

**Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting – February 23, 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**  
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. Email address for OSOVCC President and Board Members: [osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:35 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 February 2022 Agenda and January 2022 Minutes were approved. **Treasurer Report** - bank account balance as of January 31, 2022 is \$1,538.14. The FCC provided \$75 toward the purchase of updating OSOVCC meeting notification sandwich boards; the \$75 will be deposited to the bank account.

**OSO Community Patrol Jeff Childs** – The Coalition of Community Patrols (covering all of Anchorage) is undergoing officer changes. Volunteers to OSOV area community patrol are welcome. Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880. Low crime rates and incidents apparent lately within our neighborhood. Note that this level of crime does not engage APD; however, it is important to report all theft and crimes and perceived threats by suspicious individuals. It is apparent that it will take conversations with Legislators to stiffen penalties on crime and to enable prosecution. We are all affected by petty crimes. Rep. Tom McKay agreed, as a truck was stolen from his driveway and was never recovered. More active APD engagement may help.

Question: S. Moll - Where/when do you patrol? Answer: Parks, streets, priority areas identified on Nextdoor as having suffered crimes, Hours vary. Question: N. Joseph - What is done when a crime is observed, for example, trees being cut down in our parks? Answer: If personal safety is secure, the offender will be approached; otherwise, APD will be notified of a crime in progress.  
**OSOVCC Note: If You See Something – Say Something.** 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.

**Committee Report: E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Upgrade Stakeholders Meeting Notes** – A comprehensive summary is reported in the January 2022 Meeting Minutes. Of note: The State DOT responsible for Old Seward Highway (“OSH”) traffic and safety has stated there are plans to deal with the intersections of OSH/Industry Way, and OSH/E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue danger zones. Left turns, speed, illegal use of the center turn lane, and increased traffic impacts has resulted in many angle/front-end crashes and fatalities at the intersections and within the painted middle left hand turn lane. Concrete left hand turn lane barriers are planned to enable turning left onto Industry Way from OSH; the same is planned for turning left from OSH onto E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. No left turn will be accommodated initiating from either Industry Way or E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is expected to be under construction within the next year. Thank you to Rep. Tom McKay for asking DOT to engage with OSOVCC.

**Anchorage Police Department (“APD”) / Anchorage Fire Department (“AFD”)** – not present this month. AFD has been invited to the March meeting, if available.

**Juneau Senator Natasha von Imhof** – We received a briefing via email as follows:

1. House is working on operating budget.
2. Senate Finance is working on ‘dividend split’ bills – 75/25 (75% for government/25% for dividend) and 50/50 (50% for government/50% for dividend)
3. The governor’s Executive Order to bifurcate (create 2 new departments) the Department of Health & Social Services is being discussed in both bodies – at present, there has not been a bill to ‘stop’ the Executive Order from going through. The deadline is March 16<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Capitol is open to all public and lobbyists; masks are no longer required.

To reach Senator von Imhof: [sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov) and 907-465-2995. Contact Shareen Crosby for information, and links to videos and Facebook at [shareen.crosby@akleg.gov](mailto:shareen.crosby@akleg.gov)

**Juneau House Representative Tom McKay** – Rep. McKay agreed with the concerns about crimes in neighborhoods and mentioned that SB 91 was repealed to get tougher on criminals, including stopping soft crimes committed. Other notes:

1. McKay is interested in roads/streets issues. OSOVCC asked him to stay for the liquor store presentation for the Huffman area, and we thanked him for engaging DOT on the OSH/Industry Way/E. 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection safety corridor.
  2. Legislature is seeking funding from the three COVID relief bills and mentioned the current oil price of \$90/barrel to help with the State's budget.
  3. Hoping to get monies from the Infrastructure Bill passed in Congress and applying for grants for funds.
  4. Port of Anchorage – Jacobs Engineering reports that had the November 2018 earthquake in Anchorage lasted 7 more seconds in duration, the Port could have been catastrophically demolished. Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has joined in seeking funds from the federal government for \$600 Million to replace the port. Question: N. Joseph – Is the military using the Port, and can we get in line for funding from that resource. Answer: Yes, that is an avenue to be pursued.
  5. Flying Crown lawsuit with Alaska Railroad is in federal court
  6. Redistricting legal challenges continue in the court system. Our South Anchorage Districts do not seem to need readjusting as there are relatively small changes.
  7. Rank choice voting will be in play for the state election in November.
  8. Call for a Constitutional Convention will be on the Ballot; this is routinely placed on the Ballot every ten years.
  9. PFD bills are under discussion as mentioned above in Sen. von Imhof report.
  10. The Department of Health and Social Services agency split proposed by the Governor is proceeding, as no action seems to be underway by the Legislature. The agency is large and has a \$1.4 Billion budget/year which presents management challenges.
- Question: D. Brollini - Is there a Supply Chain research group active within the Legislature to ensure Alaska grocery stores can get goods? Answer: This may be a Municipality effort for Anchorage. Uncertain that a state effort is underway.

To reach Representative McKay: Toll-Free: 866-465-4993 and email: [Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Tom.McKay@akleg.gov)

**Anchorage Mayor's Office** – Welcome to Terrence Shanigan from the Mayor's office to our CC meeting. We will include the Mayor's Office on the Agenda for each meeting. We were briefed on the following:

1. Sullivan Arena and plans for the homeless: As of March, funding for mass care will be challenging; Muni is seeking \$15 Million to fund the homeless strategy. Plans are for a June 30<sup>th</sup> exit from the Arena.
2. Girdwood fluoride issues are being worked – the Girdwood utility system regulating the fluoride in drinking water has failed and needs to be repaired.
3. Tax Exemptions for Auxiliary Dwelling Units (“ADU's”) are under consideration. This is a special tax exemption that current property owners do not have, and it may apply only to newly constructed ADU's (example, Bed and Breakfasts).
4. The Muni has no COVID self-tests available; hoping to get more.
5. Handout to panhandlers: Signage in 29 locations around town have been altered by private individuals to make it seem that giving money to panhandlers is legal. Paper signs posted on top of the Muni signs are being taken down. New signage will go up citing current laws.
6. Tongan volcano relief drive: Very good community effort to donate over 120 pounds of goods. Alaska Airlines brought donations from outside of Anchorage; Superman Moving Company is palletizing the goods. Another 80 pounds is expected and will be shipped to the Tongan residents.

**Assembly Suzanne LaFrance** – Briefing as follows:

1. March 6<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register to vote in the Muni election. The Muni receives voter information from the State. To check your information, go to the State Division of Elections: <https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/> Ballots will be mailed out to 210,000 eligible voters by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Early voting begins March 28<sup>th</sup> and will be available 7 days a week with variable hours. Sign up for BallotTrax to track your ballot at <https://anchorage.ballottrax.net/voter/> . Take a tour of the Muni Election Center: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Next Regular Assembly Meeting is March 1<sup>st</sup>. A special Reapportionment meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Port of Alaska Modernization is a major focus for the Muni. The Assembly, Mayor's Office, and the State of Alaska are all on the same page regarding the way forward and getting funding (\$600 Million which may be matched). The estimated total cost is \$1.9 Billion. There is no appetite for a General Obligation Bond, so tariffs (increased by 40-60%) and possibly grants and the Infrastructure Bill may provide funds. A North extension structure will be constructed for use when the main Port area is under construction. Question: re: Military Use (as mentioned above). Answer: Yes, we need to seek those funding options. Alaska's military presence and use of this Port is critical to local and National security. Port of Alaska Modernization website: <https://www.portofalaska.com/modernization-project/>
4. Reapportionment: The Assembly is always looking for feedback. Points from residents: Keep neighborhoods together, do not include Anchorage Hillside with Eagle River. New boundaries will not be in effect for the April 2022 election. The State's plan was adopted November 5, 2021; the Assembly declared malapportionment on November 23, 2021. This started the clock to finalize boundaries by the 6-month deadline. John Weddleton briefed us on the Map variations, shown below.

**Assembly John Weddleton** - Briefing on Reapportionment maps. We reviewed Maps 6v2, 7v2, 11v2, and 11B also known as 12. Weddleton pointed out any changes to District 6 and overall changes to the Muni in each map. Please visit here for reference: <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery/>

The Assembly is receiving negative feedback about including Anchorage Hillside with Eagle River and positive feedback of keeping neighborhoods together. The Census population data controls the granularity of the boundary divisions. The goal is to come as close to 48,541 population count for each District with less than 10% deviation. Rep. McKay mentioned that State House Districts strive to meet a 18,500 population target.

Public feedback is encouraged regarding the principles of what you like/dislike (keep neighborhoods together, don't break up voting maps, looks like the current map, etc.). To submit comments: <https://moa.commentinput.com/?id=Zgd85>

Questions asked: Does including the JBER Base and the changes to the Base population over time have any bearing on property tax monies or is this just a matter of representation for the base? Answer: Yes, the Base may have changes to population, but the Districts are re-mapped every 10 years, and there are no property tax implications. The Base is included for representation in a District.

Other Assembly information: 1) Muni is starting to move people to the Sockeye Inn. It is being purchased to offer help to homeless with health needs. The Barratt Inn will be used for people who need help finding a home, a job, or other support related to their being homeless because of hard economic factors. There is a Muni request for proposal out for a 200-person facility for the homeless with responses due within the week. 2) Tax Assessment – an additional 8% will be needed; however, property taxes will not go up that same percentage.

**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)

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](mailto:wwmas@muni.org)

**Anchorage School Board – Report from Edie Knapp** – Edie Knapp, a resident of OSOV, volunteered to present. We accessed the Bond information link for the April election and had an informative briefing. For more information, click: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18705>

**Guest Speaker Ana Fisk and David Parish from Afognak Native Corporation as Owner of Brown Jug Liquor –**

Brown Jug Liquor owned by Afognak is planning to secure a long-term lease in the new building under construction on the North lot between Huffman Park Drive, Industry Way, and Huffman Road, north of the location of Sonic. A slide presentation of the corporation's profile, the charitable donation efforts to Dollars for Dogs, and the new technology to be used for ID and admission to the liquor store were shown, as were graphics of what the interior Brown Jug might look like. With a perspective that a boutique liquor store and tobacco retail is needed in the area, and given that the Starbucks Drive-Thru would have differing hours of patronage so no traffic issues are foreseen, that no marijuana sales will be conducted by Brown Jug Liquor, and that there are perhaps a couple of other liquor stores in the area, maybe a boutique liquor store is needed. Members of the Community Council had a lot of questions.

- The Community Council mentioned several concerns about the number of liquor stores in the immediate area, the traffic issues currently under review by the Muni, and four high-traffic businesses being located at this lot to include Sonic, Scorpion Grass Marijuana Retail, Drive Thru Starbucks, and potentially a Brown Jug Liquor store. Afognak was unaware of the marijuana retail store to be located next to the liquor store; Scorpion Grass has license applications in using the address of the Lot since 2021.
- The Kinney Engineering Report provided to the Municipality dated September 7, 2021 was cited showing the conclusion that the above businesses at this location would increase the traffic trip generation by 68%. OSOVCC considered this to be a significant impact to the area, one that is unacceptable without traffic mitigation to be undertaken in advance by the Muni and reconsideration of the types of businesses attracting traffic.
- The Kinney report included the proposed Brown Jug lease indicating that this has been in progress during early 2021; however, OSOVCC had not been contacted until February 2022 for support for this location for Brown Jug's lease. OSOVCC mentioned

that contact should have been made long ago for community input. OSOVCC suggested that Afognak seek a copy of the report from Muni Traffic. OSOVCC only received the report in February 2022 from Muni Traffic by requesting whether one had been undertaken for the new construction site. OSOVCC did not provide supportive comments about the lack of communication to the community.

- OSOVCC mentioned that it has asked Muni Traffic to provide additional data supplementing the Kinney Engineering Report regarding the traffic trip generation during the lunch hour peak period. The report presented the morning and evening rush hour data concluding an increase of 68% in trip generation; however, Sonic, Brown Jug, Starbucks, and Scorpion Grass will see heavy traffic during the lunch time hours given the nature of the products they sell (food, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana).
- OSOVCC mentioned that six (6) liquor stores are in the immediate business park area, including one in the same parking lot. They are Anchorage Denali Winery, Anchorage Wine House, Raven's Ring Beer Brewery, Carrs Oaken Keg, Speedway, and within ½ mile, Value Liquor on Klatt/Old Seward Highway. Brown Jug would be the seventh liquor store. OSOVCC did not provide supportive comments about adding a seventh liquor store in this area.
- OSOVCC suggested Afognak contact Muni Traffic and Muni Planning to research the written concerns submitted by OSOVCC over the lack of traffic planning for the Sonic site and the replat of this site, and the written concerns for this development site lacking parking or traffic mitigation.

Questions from members: Steve Beardsley - Where does Brown Jug stand with the transfer of licenses, transfer of the license to this location (lease the building then transfer the license), unused licenses, applications for state licensing for tobacco and for alcohol, and when the approvals by the State and Muni are expected. Answers: Some of that is known – Afognak will have 24 licenses as the new owner of Brown Jug. Some of the licensing applications have not yet been submitted to the state, and it is not known how long this will take for approval. Transfer of this site location license will have to come after the lease is secured.

Nicole Zegiestowsky comments/questions - Why select this busy area with six liquor stores already present? Traffic in this Huffman area is hostile to pedestrians, cyclists, motorcycles, and vehicles. The infrastructure for walking and driving is already difficult. Many liquor stores are already in this spot. The community doesn't need another alcohol store here. A community center for events, bookstore, café may add more value to the community than an alcohol store, and less traffic will be realized.

Jeff Childs comments/questions – From a resident's perspective, it is great to grow businesses; however, it comes with great concerns about traffic. There is a principal shopping area within ¼ mile, a Post office, bank, credit union, grocery store, restaurants. His recommendation is that the Lessees of this strip mall in conjunction with the owner/developer, come up with a traffic control solution and present it to the Community Council. It is up to Afognak who is going to create the problem. It is not enough to say "we are getting our license and coming into the retail site."

Ana Fisk, Afognak mentioned that she is a Mom who travels Huffman and sees the traffic. It is not an intent to overburden the area, but a business will be going in there.

**Old 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/>

**Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:38 p.m.** Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

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