

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – September 22, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - Meeting Held Online via ZOOM
2021 Fall Meeting Dates: Sep 22, Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22
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 (absent), Secretary Nancy Joseph, FCC Delegate Nancy Joseph, FCC Meeting Moderator Al Milspaugh

Email address for the OSOVCC President and Board Members: osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 6:35 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. **Agenda and May Minutes** were approved. 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. **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** - bank account balance as of August 30, 2021 is \$1,537.81.

Members were asked to contact the OSOVCC Board with questions and issues at the email address above so that we can respond and assist as appropriate.

OSOV Community Patrol Jeff Childs - Property crimes are up in our area. Patrollers notify APD of crimes and suspicious activities they observe, and both work cooperatively to patrol. More volunteers are needed for our neighborhood. Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880. OSOVCC Comment: Report all suspicious activity to 3-1-1; if you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. OSOVCC Note: 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.**

Committee Update (OSOVCC is a Stakeholder for the E. 120th Avenue Upgrade) – Holly Spoth-Torres from Huddle AK briefing – The Muni is beginning the project to improve E. 120th Avenue. A public survey was taken in 2020 with over 95 responses, Stakeholder meetings were held, and a comprehensive report was prepared by Huddle AK (aka the Concept Report) and presented to the Muni in January 2021 to report all research. The link to the Project page and the Concept Report is below. Holly reports that the Muni is working on a Design Study Report and is pulling together many alternative solutions for problem areas on the road associated with speed, pedestrian safety, industrial multi-use impacts, and drainage. Comments from members focused on the following: 1) Dangerous traffic situations at Oceanview Elementary School during school opening and closing hours – Johns Road is nearly impassible during these hours; 2) Residents at Division Street and eastward working on setting up a new water district with AWWU as they are not connected to Muni water system; 3) Excessive speeding by passenger vehicles and fully loaded dump trucks from American Landscaping. It was explained that much of this was included in the research phase from Stakeholders and public comments; a review of the Concept Report will help to answer questions about the concerns neighbors raised. Alternatives being considered are extending the school zone area eastward on E. 120th, keeping the speed limit at 25 mph, contouring the road near the school zone as pedestrian refuge islands for traffic calming and mitigating speeding, using radar stands for self-monitoring by drivers. Go to this link for more information. Nancy Joseph will inform OSOVCC members on Nextdoor if public comment periods open with the Muni. <https://120thaveupgrades.com/>

Anchorage Police Department Officer Deatherage – We are always glad to have APD attend our meetings to provide a community briefing and talk about our area. We were briefed on the following: 1) APD is short-handed and understaffed now, so responses to incidents may be slow; priorities are constantly being managed. 2) The Community Patrol is a great resource for APD to learn about specific neighborhood crime. 3) Requests for traffic detail for speeding, reckless driving, and traffic violations are low priority due to understaffing issues. 4) To report campers/trailers/motorhomes parked on streets for long term, call 3-1-1. Questions from the members were raised regarding recent crimes, delays for getting police reports filed (8 months or longer), requests for copies of reports (can be over 1 year behind); APD response – all is due to understaffing and underfunding of these positions. To learn of the types of crime in Anchorage neighborhoods, visit the area crime trend map at <https://communitycrimemap.com/>

Anchorage School Board Not Present – FCC Delegate Nancy Joseph mentioned that Anchorage School District buses are still understaffed, and routes are not covered due to staffing shortages. It will be months before this situation changes.

Juneau Senator Natasha von Imhof not Present - To reach Senator von Imhof: sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov and 907-465-2995. Contact Shareen Crosby for links to videos and Facebook at shareen.crosby@akleg.gov

Juneau House Representative Tom McKay – McKay could not attend, so at our CC Board request, Mr. McKay submitted a briefing, read by President Cacy. The briefing will be available on our OSOVCC website. To reach Representative McKay with comments or concerns: Toll-Free: 866-465-4993 and Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov

Assembly – Suzanne LaFrance – We were briefed on the following Assembly priorities:

- 1) Public hearings continue at Assembly meetings on the proposed Mask Mandate. The mandate would run through December 31, 2021, and masks would be required for indoor activities during the high alert/risk period for Anchorage. Local hospitals and the medical community are asking for the mandates and for prevention-related measures to avoid the spread of COVID 19 variants.
 - 2) Title 28 – Elections Code. Annual elections work sessions have started with a focus on the Ethics Committee. Some rewrites are occurring, which is done during annual reviews of Title 28.
 - 3) Budgeting process begins October 1 with Assembly public hearings.
 - 4) The Reapportionment process has begun to assess representation of the six districts based on the census. Assessment will determine whether mal apportionment exists as representation by district needs to be equal based on population. The Anchorage Assembly will have a 12th member elected so that two Assembly members represent each district as approved by Municipal voters. An interactive mapping system will be put together.
- Member questions centered around mask mandate testimony and the State redistricting.

Assembly – John Weddleton – Later in the meeting, we were briefed on the following (items covered by S. LaFrance will not be repeated in this list):

- 1) There is a need for members of the community to sit on boards and commissions as volunteers, and of particular interest might be the property valuation appeals board.
 - 2) A Storm Water Utility Commission was established a couple years ago to set up a utility to regulate storm water runoff based on property impact by all property owners in Anchorage, including non-profits. Storm water runoff financial impacts hit property owners paying property taxes, which puts the entire burden on this group. The new utility would have had the role of equalizing this financial burden by all property owners. A \$1.2 Million study was in play; Mayor Bronson cancelled this whole effort.
 - 3) AMATS – the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System – The Muni Planning group responsible for road upgrades within the Municipality is reprioritizing streets that need upgrades and maintenance. Community Councils, having submitted the requests at each annual cycle of the Capital Improvement Projects (“CIP”) prioritization list, will have to continually resubmit requests for each street separately on a new form (not yet developed) due to Muni Planning staffing not being able to determine the appropriate priorities. This issue was not well received by the FCC Delegates in a recent FCC meeting as this puts the burden back on the community rather than within Planning.
- Note: OSOVCC as well as every other Community Council has annually submitted the CIP list (timely) with street upgrades and improvements identified and prioritized.*
- 4) The Assembly is working to improve the timing for confirmation of nominees for office with the Administration.
 - 5) Homeless Issue – Discussions focused on homeless housing and centers, mass shelters and hotels, the costs of single rooms vs. barracks, the number of homeless in shelters/on the street, the loss of the Sullivan Arena as a venue for events, and the costs for all of this. Discussion with Mr. Weddleton is captured here:

There is a “WhatNow” team working with the Mayor’s office to make progress on the many moving pieces of this situation in Anchorage. The plan submitted by the Mayor earlier this year was not approved by the Assembly largely in part because it was not funded in the Budget and had not been vetted through the Assembly for viability and funding. The Sullivan Arena currently remains as a mass care facility; however, it is too expensive and is not the right solution. Efforts are in play to work through better accommodations for the homeless based on the severity of need, for example, chronic homelessness by choice would be considered a different case than someone who has lost their job and is looking for work to pay bills and get back into housing. Another example – homeless individuals needing alcohol treatment service are likely different than those choosing seasonal camping and homelessness. The homeless who need mental health services are different from other cases as well. Efforts are to get mass care managed down to smaller centers based on the needs above.

Some members argued that the homeless are being treated better than veterans and that there are too many homeless in Anchorage. Mr. Weddleton mentioned there are over 700 sheltered homeless, but perhaps as many as 7,000 homeless touching the system in part because of COVID, the lack of tourism jobs, and a downturn in employment. FEMA practices and standards are being followed as required by law.

Note: At the time these Minutes were submitted, a significant step ahead was reached with the Assembly and the Mayor's office.

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

GUEST SPEAKER Alexandra Peter, Licensing Coordinator, Alaska Child and Family – This group is actively recruiting parents for the foster/treatment care program to help children learn skills to live healthier successful lives. There are over 3,000 youth needing these services and a high demand for foster parents. We heard a history of the beginnings of Alaska's orphanages from 1890-1925, and the evolution to Alaska Children's Services in the 1990's with community programs. Today the demand for foster/treatment parents is urgent and real. Alaska Child and Family can help you become a foster parent. For more information, visit the website: <https://www.akchild.org/> or call 907-792-4111.

Alaska Railroad - Tim Sullivan – Members asked Mr. Sullivan for an update on the Flying Crown litigation. As appropriate, Mr. Sullivan said he could not discuss details of cases in litigation.

Note: If our CC members want an update on this issue, they may contact the Committee within our CC. Please contact Roselynn Cacy at osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com for contact information.

Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:18 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