

**OCEANVIEW/OLD SEWARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/O 240 PACIFIC VIEW DRIVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99515**

NEWSLETTER September 2004

Welcome back from your summer wherever you may have been. For those of us who stayed in Anchorage, we were blessed with the best summer weather in years that allowed us eat to out on the porch more than once and not be harassed by mosquitoes. Now that's quality of life.

In this newsletter we are reporting on issues that need our immediate attention and several issues we have been following throughout the summer.

Law Suit and Land Swap

Geoffrey Parker, an attorney representing Friends of Potters Marsh and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Inc., filed a lawsuit alleging that the routes selected for the extension to the Coastal Trail are illegal. The defendants are representatives from the Federal Highway Administration. If the law suit is successful, then these proposed routes will lose federal funding.

At the August 24 Assembly meeting, the proposed land swap was discussed that will exchange 8 acres of bluff top property near Resolution Drive owned by the Heritage Land Bank for 15 acres within the housing development at the Sand Lake gravel pit.

The Community Council executive committees from Sand Lake, Bayshore and Oceanview met on August 23 and decided to testify before the Assembly urging them not to agree to the land swap and to table the motion until the community councils have had time to discuss the matter with their membership. We also requested additional information that we need to make this decision specifically, the legal document describing the swap and hydrological data of Sand Lake area that will indicate subsurface drainage patterns. Our reasons for objection are that the City will lose the one piece of publicly owned land between Kincaid Park and Johns Park that is ideally suited for parkland and is therefore in our opinion a poor exchange for the Municipality.

The Mayor has responded and wants to meet with the Community Councils to explain the reasons for the swap. **Oceanview and Bayshore will meet jointly on Monday September 20 at the Bayshore Elementary School just off Klatt Road.** The Mayor will arrive at about 7:00 PM. Please plan on attending this meeting.

October Meeting

Oceanview Community Council will have a regular monthly meeting at Oceanview Elementary School on Wednesday October 13 and take up any motions that are necessary on the land swap.

We will also hold election of officers. One officer is leaving the state and another would like to be replaced. Please send your nominations to Tim Bridgman (see contact numbers below) and the nominations will be posted in the October newsletter.

Our representative to the Federation of Community Councils Vicki Hudson resigned this summer. Kathy Carlisle replaced her until she decided to move to the Peninsular. Katie Weidemaier agreed to be our FCC delegate.

We will also ask the candidates running for the State House to address us. The senate seat held by Senator Stevens is not up for election.

Proposed Re-zone at Ellen & Klatt Roads

We have been active in this development throughout the summer. The developer of the property wants to re-zone from R1 to R2 and build high density housing units. The residents met several times with the developer explaining that they have no objection to development of the property provided the R1 zoning is

maintained so that the character of the neighborhood will be preserved. The developer has agreed and now proposes building six single family homes to comply with R1 zoning requirements.

Minnesota & C Street Intersection

State DOT plan to bid the construction work to extend C Street from Dimond to Minnesota this summer for construction in 2005 and completion in 2006. Minnesota will cross over C Street with a bridge. At issue for the Community Council is the truck access to Anchorage Sand & Gravel (AS & G). The current configuration at the intersection does not provide a truck route to access Minnesota going north from the AS& G yard. In which case, trucks may use Klatt Road to access Minnesota. This will increase truck traffic on a residential road creating safety hazards. The Community Council continues to work with AS & G on finding a solution to this problem.

Petition to Rezone Duryea Property on Venus Way

The Community Council has discussed this re-zone at three meetings. The Planning & Zoning Commission approved the petition to re-zone which was then forwarded to the Assembly for their approval. Testimony was heard at the August 24 meeting but no vote was taken. The Assembly will vote at their next meeting.

Road Projects

We continue to keep abreast of road projects in the area including:

- Timberlane Road Reconstruction – funded by city bonds. This is a great example of getting involved in a road project TOO LATE. All the residents wanted is to fix the road bed which is subject to severe frost heave during break-up. See for yourself the final design currently under construction. It looks like the big dig in South Anchorage taking much private property and for what purpose? To upgrade Timberlane to collector status just for a few blocks.
- O'Malley Road Reconstruction. The open house for this project was held in July.
- Old Seward Highway from Lowe's to Huffman. The council added this project to the CIP list requesting that the schedule for this project is advanced. Here's a project that needs to happen.
- Johns Road Upgrade/Reconstruction from High View Drive to Klatt – funded through AMATS. Funding is uncertain at this time and the estimated cost is \$3.5MM.
- DeArmoun Road Improvements. We continue to stay informed because this is an example of how NOT to plan a road improvement. The plan does not meet the neighborhood concerns of traffic speed or minimizing acquisition of private property, is over-designed and will cost the taxpayer big money.
- AMATS. We attend AMATS meetings to keep abreast of the funding and prioritization for these projects.

Money Well Spent

Two examples of your Community Council's money that was well spent. First is Cleanup Day of the neighborhood in early May jointly sponsored by the Community Council and Oceanview PTA. We awarded a bicycle to the family that collected the most trash and had a great picnic to celebrate record collection of trash.

The second event was completion of a barbeque at the Oceanview Park built by Travis Bohne for his Eagle Scout project. We gave Travis a grant for the project so go and have a cookout at the park and use his barbeque.

CONTACT US

Legislative and Assembly representatives contact numbers:

Senator Ben Stevens (Senator.Ben.Stevens@legis.state.ak.us)

Representative Lesil McGuire (Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us)

Janice Shamberg (jcshamberg@pci.net)

Dick Tremaine (tremained@muni.org)

For those who want more information on what's happening in the City, consult the Municipality website www.muni.org

Contact your Community Council officers listed below:

President	Tim Bridgman	345-3614
Vice President	Hank Hosford	522-8638
Secretary	Margaret Klatt	345-5848
Treasurer	Mary Whitmore	344-2831
FCC Rep	Katie Weidemaier	344-2935

Community councils are the link in the local government chain between the resident and the municipal government and are only as effective as you, the membership want to make them by participating in the monthly meetings.

Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Oceanview Elementary School on Johns Road. Meetings start at 7:00PM. We are collecting membership dues for 2004: five dollars for an individual, ten for a family.

Distributed to you by the Federation of Community Councils
401 E. Northern Lights Blvd. #204
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone: 907-277-1977

Fax 907 277 3952

Email councils@alaska.net

Website www.comunitycouncils.org

Community councils, at the root of better government