

Huffman-O'Malley Community Council (HOCC) – April 2009 Newsletter

Upcoming April 16th meeting: Please plan to attend the April 16th general membership meeting of the Huffman-O'Malley Community Council (HOCC), which is held at the Christian Church of Anchorage located at the corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley at 7:00 pm. HOCC always meets on the third Thursday of each month. You can also read this newsletter online at www.HuffmanOMalleyCC.org.

Huffman Road Project Update

A representative from the State Department of Transportation will be at the April meeting to discuss the Huffman Road project. Briefly, the Huffman Road reconstruction project is currently on track with preliminary work to start as early as 2010. The project is at the 95% design phase and will include one roundabout at Brandon Street/Huffman Park Drive, two roundabouts at Huffman Road/New Seward Highway, and road upgrades all the way to Pintail. (Keep in mind there will also be a roundabout at Old Seward and Huffman, but it is within the 'Old Seward' project.)

Please go to www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm to see the latest descriptions of the changes for the portion of Huffman Road from Brandon Street to Lake Otis Parkway (see the actual design reports at www.hillsideroads.com/reports.htm). The 'Old Seward' project is slated to begin this 2009 construction season. For more information on all hillside road projects, go to www.hillsideroads.com.

O'Malley Road Project Update

The O'Malley Road Reconstruction Project is also back on the planning schedule. The project is currently at the 25% design completion stage (this includes planning for construction bidding). To see the proposed upgrades and changes, go to www.hillsideroads.com/omalleyscope.htm. Watch for updates on this website and schedules for public open houses.

Status Report on Hillside District Plan (HDP) – Wayne Westberg, Citizens' Advisory Committee Member

Consulting firm, Agnew Beck, has not put out the Public Hearing Draft which was supposed to be a reaction/response to the public comments on the Public Review Draft they released in October 2008. For more information, go to the HDP's website at www.hillsidedistrictplan.com/.

The Public Hearing Draft was supposed to be the "final" draft which would go to Planning and Zoning for markups and hearings. This should be considered a potentially dangerous situation in that the HDP is dropping below the horizon of public interest. Further, it now appears that the staff approach is going to be concentrating on the Title 21 Rewrite (Land Use Code), which could possibly delay the HDP until substantial completion of Title 21.

As you read in last month's newsletter, the HOCC submitted comments on the draft that pointed out significant flaws in the document, including the draft not reflecting the community's input. There are elements of the HDP which should take precedence over Title 21, but could get preempted by the Title 21 process. A strong public response should be initiated to Agnew Beck (www.agnewbeck.com/) and Planning Director, Tom Nelson at NelsonTP@ci.anchorage.ak.us, asking why there is a departure from the original schedule.

AWWU Project Update for Huffman-O'Malley Area

The South Anchorage Water Improvement Project (SAWIP) is moving forward. Neighborhood meetings were held on March 24th or 26th to answer questions and address concerns raised by the HOCC and the local community. This is what we heard at the meetings. The Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) water transmission line project is being built to provide more water at higher pressure to households already connected to AWWU service located south and west of the existing pump station at Elmore and 136th Avenue. The project is currently at the 95% design phase. Construction of the approximate 2 mile, 24" diameter, steel pipe line is scheduled to begin this summer and completed by fall 2010. No construction is planned between freeze-up and break-up.

The new water transmission line will extend the existing 24" diameter line, currently stubbed out on the southeast corner of the Abbott Road /Abbott Loop intersection, south along Elmore to 136th Avenue where it will tie into the existing pump station. AWWU plans to install the pipe 10 feet below grade and excavation is expected to stay confined to the west side of Elmore Road, almost entirely within the southbound traffic lane. The only exception is right at the Abbott Road/ Abbott Loop intersection where the line will start on the east side of Elmore and gradually move to the west side. To reduce disruption to traffic and the neighborhood AWWU proposes to excavate the road bed and install the pipe in short sections with only a small portion of the road being disturbed at one time. AWWU plans to repave the disturbed road surface in short sections and not wait until all the pipe installation is completed before resurfacing. Several issues were unresolved: where will construction begin, and how best to manage traffic at the O'Malley and Huffman intersections during construction at those intersections?

The proposed 5-million gallon water reservoir at Elmore and Huffman, south of the Chugach Electric Association substation, is being considered as a separate project. The reservoir's primary purpose is to help with peak period needs and not to reduce

pumping cost as first thought. Construction for this project is at least two years away. More information and the complete plans can be found at: www.awwu.biz/public/project/sawip/project_frame.htm

Ordinance 2009-051 re: Utility Easements

This ordinance will amend Title 21 Land Use Code and it may increase the right-of-way in areas with “significant risk exposure to wildfire, high winds, or other natural disaster in the target areas.” This case will be heard on Monday, May 4, at the Planning & Zoning Commission. Public testimony can be offered there or online at www.muni.org/planning/index.cfm, then click on the link CASES ONLINE on the left hand side.

To get more information on proposed ordinances and amendments to ordinances, go to the Planning Department’s website at www.muni.org/planning/index.cfm, click on CASES ONLINE, and then search for cases in one of the three ways listed. Once you have located the case, you can view the **staff report** that may list the complete version of the proposed ordinance/amendment or additional reports related to the case (if posted). Community councils get a copy of these staff reports or a complete copy of the proposed ordinance if their area is affected, so you keep in touch with us too.

PROPOSED AGENDA – April 16, 2009 Meeting

Approval/amendment of Agenda
Approval/amendment of Minutes from previous meeting
Treasurer’s report
Federation of Community Councils Report
Assembly and Legislative Reports

NEW BUSINESS

Case 2009 – 051 / Ordinance amending Title 21 for utility easements
Case 2007 – 153 / Ordinance amending Title 21 for landscape design
Shawna Popovici, MOA Parks & Rec.
Living With Wildlife presentation
Huffman Road Project, DOT representative
HOCC Elections

CONTINUING BUSINESS/WATCHING

GCS light at Pintail
Furrow Creek Watershed
Tom Thumb property
Hillside District Plan-Title 21 Rewrite
AWWU Water extension to South Anchorage