

Hillside Community Council Meeting
Draft Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 6:30 pm
Location: Shepherd of the Hills Church and Zoom

Board Roll Call:

Present: Carmela Warfield, Sandy Blomfield, Robert Redlinger, Daniel Robbins, Bruce Vergason, and Dr. Helena Wisniewski

Board members absent, excused: Todd Brownson

1. **Board President Warfield opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.**
 - Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Call to order & welcoming remarks.
 - Membership & voting requirements.

2. **Approval of July 2023 HCC Meeting Agenda:**
 - Motion to approve the agenda.
 - Moved: Marc June; Second: Helena Wisniewski
 - Motion carried.

3. **Approval of May 2023 Meeting Minutes: (no meeting in June 2023)**
 - Motion to approve the minutes.
 - Moved: Marc June; Second: Sandy Blomfield
 - Motion carried.

4. **Business Updates:**
 - Treasurer's Report – Daniel Robbins
 - Balance \$1,778.46 as of 6/30/23; no new transactions.
 - HALO Delegate's Report – Robert Redlinger
 - No HALO meetings were held in June and July.
 - FCC Delegate Report – Carmela Warfield
 - Meetings are open to the public, but on hiatus for the summer.
 - The FCC Manager has retired, and the Board is working on the hiring process.
 - The Municipal grant to fund FCC operations was approved in June.
 - President's Report – Carmela Warfield
 - No meeting was held in June – Council was on summer hiatus.
 - Discussed new location for in-person meetings; thanked Hilltop for hosting previously.
 - Looking into signage for meetings to increase community awareness, where to place it, when to place it, and the location to place it.

5. **Reports and presentations from elected officials and community representatives in attendance.**
 - **District F – Senator James Kaufman provided updates:**
 - He recently attended a conference at the Pacific Energy Institute, participated in exercises, and discussed complex issues related to establishing more distributed electric systems with scientists and leaders across the Pacific Rim.

- Chairs the Senate Transportation Committee and provided highlights about various legislation that he was instrumental in getting passed.
- HCC members can acquire additional information on his website and Senator Kaufman invited people to contact him.
- **District 11 – Edra Morledge on behalf of Representative Julie Coulombe, provided updates:**
 - The Governor appointed Rep Coulombe to serve on the Child Care Task Force;
 - The week of July 10th, constituent newsletter will be available.
 - She will be on Facebook live on Saturday, July 15th from 9 am to 10 am;
 - On August 10th Rep Coulombe will be hosting a community event with Senator Kaufman and the community councils. It will be held at the Alaska Zoo gateway hall.

b. Anchorage Assembly Reports

- Assembly Members Randy Sulte and Zac Johnson provided updates on current happenings and deliberations for the Anchorage Assembly. Details can be located in the Assembly section of Muni.org:
 - AO2023-66 - Work sessions will be held on July 14th and July 21st to discuss the proposed zoning changes in the ordinance. If passed, changes will be effective in 2025. A public hearing will be held on AO2023-66 on July 25th.
- The Port of Anchorage was discussed.
- Assembly members provided contact information and welcomed feedback.

c. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Community Information, Joy Boston, CIV USAF PACAF 673 ABW/CDP provided updates.

- These updates included a summary of JBER’s economic impact report for fiscal year 2022, which can be found at: <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Portals/144/factsheets/FY22EIA%20Tri.pdf>.

6. Discussion Items:

a. **AO2023-66** – An ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly amending and repealing portions of Title 21 to create only two residential districts throughout the entire Municipality and waiving Planning and Zoning Commission review. President Warfield advised:

- There will be a **public hearing on July 25, 2023**
- AO2023-66 and accompanying exhibit “A” from May 23, 2023 Assembly meeting packet, and a resolution opposing this proposed ordinance were available in the “Current Meeting Documents” folder on the HCC website.

Extensive discussion ensued. Community Council members asked questions, including:

- the short-and-long term impacts of the proposal on property values, neighborhoods, current property owners;
- the impacts on the property valuations process;
- how the proposal will affect the execution of the Board of Equalization’s property assessment appeals process to determine fair and equitable resolution of appeals;
- the cost to implement and execute these proposed changes;
- the data to support the proposed changes, and more.

Limited information for this proposal was available on the municipal website, and many questions could not be answered. It was also noted that only one informational Town Hall had been held regarding this proposal, and many community councils are on summer hiatus until September. As a result, many residents have not had the opportunity to review AO2023-66 prior to the public hearing on July 25.

President Warfield surveyed the membership to determine a sense of the body:

- Hillside Community Council members in attendance (14) unanimously indicated they do not support AO2023-66.
- Further, HCC members unanimously agreed that Anchorage residents and Assembly members should have a complete and thorough understanding of the short-and-long term impacts that the drastic changes proposed in this ordinance will have on residents, including the impacts to property values, neighborhoods and the Municipality overall, in order to make informed decisions and prior to any vote regarding the approval of this or any future related ordinance.

Since very limited information was available, the body decided these positions would be summarized in a letter and sent to the Assembly and Mayor from the Hillside CC Board of Directors, following the work sessions. An additional, formal resolution will also be considered at a future meeting.

Assembly Members Sulte and Johnson requested that questions re AO 23-66 be sent prior to the work sessions.

b. **Abbott Road/Birch Road Intersection Traffic Information** – President Warfield reported the outcomes of a report requested from APD, to determine the number of accidents at the intersection during a six-month period (September 2022-April 2023). APD provided data that 33 accidents occurred. However, the **question** is that a high number compared to other intersections in the Municipality? President Warfield has requested a comparison to other intersections in town, and will update the membership at a future meeting.

President Warfield asked for a Motion to extend the meeting to 8:10.

Walter Feathery moved and Marc June seconded.

Motion carried.

c. President Warfield discussed the top 11 results for the 2024 Hillside Community Council Survey for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). In general, they focused on fire risk mitigation, and a variety of safety measures needed for pedestrians and drivers. Results are posted on the HCC website.

d. **10-year Community Council Boundaries Review (CCBR)** – the review has been completed by the CCBR Committee, and the outcomes/recommendations were submitted to the Anchorage Assembly. No changes were recommended to HCC boundaries by the Committee.

7. Community Information:

a. The **next Hillside Community Council** meeting is **August 2, 2023**.

b. Carmela expressed thanks to Pastor Voss for letting us use the church for the meeting.

c. HCC website has updates and information for Limited Road Services Areas (LRSAs) and O' Malley road construction, and DOT also has information at: 511.Alaska.gov.

8. Candidates (3 minutes each)

- Senator Kaufman responded as candidate Kaufman.

9. Adjournment

- President Warfield thanked all who attended the meeting.
- Motion to adjourn: Daniel Robbins moved; Robert Redlinger second.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.