents, fatalities, angle crashes, property damage, and the increase in vehicle traffic making turns from both intersections.
- The state wants to see both intersection problems resolved at the same time and are working to secure funding, including federal funds for 2023. It is likely that a left turn concrete island will be built for left turn only on OSH for both intersections. Middle lane traffic will be minimized.
- The E. 120th Ave Upgrade initial request to add right/left turn lanes on E.120th Ave at the OSH intersection would require that the Muni improve the site in the state’s right of way. At this time, it is being descoped from the E. 120th Ave Upgrade project.
- E. 120th Ave sees over 3,000 vehicles/day. Industry Way intersection indicates over 5,000 vehicles/day.

Johns Road/E. 120th Avenue

- Neighbors explained that the Oceanview Elementary School zone is overwhelmed at school opening and closing periods, often prohibiting the flow of traffic driving north/south and east/west on E. 120th Avenue.
- Stop sign running and vehicles sliding/driving right through the intersection is a frequently dangerous situation for vehicles and pedestrians.
- People Mover bus service has ceased in our area requiring more vehicles to travel the road and to drop off students.
- DOT reps offered that some solutions start with the school itself, perhaps moving loading/unloading traffic further into the school parking lot and off Johns Road and addressing other strategies. Look to Grace Christian School for strategies that worked.
- DOT offered the Sand Lake Elementary school zone raised intersection for the E. 120th Avenue intersection concern.
- The CC asked to be kept in the communication loop with the state for public comments regarding these upcoming projects.

Anchorage Police Department (“APD”) Officer Ryan Nigh – We are always glad to have APD talk with members at the CC meeting, and discussions focused on reckless driving, distracted drivers texting while driving, speeding, stop sign running, vehicle and

property theft, and destruction in our parks in our neighborhoods. Johns Road is a frequent topic with speeding and violations even during active school zone periods. Speeding on Brandon Road off between Huffman Road and OSH was mentioned as well as the need for speed bumps on that street. APD is on patrol and works to deal with observed traffic violations. For crime statistics, we can contact Renee Oistad, APD Community Outreach. Note: For an interactive crime map by area, go to this site and navigate to Anchorage, Alaska: <https://communitycrimemap.com/>

Juneau Senator Natasha von Imhof – Sharene Crosby provided an update on the following: 1) District boundaries will remain as is as the redistricting goes through legal battles; 2) Governor’s Operating Budget presented in December. Oil prices are high which means more revenue available to the state; 3) Governor plans to use federal COVID monies to fund and provide for other agency spending; 4) Many finance committee meetings are being held, at least two each day; 5) Two bills are being rewritten – the alcohol rewrite and the education bill (aka Begich bill); 6) Governor wants to pay for the Capital Budget with Geo Bonds; 7) The Legislature is focusing on elections, voting rights, and COVID Bills and the strict guidelines for the federal funds; 7) Governor wants to divide the Health and Social Services into two separate departments with an Executive Order. If the legislature does not take action within 60 days, the change is made. To reach Senator von Imhof: sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov and 907-465-2995. Contact Sharene Crosby for links to videos and Facebook at sharene.crosby@akleg.gov

Question: What is the CAPSIS request for input from all Community Councils? Answer: Community Councils can submit online requests for capital improvements in their area to be included in the FY 2023 Capital Budget via the Capital Project Submission & Information System (CAPSIS). The deadline is February 15, 2022. All CC’s received information on this during the week of January 26, which gives little time to respond.

Juneau House Representative Tom McKay – Forrest Wolfe, Staff Rep, mentioned that the Legislature is in the first weeks of session and that a 90-day session is the goal. He asked that we get any CAPSIS feedback to Tom McKay soon to meet the deadline. To reach Representative McKay with comments or concerns: Toll-Free: 866-465-4993 and email: Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov

Assembly John Weddleton – Prior to John being in the meeting, his email to Community Councils regarding property assessments and property taxes was shown on screen. Questions came up whether Bond approvals affect the tax cap; Andy Holleman, Anchorage School Board stated that they are outside the tax cap. Weddleton joined our meeting around 8 p.m. and mentioned that the Bonds do increase the tax cap but are calculated differently for property tax assessments by area and projects. Green property assessment cards are in the mail. John offered the following briefing:

- 1) Redistricting public town halls will be held and many maps are offered, some generated by the public. Map 10 would be the closest representation as to where district boundaries are currently. To see the Redistricting Basics Presentation, go to: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/SiteAssets/Pages/Meetings-Worksessions/Redistricting%20Basics%20Presentation.pdf> Maps can be found at: <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery/>
- 2) Legislative funding: Expect to receive \$1.6 Billion for the Port project - \$600 Million would help make the dock seismically sound; money for a new bridge at 142nd Street off Rabbit Creek Road; \$15 Million is expected for the homeless shelters as the exit from the Sullivan Arena mass care facility is expected this summer.
- 3) Ballot measures: Eagle Exit initiative will not be on the 2022 ballot; Mayor’s effort to require Elections Clerk to be an elected official – discussions postponed; Sales tax proposals require a 60% + 1 successful vote; Special or Regular Election is being revisited in the case of a mayor leaving office at least 150 days prior to the end of their term.

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

OSOVCC Note: Find the Assembly work sessions schedule at <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Meetings-Worksessions.asp>

To receive the **Assembly** quarterly newsletters, sign up at wwmas@muni.org

Anchorage School Board Andy Holleman –1) The \$111 Million bond package will be on the April 2022 ballot and will be 2-year bond; no bond will be on the ballot in 2023. ASD is retiring approximately \$100 Million in a couple of years. Anchorage property taxpayers pay the whole bill for this and will continue until the State of Alaska decides to go back to providing bond reimbursement to the municipality; 2) Inlet View Elementary rebuild, roofing projects, and security upgrades to all schools are included in the bond package. 3) Search for the new Superintendent continues; the public’s input is welcome. For more information, go to <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5905> To contact Andy: Phone: 907-742-1101 ext.1 Email: holleman_andy@asdk12.org

Guest Speaker Jen Schmidt – Wildfire Hazard Mapping Presentation – Jen Schmidt, a researcher at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) made a presentation showing wildfire hazard maps specific to our community council area and presented an online mapping tool. Forests, vegetation, firewise practices, defensible space, grass fires, and site hazards were discussed for community and home protection against wildfires. Overall, the information presented is meant to be a planning tool to help communities identify where wildfires are most likely to enter a community so that these entry points can be prioritized for mitigation efforts. She discussed several ways to reduce wildfire hazards and answered members questions about forested/vegetative areas and homeless camps and potential fire hazards near Campbell Tract. The presentation is available on our CC website at: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=18749> For more information, contact jjschmidt@alaska.edu

New Business: The 2022 Anchorage Park Foundation (“APF”) Challenge Grant Application open period was discussed by Stan Moll. Grants are offered to enhance our parks and to foster Youth Employment in Parks – “YEP.” Your park project could be selected by the Foundation; matching funding is required when submitting your application. A Johns Park application was submitted several years ago but was not chosen; the OSOVCC is submitting it again. OSOVCC continues to submit park projects through the Muni Capital Improvement Project priority list annually. This Foundation program is separate. The grant application, grantee resources and a list of past funded projects are available on APF’s website <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/challenge-grants/>

OSOVCC was asked to get a speaker for next month’s meeting to explain the Ranked Choice Voting system.

Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

NOTES: APD – Anchorage Police Department CC – Community Council FCC – Federation of Community Councils
OSOVCC – Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council