

**Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)**  
**Minutes of Meeting – March 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 6:31 p.m. **President Cacy** presiding. Quorum in place. 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. The March 2022 Agenda and February 2022 Minutes were approved. **Treasurer Report** - bank account balance as of February 28, 2022 is \$1,613.20 with an increase in part by \$75 reimbursement from the FCC for funding our meeting notice sandwich board improvement.

**OSOVC Community Patrol Jeff Childs** – Volunteers are needed/welcome to help patrol the OSOV area. Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880. Burglaries and car thefts are on the uptick in our neighborhood at this time. A robbery occurred on Pettis Road recently as was widely reported by APD in a Nixle notice detailing arrests that were made. Pettis Road is experiencing a high level of suspicious and undesired activity. It is important to report all crimes, thefts, and perceived threats by suspicious individuals in order to demonstrate to APD the community's level of criminal activity affecting homeowners and businesses.

**OSOVCC Note: If You See Something – Say Something.** Don't assume someone else is reporting what you experience. 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 - Nancy Joseph** – There have been no recent Stakeholder meetings; however, Rep. Tom McKay has been contacted regarding water well poisoning (arsenic and magnesium) affecting 43 homes in the Eldon Subdivision off E. 120<sup>th</sup> and Huffman. During this meeting, McKay mentioned he asked the residents to work with the community council and the E. 120<sup>th</sup> Upgrade Stakeholders group. Nancy Joseph committed to contacting a representative from Eldon Subdivision. Committee Note: Eldon Subdivision is South of 120<sup>th</sup>, East of Division St. and includes homes on E. 120<sup>th</sup>, Bill Street and Jack Street. A few of these homeowners are Stakeholders with the E. 120<sup>th</sup> Upgrade project and initially reported that they were not on city water/sewer, and they inquired about setting up a new water district. Angelus Cemetery was also interested in the new water district and would contribute to the effort. Several residents pursued this through appropriate utility channels to move it forward. Stakeholders mentioned that the E. 120<sup>th</sup> Upgrade would involve civil engineering regarding road construction, drainage, and improvements, and perhaps some of the costs could be covered by the upgrade project. Also, timing to construct water/sewer lines should happen prior to final road grading and paving on E. 120<sup>th</sup> (scheduled for 2024), or the costs to repair the road after that time would be expensive.

**Juneau Senator Natasha von Imhof** – Not present; no report. 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 provided details regarding the Eldon Subdivision well water problems (mentioned above). Other notes:

1. McKay advised that the Flying Crown lawsuit with the Alaska Railroad (AKRR) was decided by a federal judge who ruled in favor of the Alaska Railroad. He anticipates this being appealed to the Supreme Court. This was a land case taking possession of private landowners' titled properties and affects properties from Seward to North Pole/Fairbanks that are adjacent to the Alaska Railroad tracks. Steve Beardsley, in Committee, gave a thorough report (below).
2. McKay was asked prior to the meeting to talk about whether investments in Russia by the State of Alaska (SOA), PFD Corporation investments, and SOA Retirement Fund will be divested. McKay explains that the PFD Corporation and SOA Retirement Fund are managed separately from the State of Alaska assets and will have to make their decisions as private boards. The Legislature is working on HB 401 to divest investments and will pay attention as to how much of a loss will be incurred and whether accounts are locked determining whether divestment can occur.
3. Also asked prior to the meeting for an explanation of how Congressman Don Young's seat will be filled through a special election. Briefly, the Governor must open the process for candidates to file for the interim seat. Rank choice voting procedure

will be employed. A primary will occur June 11<sup>th</sup> and the special election will be held August 16<sup>th</sup>. Coincidentally, August 16<sup>th</sup> is the same day as the Regular Primary for the November election. This will be complicated.

4. A public service for Congressman Don Young will be at 11:00 a.m. on April 2 at Anchorage Baptist Temple.
5. The Municipal Election is April 5<sup>th</sup>; mail-in your ballot or vote in person at Loussac Library and at the Muni building downtown.
6. McKay also mentioned that the Governor is putting AKRR under the Executive Branch which will control their budget and administration similar to the Alaska Marine Highway. HB 400 is being written now. This may impact how AKRR interacts in the future with property owners.

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

**Committee Report: Flying Crown Homeowner Association/Alaska Railroad Decision – Steve Beardsley** – Citing the letter from former Representative Chuck Kopp regarding the federal court decision to rule in favor of the AKRR in the case against Flying Crown Homeowners Association, Steve Beardsley requested that the OSOVCC write a letter to Governor Dunleavy supporting Chuck Kopp's statement of the case which is consistent with OSOVCC Resolution 2014 #1. The Resolution supported the Flying Crown Homeowners Association and opposed the AKRR attempts to change the nature of easements in the corridor to exclusive use by AKRR. This affects clear title to privately and publicly owned land from Seward to North Pole – an 800-mile corridor. Flying Crown was sued by AKRR for exclusive use of the easements; recently Governor Dunleavy requested AKRR pay outstanding attorney fees for Flying Crown. Chuck Kopp's letter can be found on the OSOVCC Website. Beardsley will provide a draft for OSOVCC to finalize.

At the end of this CC meeting, Cathy Giessel informed the membership (with content in the Chat) of Senate Transportation hearings online for HB 400 and SB 231 which puts the AKRR under the Legislature's control related to their budget and their business and could have an impact on the land issues affected by the federal decision. Nancy Joseph volunteered to provide Giessel's information to Flying Crown and to others in the North and South subdivision at the request of John and Joan Henry.

**Anchorage Police Department (APD)** – Officer Casey Johnson attended our meeting to address members' and residents' concerns about the traffic situation experienced by the opening of Sonic Restaurant early in March. APD was contacted by the Community Council to address the responses from 3-1-1 that there would be no officers sent out to deal with the traffic jams or hazards, and that we should wait 10 days and the situation would get better. APD Traffic Chief ensured APD would respond to the situation and contacted Muni Traffic as well. Members spoke of near-miss accidents, traffic blocking access to the Old Seward Highway/Huffman roundabout, blocking Industry Way entry and exit, backed-up traffic affecting pedestrian crossings, and the expected increase in traffic when Sonic reopens. One member remarked that restaurants in Phoenix know how to manage traffic flow. Another member remarked that the types of businesses going into this condensed area will make traffic worse and will increase air pollution with the long winter season of idling cars as they wait in long lines. The ongoing traffic problems with Sonic in Wasilla two years after opening was also mentioned. APD stated that our comments will be brought back to APD, that this area would be on the regular patrol, and traffic jams will be dealt with.

**Anchorage Fire Department (AFD)** – Two speakers this month, Chief Doug Schrage, and Nick Glorioso with the Local Firefighters Union. Chief Schrage briefed us on the following: We have 400 women and men in the Fire Department. This month's Class of 2022 graduated 26 new firefighters; all 26 began the course and graduated. This will help with the overtime budget; the Assembly is set to approve the AFD Budget shortly. Two Bond propositions: Proposition 3 replaces ambulances, and Proposition 6 for Fire Service Areas replaces fire engines – desperately needed. Fire engines cost ~\$1.6 Million. Approval of both bonds will increase property taxes by \$0.92/\$100K house value. Members asked about casual visits to the public, like fire engines to elementary schools or picnics. Reply: These are on hold for a bit longer due to COVID. Another member thanked AFD for the child safety seats program, which continues if you visit a fire station for help.

Nick Glorioso talked about the budget issues and the large number of apparatus closures over the recent past. Three or four apparatus were closed during the evenings. As of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Mayor just announced the closures will end. The Local Firefighters Union appreciates Community Councils and Assembly support for the firefighters. Roselynn Cacy mentioned that since our CC area fire station was closed and the nearest station is further away, it has an impact on home and business insurance premiums. Glorioso stated that the ladder truck for our area has to come from Dimond. Water and ambulance at DeArmoun station have been routinely experiencing closures.

To AFD, Jeff Childs mentioned that neighborhoods in lower elevations realize Spring and snow melt earlier than Hillside, and that yard cleanup happens to remove debris at the recommendation of AFD. How do we get the Wood Lot opened sooner to accommodate cleanup? Chief Schrage said he had just signed the contract with the new Wood Lot operator today, and the Assembly will approve the contract at the next regularly scheduled Assembly meeting. The Wood Lot may open sooner this year.

**Anchorage Mayor's Office** – Not present; no report.

**Assembly Suzanne LaFrance** – As a Special Assembly Meeting on Reapportionment was in progress this evening during our meeting, we received a written briefing in advance which was read aloud by Roselynn Cacy. Topics: 1) Next Regular Assembly Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup>; 2) Reapportionment; 3) Heritage Land Bank Planned 2022 Activity; 4) Municipal Election April 5<sup>th</sup>; 5) Homelessness Update; 6) Assembly passed the Anchorage School District Budget in the amount of \$850,548,476; 7) The Assembly proposes a 10-year tax exemption for new (construction) bed and breakfasts called Accessory Dwelling Units. Residents have serious concerns about short-term rentals and impacts to neighborhoods; 8) The Mayor has asked the Alaska Legislature for \$600 Million for the Port of Alaska Modernization Program. Assembly supports this request. Suzanne LaFrance's briefing can be found on the OSOVCC Website.

**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 – Andy Holleman** – The School Bond for \$111 Million was discussed. \$102 Million in debt will be retired. The cost to homeowner property taxes will be approximately \$24.73/\$100K house value; after the debt retirement, it will be as low as \$12/\$100K. Also, the Anchorage School District Superintendent search has three finalists. Interested parties can tune in to the public meeting on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> online.

**New Business: Draft Resolution #2022-01 Opposing the Location of Afognak's licensed Brown Jug liquor store**

The OSOVCC Alcohol and Marijuana Committee has drafted a resolution opposing the location of the Brown Jug liquor store based on the comments received from CC members regarding Afognak's plans to locate the store on Lot M-1 between Huffman Road/Industry Park Drive, and Huffman Park Drive. Afognak provided a briefing in the February 23, 2022 Community Council meeting which met with members' comments opposing the site for reasons of oversaturation of liquor package stores in a condensed area and the Muni consultant's engineering report stating an increase of 68% in traffic to the area.

Steve Beardsley read the draft resolution. Comments were as follows: 1) Berni Bradley mentioned that the Community Council and others stopped liquor stores from locating in storefronts on the South side of Huffman Road. Beardsley explained that the land Covenants are what prohibited Brown Jug and Holiday stores from these locations; it wasn't the Community Council. 2) Jeff Childs suggested a stipulation in the resolution to require Brown Jug, Sonic, and the owner of the strip mall to be problem solvers and requiring them to address the traffic impacts to the area with solutions. Beardsley explained that a request like that should go directly to the Muni Traffic and Muni Planning Department instead of in the resolution. 3) Mike McVittie, owner of The Wine House appreciates the efforts. He stated that he used to work for Brown Jug when they first operated in Anchorage, and even though Brown Jug will be a competitor, the clientele, the late hours of operation, Brown Jug's product mix, and the impact to the area will be negative. McVittie's customers have signed a petition to be sent to the Assembly with over 180 signatures. Customers are adamant that they do not want a Brown Jug at this location. Beardsley responded that his petition and letter can be sent to the alcohol board, the city clerk, the Assembly, the Mayor's office, and the Community Council. 4) Berni Bradley suggested we try to obtain a conditional use permit for the site with the Assembly to prohibit a liquor store at this location.

The Resolution was introduced and a motion to vote yielded 14 Yea, 1 No, 1 Abstain. The Resolution will be finalized for the April 27<sup>th</sup> Community Council meeting.

**Anchorage Parks Foundation Challenge Grant for 2022 – Stan Moll** – Stan has submitted a Challenge Grant application for Johns Park mitigation, repairs, improvements, repairs to vandalized areas, and to repair the bridge buffer area that failed after the bridge replacement during the same year. The amount of \$14,250 was requested. If we are awarded the grant, we will have to match the amount through fund raising, in-kind donations, and labor provided by volunteers. Awarded grants will be known prior to our April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. If we are successful, a resolution will be written for the Community Council's actions forward.

**Guests** – Don Clack, resident on Venus Way brought forth a property line problem with access to his back yard, and a state right-of-way that prohibits him from gaining access by vehicles from the Old Seward Highway side. He has researched with the State and Muni and sees a rough road ahead due to a lack of interest by either party to help him move it forward. Community Council

membership had a few suggestions including access from the bike trail. Clack explained that the right-of-way is 50' from the center of Old Seward Highway, so the bike trail may be a state trail. Removal of an annotation on a state plat has to be agreed by the State and the Muni in order for the access to be granted.

John Henry remarked that the Bonds are too high and because of gas prices and all other costs being way up, it will be too large of a cost to taxpayers.

**Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:43 p.m.** Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

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