

Hillside Community Council Meeting
Minutes for Wednesday March 15, 2021, 7:00-9:00pm
Location: Held via Zoom

Board Roll Call: Present: Carmela Warfield, Robert Redlinger, Zac Johnson, Todd Brownson

1. Board Co-President Carmela Warfield opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.
 - Call to order & welcoming remarks.
 - Membership & voting requirements.

2. Consent agenda.
 - Motion to approve the minutes from the February HCC Meeting.
 - Moved: Zac Johnson, Seconded: Robert Redlinger
 - Motion carries.
 - Motion to approve the agenda.
 - Moved: Zac Johnson, Seconded: Todd Brownson
 - Motion carries.

3. Updates and Reports from Officials in Attendance:
 - State Senator Roger Holland:
 - The Senate Education Committee (Sen. Holland Chair) expects to produce a bill within approximately two weeks.
 - The Senate is working on a compromise in legislation that would raise taxes on vaping products and e-cigarettes.
 - Sen. Holland's phone number is (907) 351-8277; constituents are encouraged to contact him.

 - Nancy Kaufman, speaking on behalf of State Representative James Kaufman:
 - Rep. Kaufman's phone number is (907) 465-4949; constituents are encouraged to reach out.
 - People can also sign up for Rep. Kaufman's newsletter at akrepkaufman.com.
 - Rep. Kaufman is currently working on six different bills.

 - Assembly Member John Weddleton:
 - The American Rescue Plan is expected to deliver approximately \$100 million in funds to Anchorage.
 - Half will arrive soon, with the rest coming later in the year.

- There will be fewer restrictions on how the funds may be spent, compared to the previous relief acts.
 - 20-25% will be spent quickly to stimulate the local economy; there will be a slower process for the rest.
 - Emergency Orders are unlikely to be extended past April 16, 2021.
 - Normal MOA purchasing process takes months; the Assembly is looking to change the code to allow for an expedited process.
 - The Anchorage Assembly is looking to change its title from “department” to “branch,” to better reflect the legislative role the AA fills.
 - HCC Co-President Warfield asked where the public might view the proposed changes from Emergency Orders to Assembly Orders?
 - Member Weddleton replied there is no single source; the orders are still in draft form.
 - There will be a public hearing closer to April 16, 2021.
 - HCC Co-President Warfield asked how people should prepare to testify to the Assembly, if they are expected to go to their community council first?
 - There is not sufficient time after the AA agenda is posted for community councils to adequately respond.
 - Member Weddleton acknowledged it is difficult; the agenda is typically posted the Wednesday before the meeting.

4. Presentations:

- Anchorage Police Department Officer Nathan Lewis:
 - HCC Co-President Warfield asked if Ofc. Lewis had statistics relating to crime in the HCC area or other items of local concern?
 - Ofc. Lewis said the HCC area is pretty quiet; common issues involve motor vehicle collisions, vehicles in ditches, and snowmachines on roadways.
 - HCC Member Marc June asked who with APD had attended HCC meetings in the past?
 - Board Member Redlinger responded it was Ofc. Christopher Wright.
- Senior Planner Thede Tobish, MOA Long-Range Planning Division:
 - The Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan, adopted in 2017, covers future zoning plans.
 - The Small-Area Implementation Plan (SAIP) is a proposed new planning tool for complex redevelopment plans.
 - The SAIP allows for more flexible and efficient use of land, within the scope of the 2040 Plan.
 - The SAIP primarily applies to parcels larger than five acres, but can be used for parcels approximately one acre in size.
 - SAIP advantages include a waiver of some fees, allows deviations from Title 21, and allows for public understanding early in the process.

- Comments on the SAIP proposal are due by April 16, 2021; there will be a public hearing on May 3, 2021 with Planning & Zoning.

5. Community Information:

- Kate Sauve, S4 Group (kate@s4ak.com):
 - The Palaterra Preliminary Platting Action would subdivide two existing lots into 12 lots. This is not in the HCC area, but is close.
 - Board Member Redlinger asked if there had been any assessment of the impact of additional traffic in the area?
 - Ms. Sauve stated the Planning Department will determine if a study is needed; the developer is not required to do so unless directed by the MOA.
 - HCC Member Dr. Michael Hanifen asked if the lots were single family?
 - Ms. Sauve answered yes, the lots would be zoned R6 (one dwelling unit/acre).
 - HCC Member Marc June asked why access would be along Buena Vista Drive, instead of De Armoun Road?
 - Ms. Sauve said city planning had recommended against it, citing the steep slope and narrowness of the corridor.
 - HCC Member Wendy Robbins asked if there had been any water runoff studies?
 - Ms. Sauve said soil tests had been done, engineers had looked at the slope, and no issues had been found.
 - Member Hanifen asked if any lots had been sold yet?
 - Ms. Sauve answered no, this is only a proposal for development at this point.

6. Business Updates:

- Co-President Warfield's Report:
 - HCC is working with the Ombudsman on a bylaws update, which will ultimately go to the Assembly for approval.
 - HCC contributed \$50 to HALO to help cover costs from their Mayoral Candidate Forum
- FCC Delegate Johnson's Report:
 - This month's FCC meeting comes after the HCC meeting.
- HALO Delegate Robert Redlinger's Report:
 - Next HALO meeting is on March 19, 2021.
- Zoning Committee Chair Brownson's Report:
 - The Committee is reviewing proposed changes to Title 21 to allow homeless shelters in B3 zoning (of which there is none in HCC's area).
 - Planning & Zoning approved the proposal by a five to three vote.
 - Members may send questions to the HCC Board or reach out to the Assembly directly.

- HCC Member Dr. Michael Hanifen stated he was offended by the proposal, but did not know what the answer to the homeless issue is.
 - Chair Brownson acknowledged it is a complicated issue and noted shelters would require a conditional use permit with nine criteria to be met.
- HCC Member Hanifen asked if the MOA's hotel purchase was related?
 - Chair Brownson said that is a good question for the Assembly.
- Assembly Member Weddleton stated the Assembly passed a resolution two years ago not to focus homeless services in the downtown district.
 - Conditional use permits could add more restrictions to a shelter site.
 - Shelters would need a license to operate, which could be revoked.
- HCC Member Hanifen asked why even open an opportunity for an incident?
 - Member Weddleton responded there are a lot of different reasons why people are homeless.
- HCC Member Dia Matteson asked if shelters are always full or if some people choose not to use them?
 - Member Weddleton said most homeless are looking to step up and out; collocating services at the shelter can help.
- Co-President Warfield asked what are the criteria for licensing?
 - Member Weddleton advised there is currently a crude draft being reviewed by an attorney; nothing is currently before the Assembly.
- HCC Member Brittany Tompkins asked about no tolerance for camping?
 - Member Weddleton acknowledged that is a tough issue; want to create incentives for people to use shelters.
- MCC Member Matteson asked if there are any laws preventing no tolerance for camping?
 - Member Weddleton answered 9th Circuit precedent states it cannot be illegal for a person to be poor or homeless.
- Co-President Warfield advised the Committee will schedule meetings with Assembly Members and will present findings at the April HCC Meeting.

7. Mayoral & School Board Candidates:

- Anchorage School District Seat G Candidate Carl Jacobs:
 - Has worked as an investigator, been involved in the regulatory process, and has fostered over 40 children.
 - Key priorities include addressing budget gaps, career training, and educational gaps from time away from the classroom.
 - Phone number is (907) 632-7285, website: carl4anchorage.com.

8. Announcements:

- Municipal Election will be on April 6, 2021.
- The next HCC Meeting will be on April 19, 2021 at 7 pm.

8. Open Discussion:

- Joy Boston, responsible for community outreach for Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, has been attending lots of community council meetings.
 - Ms. Boston retired from the Air Force last year, and is available to help with community questions or concerns.
- HCC Member Janice Blanchard asked if HCC would be participating in any upcoming mayoral candidate forums?
 - Co-President Warfield advised there would be a joint forum for West Anchorage Community Councils. HCC also supported the HALO forum, and there is an open spot on the monthly agenda for mayoral candidates.

9. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn.
 - Moved: Robert Redlinger, Seconded: Zac Johnson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm