

General Meeting MINUTES *Draft*
Huffman-O'Malley Community Council
Thursday, January 19, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Video Meeting and in person

Please visit <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/19.html> for ZOOM link

1) Call to order at 7:02pm by Gretchen Stoddard

2) Welcome and Introductions

Present: Executive Board: Gretchen Stoddard-President, open -Vice President , Trina Lovdahl - Treasurer, Shannon Wileman- Secretary, Members- Katie Nolan, John Yeafoli, Marcy Tompkins, Jenna Wright. Looking for 1 additional board member to replace candidates running for election

Absent: Members Nick Mazzolini, Lisa Huffman

3) Agenda

a. Call for additions and approval of agenda- Jennie removed from listed board members, approved

4) Minutes

a. Approval of October and November 2022 Minutes- approved

5) Speaker Topic Jack Gadamus (Municipal assessor) Municipal Property Value Assessment, new website, and property portal

a. Introduced the new tools for assessing property info through www.Muni.org

b. Residential value changes for this year increased an average of 1.2-3.7%. Higher increases in value in South Anchorage (District 6) vs other Districts.

c. Drive behind increased property assessments includes:

1. Reduced supply due to low inventory and limited new construction

2. Reduced purchasing power due to high inflation and increasing interest rates

3. Increased price of substitutes due to increased rent prices and decreased vacancy

d. Exemption options for homeowners are available

1. State (up to \$150k of valuation) for disabled veterans and senior citizens

2. Optional (20% up to \$50k) for owner-occupied residential property

3. Have to file for exemptions by 3/15/23

e. Valuation Notices for 2023

1. Were green last year, this year they are white cards with a green stripe

2. Sent out 1/12/23

3. Appeal deadline 2/10/23

f. Total of 374 Appeals in 2022

1. 272 were settled without scheduling a BOE hearing

2. 24 failed to appear at BOE

3. 102 were heard by BOE

4. 96% of the recommended values were upheld by the BOE

6) Political Representatives' Reports (4min each speaking, 4 minutes questions)

a. Legislators

Senator James Kaufman- District F (paired with HD 11/HD 12)

1. Senate is organized, is a member of the 17-person Senate Majority, been busy setting up his office and assembling his team
2. Is on several committees
 - a. Chair of Transportation
 - b. Vice Chair of Health and Social Services
 - c. Member of Legislative Budget and Audit
 - d. Member of Resources
 - e. Member of Judiciary
3. Contact him with any questions/concerns
 - a. Sen.james.kaufman@akleg.gov
 - b. (907) 465-4949
 - c. www.SenatorKaufman.com
 - d. Sign up for his email list or schedule a 15 minute meeting through his website above

Senator Cathy Giessel- District E (paired with HD 9/HD 10)

1. Senate is organized, Cathy is Majority Leader
2. Is on several committees
 - a. Co-Chair of Resources
 - b. Member of Rules
 - c. Member of Judiciary
 - d. Member of Health and Social Services
 - e. Member of Community and Regional Affairs
3. Contact her with any questions/concerns
 - a. Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov
 - b. (907) 465-4843
 - c. www.alaskasenate.org
 - d. Sign up to receive her newsletter via email or website above

Representative Laddie Shaw- HD 9- Not Present

Representative Julie Coulombe- HD 11

1. Cathy Tilton was voted Speaker of the House
2. Julie is on the Finance Committee
 - a. Chair of Administration (fin sub)
 - b. Chair of Public Safety (fin sub)
 - c. Chair of Education and Early Development (fin sub)
 - d. Member of University of AK (fin sub)
3. Is working on a newsletter/townhall with James Kaufman
4. Contact her with any questions/concerns
 - a. Representative.Julie.Coulombe@akleg.gov
 - b. (907) 748-4377
 - c. www.akleg.gov or www.julieforalaska.com

b. Mayor's staff- Not Present

c. District 6 Assembly Updates

Assembly Member Suzanne LaFrance- Not Present

Assembly Member Randy Sulte- Not Present

d. School Board Representative- Dave Donley- Not Present

Andy Hollemon/Kelly Lessens standing in for Dave

1. Working on budget now, looking at a deficit for 23-24 school year
2. School bond will be on April Ballot, includes redoing entry vestibules at elementary schools so there is only one point of entry from the outside with inner and outer doors
3. If ASD closes schools, then state does not give as much money. We have 65 elementary schools and the students we have could all fit into 50.
4. To make-up for all the snow days, school days are being extended by 30 minutes each day from 1/30-3/9 and with full instructional days on 2/22, 2/23 and 2/24.
5. Gretchen asks about Inlet view- no discussion as of yet.
6. ASD planning on closing Abbott Loop, no others at this time.
7. Ignite will be restructured to save money vs. cutting it.
8. Contact Andy @ Holleman_andy@asdk12.org, (907) 301-7004
9. Contact whole school board @ schoolboard@asdk12.org

e. Fire Representative- Captain Loy from Station 9 @ DeArmoun/Lake Otis

1. 14 week academy just started
2. Returning to in-person training, winter driving training
3. Station 12 is changing from ALS to BLS.
4. The public is welcome to visit the fire department at any time as it is there for the people.

7) Lake Otis Repaving Project- Brad Coy, Traffic Engineer

- a. Lake Otis to be repaved between Huffman and Abbott in 2 phases
- b. Phase 1- fall 2023 Huffman to O'Malley
- c. Phase 2- summer 2024 O'Malley to Abbott
- d. There is discussion regarding keeping the 4 lanes vs changing to 3 lanes (1 lane each North and South with a suicide lane)- per Brad has been shown to reduce crashes by 25-50%, looking for a resolution for supporting 3 lanes
- e. Includes sidewalk improvement
- f. www.lakeotispaving.com

8) Reports (2 min ea.)- Please announce if you have anything to report

- a. Treasurer's Report- T Lovdahl- Current balance is \$917.34. We received notice that starting 2/1 our current bank is going to charge \$5/month every month we have less than \$2500 in our account. They do not waive fees for non-profits. Gretchen agrees that we should research moving our money into an account that doesn't require such a high minimum. Trina will write a check back to HALO for \$400 so they can request more info for property assessments and \$75 to HALO for the candidate forum. Trina will reimburse John Yeafoli for the microphones he purchased for HOCC meetings when we receive a receipt.
- b. HALO – Nolan- Katie shares that the Wildfire Urban Interface Group is meeting 1st Thursday of every month
- c. Traffic Calming Report – new volunteer requested
- d. Crime Report – New Volunteer
- e. Outreach- Mazzolini- No report
- f. Attendance questions- Mazzolini- Trina took attendance in Nicks absence- No questions
- g. FCC – Stoddard- Assembly decided to use smaller buildings for homelessness, ASD has discovered \$40M in savings they can use for the 23-24 year.

9) Board member changes and interest in being an officer or on the board.

- a. Will have nominations in April, elections in May

10) Platting Board Case S 12708 related to vegetation and access at Donalds Street. The current plat notes state "Existing vegetation in the 15 foot buffer Landscape Easements is not to be disturbed, except..." [Public Notice Platting Board- Notice of Public Hearing \(muni.org\)](http://muni.org)

Discussed removal of vegetation and upkeep as trees, willows grow. Spruce and birch in suburban areas are not as healthy as a full undisturbed forest. Tim and his wife presented their case. Unanimous approval to support the change with no concerns noted at meeting.

Note Added in February after meeting. Email submitted to Platting Board by Gretchen Stoddard as Chair of HOCC:

“Huffman O’Malley Community Council has no objection to the change proposed by Platting Board Case S 12708 related to vegetation and access at Donalds Street. HOCC supports and encourages the change to improve access to this problem, and we believe this might go a small part towards improving access to the area during a fire emergency. Requiring trees to remain at the edge of the road as they grow larger does not improve access to the area during a fire and may make the current problems with this narrow muni maintained road worse. “

11) President's Report -didn't address, ran out of time

- a. Incoming Correspondence
- b. Outgoing Correspondence
- c. Alternative plan for March 16 meeting, spring break. Expect poor attendance whatever

method we choose. Earlier/ later/ Zoom only?

12) New Business

Next meeting Thursday February 16, 2022 – In person at Huffman Elementary Lorraine St, Anchorage, AK 99516

Introduce Candidates for elected office- 2 minutes plus Q&A if time allows.

1. Zac Johnson- running for assembly D6, has been on the Hillside CC for about 2 years, says he wants to make the city a better place. www.zacforalaska.com
2. Irene Boll- running for school board, wants ASD to be the best it can be, she can be contacted at (907) 717-3185
3. Andy Holleman- running for school board, www.voteandyak.com

13)Girdwood Development request for HOCC statement, 5 minutes

- a. Presented by Kellie Okonek, citizen of Girdwood.
- b. Refer to current meeting docs regarding Holtan Hills development.
- c. We will research and decide if an HOCC resolution is appropriate. No meeting wide vote or resolution.

14) Adjournment at 9:10pm

Email the HOCC Chair: HOCCPresident@gmail.com

Visit our website: <http://communitycouncils.org> go to Huffman O'Malley Community Council Visit our Facebook page: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

Next Meeting

Thursday February 16 , 2023

Thursday March 16 , 2023

Thursday April 20, 2023