

General Meeting MINUTES
Huffman-O'Malley Community Council
Thursday, March 16, 2023 @ 7:00 PM
Via Zoom Video Meeting

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

1) Call to order at 7pm by Gretchen Stoddard

2) Welcome and Introductions

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

Absent: Shannon Wileman- Secretary, Members Nick Mazzolini, Lisa Huffman.

3) Agenda

a. Call for additions and approval of agenda-None noted

4) Minutes

a. Approval of January Minutes-approved

b. Approval of February Minutes-approved

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

a. Legislators

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

1. Discussion about transportation
 - a. Renewable energy fund bill in Senate finance
 - b. E-bikes bill to standardize definition of E-bikes as non-vehicles so licenses aren't required.
 - c. Participated in transportation committee to enlarge the Seward Cruise ship dock to help increase tourism.
2. Nothing new with Capital projects.
3. Working on SB34 to reinstate citizens committee for Federal management areas
4. Attended Anchorage Town Hall on 3/5 at the Rasmussen
5. He and Julie will be at Steam Dot on Saturday 3/25@ 9-11am.
6. 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. Newsletter just came out.

2. Working on solving the question of what a dividend should be annually.
 - a. States she would like it to be predictable for citizens and state
 - b. Dividend is projected to be worth \$3.8 Billion this year
 - c. Governor wants 50/50- would give residents \$2600
 - d. Senate majority is leaning towards 25/75- would give residents \$1300
3. Address school funding
 - a. Senate advocating for \$1000 BSA increase, then increase an additional \$350 the following year
4. Stedman who leads the financial committee has voiced budget concerns due to:
 - a. Price of oil has fallen drastically since last week
 - b. Alaska's state budget is short-funded this year by \$250M. End of fiscal year is 7/1/23.
5. Will be at Cornerstone Church for a community meeting 3/18@ 12-2pm
6. 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. Introduced her first bill HB89 to address the daycare crisis.
2. Wants it to be clear that as part of the education subcommittee, she did not remove funding from education, but redirected funds to pay for reading specialists.
3. There is a transportation work group in the works regarding work on muni/state roads. She will keep us posted.
4. Julie requested feedback regarding PFD ideas. Some of those ideas include:
 - a. Keep original formula
 - b. Consider making tough budget cuts to reduce the need for shorting people on the PFD.
 - c. Unable to continue PFD's as they are without taxes in some form.
 - d. Try to keep PFD as large as can be responsibly afforded while continuing to fully fund what is necessary for education.
 - e. Please make sure programs are running efficiently before throwing more money at them.
5. 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-

1. Meetings coming up include:
 - a. 3/21 regular assembly meeting

- b. 3/23 AMATS policy committee meeting, should answer questions about rail transport safety
 - c. 3/31 Work session to discuss possible purchase of ARC to use as a homeless shelter. Randy vehemently opposes this.
 - d. 3/31 Boards and commissions appointments
 - e. 4/5 Health policy committee and Public safety committee
 - f. 4/6 Community and economic development meeting committee
2. Last assembly meeting was 3/7
- a. Voted to fund housing the homeless at the Sullivan through April 30th with alcohol tax, looking at camping options thereafter
 - b. Passed an ordinance for parental leave benefits for exempt employees with 4 weeks paid leave for birth/adoption.
 - c. Added more restrictions on purchases through the muni, will require more meetings in order to approve purchases.

d. School Board Representative- Dave Donley/Andy Holleman

1. Budget

- a. \$900,000,000 is the budget for '23-'24 school year, and is fully funded.
- b. Used a lot of one-time funds to cover this next year, including savings and Federal impact COVID funds
- c. Will be a \$80-\$100M deficit if AK state legislators don't increase the BSA for the '24-'25 school year. Hoping for a BSA increase of \$1250 to inflation proof costs.

2. Dave would like to see increased accountability in AK schools

- a. Alaska schools rank 49th out of the United States
- b. National average hours in school for 36 states is 1080 hours/year
- c. Length of school in Alaska is 900 hours/year, should look into increasing?
- d. Direct correlation between student success and school attendance

6) Discussion, Review of Bond Proposition 6- Judy Caminer and Joseph Connolly

Presenters are in support of Prop 6. If it passes, it will create a new service area consisting of the Anchorage bowl- north of McHugh Creek to south of Eagle River called Chugach State Park Access Service Area or "CASA". It would allow for the muni to request bonds for it in future elections.

- a. Currently the roads that lead to the Chugach State Parks are Road Service Areas (RSA's) that are locally managed by those that live in the area. Self-funded from property taxes from the residents who live within them. These roads include:
 - 1. Basher Drive- Stuckagain heights
 - 2. Prospect drive- prospect heights
 - 3. Toilsome Hill, Glep Alps- Flattop
 - 4. Upper O'Malley-Cheverof, Gasline
 - 5. Clarks Rd, Honeybear- Grandview

6. Upper DeArmoun, Canyon Rd- Sunnyside/Rabbit Lakes
- b. Stats
 1. 1.5M visitors/year, 71% are residents regularly using the Park
 2. 53% Alaskans live within 30 minutes of Chugach State Park
- c. Roads are in poor shape and have deteriorated with the constant use by so many. For example, Upper DeArmoun was first and last paved in 1987. Since the park is used by so many, it makes sense that the burden to upkeep these roads not just rest solely on those who live in the area but be shared with everyone that uses them. Also, if this bond passes the state will hopefully help since the CSP is state run.

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

- a. Treasurer's Report- T Lovdahl- No report given
- b. HALO – Nolan- Katie shares that the next HALO meeting is Thursday 4/6 @7pm, 2 openings coming up on HALO board, contact Katie for more info
- c. Traffic Calming Report – new volunteer requested
- d. Crime Report – New Volunteer
- e. Outreach- Mazzolini- Not present
- f. Attendance questions- Mazzolini- Trina took attendance in Nicks absence- questions resolved
- g. FCC – Stoddard- Questions surrounding Mark Butler (16-year employee of FCC) and his involvement with helping GBOS encourage multiple Community Councils to ask the Assembly to Halt Holtan Hills. An FCC employee should not be involved politically amongst CC's as his job is to help the FCC, which is funded through a grant from the Muni, run smoothly. There are a couple articles discussing the situation at length on www.alaskalandmine.com. Julie Coulombe shared that she contacted the FCC board about this and found it inappropriate.

8) Board member changes and interest in being an officer or on the board. May elections.

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

9) Continuing Business- none

10) President's Report- none

- a. Incoming Correspondence
- b. Outgoing Correspondence

11) New Business

Next meeting Thursday April 20, 2023 – Zoom and in person

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

Zac Johnson

Andy Holleman

12) Adjournment around 8:30pm

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 April 20, 2023 -Election Nominations

Thursday May 18, 2023 Elections and Annual Meeting