

Huffman-O'Malley Community Council
Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 20, 2010

1. The meeting was called to order by President Pete Nolan at 7 pm.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Brian Partch.
3. The President welcomed everyone and introduced the Steering Committee, including: Matt Burkholder, Treasurer; Wayne Crayton; Todd Logan; Christine Monette, Vice President; Katie Nolan, Secretary; Brian Partch; Melissa Schmiedt and Mark Schroeder. Absent but excused: Joan Eastlack; absent, Paul Rasmussen.
4. Consent Agenda Items
 - A. The Treasurers report shows a balance of \$1067.14. Some bills will be paid this month.
5. Presentations
 - A. Legislative Updates. Lindsey Williams from Senator Giessel's office, appeared, gave a brief update, and answered questions. Senator Kevin Meyers was present, as the new district boundaries will add a portion of our council area to his district. He mentioned that the most important issues facing our state is declining oil production and the fact that production funds our government.
 - B. Rabbit Creek Park. John See, AFD Forester, appeared to discuss the potential wildfire mitigation project proposed for Rabbit Creek Park. This park has fuel loads including beetle-killed spruce and dead and dying trees, and needs thinning to promote healthy growth and provide a safe environment. The project may include forestry students from King Career Center as well as neighbor contribution. See is looking for input from the adjoining neighborhood. There is some controversy as this is the site favored for new AFD Station 9.

See also mentioned the Firewise program. This is a federally-funded program that provides financial assistance for homeowners who follow a prescribed treatment plan on their private properties and agree to maintain it for 10 years. This program will sunset in Dec 2013. There was some confusion about the two issues, as they were mentioned together despite the fact that they are separate programs.

The neighborhood has numerous concerns about this area, especially in light of proposed Station 9. They have a neighborhood meeting scheduled for Sat Sept 29. HOCC suggested that they open this meeting up to include AFD's Firewise coordinators and hold the meeting at the Rabbit Creek School. The neighbors agreed to this idea. HOCC and the neighborhood will keep in communication to facilitate this.

Anyone wishing to discuss this issue with the MOA is asked to contact Project Manager Heath Landon at 343-8256.
 - C. Case 2012-123 Christ Church Episcopal. The Rev Connie Jones and Dawn Page appeared to share remodeling plans for this church, located on O'Malley Road. Designs include a new entry, enhanced main access, and a bell tower.
6. Continuing Business
 - A. Title 21 Revision. Proposed Title 21 has gone back to weekly work sessions to resolve outstanding issues. It is not expected to go to the Assembly for a while.
 - B. Greenbelt encroachment. We have a report from the neighborhood that mowing is still occurring. The weather has curtailed community remediation efforts. HOCC member Marian Jones will update the Parks & Rec commission.

7. Reports
 - A. HALO, Inc. Monette reported that the Sept meeting was cancelled due to power outages. HALO will hold a candidate forum on Thursday Oct 4, 7 pm, at O'Malley's on the Green. All candidates for the Nov election have been invited. The forum is free to the public.
8. President's Report
 - A. Incoming Correspondence included new Station 9 hearing dates and Case 2012-123.
9. New Business
 - A. Traffic Calming. There is a new director for traffic calming. He is asking for input on neighborhood issues.
 - B. Wind Damage. The Muni is doing a damage survey available through muni.org. Info will be used to investigate potential for disaster funding.
 - C. Huffman Elementary has a new principal, Darrel Vincek. He is available at 742-5650 or vincek_darrel@asdk12.org
 - D. Motion K. Nolan, second Monette, to comment "no objection" on Case 2012-123; unanimous.
 - E. Motion K. Nolan, second Crayton, to donate \$25 to HALO to assist in hosting the candidate forum; unanimous.
10. Open Forum
 - A. Merry Carlson appeared to discuss Rabbit Creek park and proposed Station 9. She stated that DOWL has not done their job. Rabbit Creek is a park used for a variety of things, and a wildlife habitat. This is more than a neighborhood issue. We cannot replace natural habitat. We don't want to manage areas that are natural or remove dead and dying trees. There are many alternative sites for Station 9 that should be used instead of this location.

Charles Kirby appeared to discuss the park. He is opposed to moving Station 9, wants a remodel instead. The population base is already in that area, not elsewhere. The wildlife is important. It is a moose birth site. The moose are happy. It does not need any work or remediation. The dead and dying trees are a natural forest.

Claudia Christensen appeared to talk about traffic volumes and safety issues. She cited a Aug 10, 2012 memo from DOT stating that the main driveway of the proposed station does not meet standards. The road won't bear any more traffic. There was a lack of information to the parents of Rabbit Creek Elementary. This is more than just a fire station. It will contain housing, something no other stations have, and a training center, again, something no other stations have. The equipment planned for this area will take more than the 2 ½ acres stated, and it will be a duplicate training center to the new training center just completed.

Rich Klein appeared to discuss the biased site selection. Several superior sites were not properly investigated. This area is a park, not just something "perceived" as a park. It is labeled a park on maps. There is heavy traffic. The site selection should have been the site #18 instead of #19. They (DOWL) did not even approach the owner of this property.

Rob Nuss appeared to state that all the neighbors are united against the park.

Partch addressed only the site selection erroneous statements. It is impossible to remodel or rebuild existing Station 9 due to the fact that this is a "grandfathered", or non-conforming property. After construction of the station, Title 21 Land Use Code

changed. It is illegal to do any major changes to this property.

K. Nolan suggested that this issue is too large and unwieldy to address without further discussion. She suggested HOCC host a special meeting of all the involved parties. To accomplish this, it will probably require that the hearing at Planning & Zoning Commission be postponed. She will make phone calls with that request. The Steering Committee will be updated via email, and, if necessary, will hold an online vote on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Nolan, Secretary

Action needed:

Request postponement on Station 9 PZC meeting (K. Nolan)

Comment on 2012-123 (K. Nolan)