

Hillside Community Council Meeting
Minutes for Monday April 19, 2021, 7:00-9:00pm
Location: Held via Zoom

Board Roll Call: Present: Carmela Warfield, Bruce Vergason, Zac Johnson, Todd Brownson

1. Board Co-President Carmela Warfield opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
 - Call to order & welcoming remarks.
 - Membership & voting requirements.

2. Consent agenda.
 - Motion to amend the agenda to postpone approval of March HCC Minutes to May meeting.
 - Moved: Zac Johnson, Seconded: Todd Brownson
 - Motion carries.
 - Motion to approve the agenda.
 - Moved: Bruce Vergason, Seconded: Todd Brownson
 - Motion carries.

3. Updates and Reports from Officials in Attendance:
 - Anchorage Assembly Member John Weddleton:
 - There are numerous boards and commissions in the MOA, with many vacant positions. More information at: <https://onboard.muni.apply/>
 - American Relief Plan Act
 - Expecting about \$101 million for MOA; half in the next few weeks and half a year later.
 - Guidance on spending requirements is expected soon.
 - Community members are encouraged to send their ideas to the Assembly.
 - The latest Emergency Order will expire in June.
 - EO loosens restrictions on occupancy at commercial locations.
 - Members Weddleton and LaFrance both voted against the EO (carried six to four).
 - Member Weddleton does not believe the current situation qualifies as an emergency; regular ordinances would be a more appropriate tool.
 - The Anchorage Election will be certified by the Assembly on April 20, 2021.
 - One school board race will go to a recount; other recounts may be requested.
 - There was an ugly incident at the Assembly meeting the previous week.

- Chair Rivera had strong words condemning comments made by Assembly Member Allard the week before.
 - There will be Assembly Comments on April 20, 2021, where Members may make statements for the record.
 - There will also be a vote on reorganization, which will determine the acting Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - State Senator Roger Holland:
 - Senate Bill 111 has moved out of committee.
 - Senator Holland was appointed Chair of the Judiciary Committee.
 - HCC Member Carol Waters asked what SB111 covers in terms of pre-K education?
 - SB111 provides funding for the lowest performing schools to create pre-K programs.
 - Seth Dugan (seth.duggan@akleg.com), for State Senator Revak:
 - Working on SB69, SB40, SB23, SB22 and SB 21.
 - SB40 will require attorneys to notify veterans to free services provided by Veterans Affairs before they can purchase similar services.
 - HCC Member Dr. Michael Hanifen asked if the VA had services for wills and similar documents?
 - Mr. Dugan advised the VA does.
 - HCC Member Deb Call recommended SB 121 include testing for PFAS chemicals if they are used in wildland firefighting.
 - HCC Member Marc June asked if it would be better for the VA to expand advertising of services, rather than create an additional requirement for attorneys?
 - Mr. Dugan clarified that attorneys would be given specific verbiage for what they had to post, and that the State does not have any control over the VA.

4. Presentations:

- Anchorage Police Department Officer Nathan Lewis:
 - There were 700 calls for service in the Hillside area in March; mostly security checks and nothing too serious.
 - HCC Board Member Zac Johnson advised Ofc. Lewis that a local resident had complained of ongoing problems with dumping and other illegal activity at the south end of Strogonoff Dr.
 - Ofc. Lewis will email Swing Shift to let them know of the issue.
- HCC Co-President Carmela Warfield, for the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce:
 - City-wide cleanup kicks off May 1, 2021; goal is to pick up 2.8 million pounds of garbage. More information at: citywidecleanup.org

5. Community Information:

- Joy Boston (joy.boston.2@us.af.mil), for Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson Community Partner:
 - Persons with base privileges can get prescriptions filled by phone via text. More information at: <https://www.facebook.com/JBERPharmacy/>
 - Northern Edge, a major statewide exercise involving all branches starts at the end of the month. More information at: <https://fb.watch/4XwRW1CyEw/>
 - Post Gate Road will be closed May and June. Boniface Gate will be closed July and August; the collocated control center will be closed the rest of the year (go to the Richardson Gate to get a guest pass).
 - The 9th Army Band will be performing across the state; events are open to the public. More information at: <https://m.facebook.com/JBERAK/>

6. Business Updates:

- Co-President Carmela Warfield's Report:
 - Firewise meeting on April 20, 2021 at 7 pm.
 - CIP survey comments are due May 31, 2021; HCC member comments & feedback are welcome.
- Treasurer Bruce Vergason's Report:
 - Currently locked out of the account, but will provide an update soon.
- FCC Delegate Zac Johnson's Report:
 - Nothing of note for the HCC area from the March FCC meeting.
- Julie Coulombe (coulombe.julie@yahoo.com) for the HALO Delegate's Report:
 - In charge of HALO Board nominations; reach out if interested.
- Zoning Committee Chair Todd Brownson's Report:
 - Proposed changes to Title 21 and licensing for homeless shelters is expected to go before the Assembly in June.
 - The Committee's next meeting is on April 24, 2021.
 - The Committee is working with Assembly Members and is asking community members/local businesses for input; send ideas to the HCC email address.
 - Goal is to have an actionable recommendation for the HCC Meeting in May.

7. Mayoral & School Board Candidates:

- None in attendance.

8. Announcements:

- Co-President Carmela Warfield:
 - The Mayoral Election runoff ballots are due May 11, 2021.
 - Next HCC meeting will be on May 17, 2021 at 7 pm.
- Cindy Epperson, for Chugach Electric Board Candidate Erin Whitney:

- Ms. Whitney is intelligent, organized, Alaska-raised, a community volunteer, nonprofit board member, and university professor teaching electric grid strategies.
- Ms. Whitney has ideas to spread fixed costs, rate structures, and for solar energy applications.
- There is more information on the Chugach Electric election website.
- Trevor Bird, Director at Hilltop Ski Area:
 - Hilltop is applying for a beer & wine recreational license.
 - Community Members are encouraged to reach out with questions or concerns.
 - HCC Member Joy Boston asked if Hilltop will be open in the summer?
 - Dir. Bird said Hilltop was developing a bike park, improving food & beverage, and trending towards being open in summer.
 - A community member asked if beer & wine would be served at the snack shop?
 - Dir. Bird answered yes; the snack shop would be getting a “facelift” this summer and adding outdoor seating.
- HCC Member Christiane Schild:
 - There is a DEA prescription take-back on May 1, 2021, at various locations, including Fred Meyers. More information at takebackday.dea.gov.

8. Open Discussion:

- None.

9. Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn.
 - Moved: Bruce Vergason.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm