

**Hillside Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for Monday November 15, 2021, 7:00 pm**  
**Draft**  
**Location: Held via Zoom**

**Board Roll Call:** Present: Carmela Warfield, Zac Johnson, Robert Redlinger, Todd Brownson, Dr. Helena Wisniewski

1. **Board President Warfield opened the meeting at 7:04pm.**
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Call to order & welcoming remarks.
  - Membership & voting requirements.
  
2. **Consent Agenda:**
  - Motion to approve the agenda.
    - Moved: Zac Johnson, Seconded: Robert Redlinger.
    - Motion to approve agenda carried.
  - Motion to approve the minutes from the October HCC Meeting.
    - Moved: Robert Redlinger, Seconded: Zac Johnson.
    - Motion carried.
  
3. **Updates and Reports from any elected officials in attendance:**
  - Anchorage Fire Department Chief Doug Schrage.
    - Anticipate some amendments from the Assembly to proposed budget for 2022.
    - In response to community concerns regarding closing some fire apparatus at certain times:
      - Call volume is lower at night (when closures occur), which minimizes the risk of a delayed response due to the closures.
      - Since the policy was enacted, approximately 1,000 hours of overtime have been saved, with no major impacts on safety.
      - AFD has been chronically overbudget with overtime.
    - Tim Alderson asked if Hillside homeowners should be more concerned about wildland fires than structure fires?
      - Wildfires are less frequent, and AFD staff differently for those. The risk at night (when closures are happening) is minimal.
    - Robert Redlinger asked if there is a working relation with DNR to address fires that may spread to wildland?
      - Responsibility is shared with DNR. There is a cooperators agreement in place, the agencies train together, and they respond together in the interface zone.
    - Joy Boston asked what is the basis for station locations?
      - Locations are based on driving times. Goal is to have a four minute response time for a basic response (based on a national standard).
    - Carmela Warfield asked, is the Hillside area is safe and adequately protected?

- Believe we are striking the best balance between mitigating risk and being fiscally responsible.
  - William Dougherty asked what is the proposed change in the AFD budget from 2021 to 2022?
    - It has been proposed to reduce the budget by \$1.6mil (approximately 2%).
- Senator Joshua Revak
  - Land allotments have been made available for Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans, under the Alaska Native Vietnam Veteran Land Allotment Program. .
  - Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans or their heirs may be eligible for the land allotment. For more information, contact Senator Revak’s office, or visit the Federal Bureau of Land Management’s website.
  - Re-appropriated \$40,000 for fire abatement and mitigation on the Hillside in Anchorage.
  - Would encourage constituents who have concerns about pedestrian safety along O’Malley Rd to contact his office.
  - Marc June asked about allotments to Alaska Native Veterans, is that not an entirely Federal issue?
    - The Federal Government still owes lands to the State of Alaska for the allotment.
- Mayor Dave Bronson (Director of Community Engagement Portia Erickson presenting)
  - SWS Director and Healthcare Director were both confirmed by the Assembly.
  - Still have about 70 vacancies on boards and commissions.
  - The Federal Infrastructure Bill includes funding for Port of Anchorage infrastructure.
  - There is an opportunity for property tax exemptions for disabled Veterans.
- Anchorage Assemblymember John Weddleton
  - Assembly redistricting is ongoing, but will not be enacted prior to upcoming elections.
  - A plan for addressing homelessness has been agreed upon. Looking at using funds from the alcohol tax to enact the plan.
  - In regards to the O’Malley Rd pedestrian safety issues, does not believe DOT has historically given the issue adequate consideration.
- ASD Board Member Kelly Lessens
  - Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop will retire at the end of the school year.
  - ASD will be looking for a new superintendent after June 2022.
  - Still struggling with staffing shortages affecting bus routes.
  - Will be formally accepting third round of federal relief funding at next Board meeting.
  - Robert Redlinger mentioned an article from ASD Board Member Dave Donnelly pointing out there are no longer State funds to assist with local school bonds.
- Representative James Kaufman (Chief of Staff Matthew Harvey presenting)
  - Rep. Kaufman is attending National Coalition of Insurance Legislators meeting.
  - Working on getting a list of prioritized capital projects for consideration next session.
  - Will have surveys on website for community members to weigh in on priorities.
- President Warfield requested a motion to reorder the agenda to move the discssion item, O’Malley Road Phase II Reconstruction and community concerns related to pedestrian access to Rockridge Dr., before HCC Board business updates.
  - Moved: Robert Redlinger, Seconded: Marc June.
  - Motion carried.

4. **Discussion Item:**

- O'Malley Road Construction Phase II – Alaska DOT Project Engineer Frank Lee & Assistant Project Engineer Hannah Counter
  - Frank Lee was handed the project about a month ago; has heard concerns about the O'Malley Elementary road crossing.
  - If it is related to a school, believe that is the responsibility of the MOA or ASD to offer input on planning. During the planning and preplanning, there has not been any guidance offered.
  - Tim Alderson, President of Upper O'Malley LRSA
    - LRSA maintains Rockridge Dr., despite Rockridge falling well outside the physical boundaries of the Upper O'Malley LRSA.
    - Issue was raised with DOT in 2019, in the context of increasing traffic due to adding more students at O'Malley Elementary.
    - DOT conducted a traffic study, dated March 2020, recommending referring the site to ASD and the MOA.
    - Rockridge Rd additionally needs upgrades to safely accommodate pedestrians. Upper O'Malley LRSA does not have funds to complete these upgrades or do any work besides snow removal and winter maintenance.
  - Todd Brownson mentioned this issue has been brought up repeatedly over the last decade. Recommend looking towards achievable solutions, rather than relitigating what should have been done.
  - Noel Rea stated he believes we still have an opportunity to do something to address concerns.
  - President Warfield requested a motion to extend the meeting to 9pm.
    - Moved: Marc June; Seconded: Robert Redlinger.
    - Motion passed.
  - Todd Brownson said this is the appropriate time for people to offer solutions, and for HCC to consolidate proposals.
  - Noel Rea recommend a pedestrian crosswalk, reduced speed limit and/or treating asphalt to improve stopping.
  - Frank Lee said he does not believe the plan or profile will change much. Adding markings or lighting is more likely feasible than changing the road profile/structure. There is still time for ideas to be considered.
  - Tim Alderson suggested putting a pedestrian bridge out as a possibility. Does not believe a crosswalk is feasible due to the slope of the road and snow removal limitations.
  - Senator Revak asked for community members to contact his office with their concerns related to this issue. Asked that they provide their best contact information & address in the email to his office, to reflect they reside in the area.

5. **Business Updates:**

President Warfield asked for abbreviated reports to be respectful of time, as meeting is running long.

- President Warfield:
  - Changes to meeting dates in December and January.
- Treasurer Redlinger:
  - No updates.
- FCC Delegate Johnson:

- Did not attend the October FCC Meeting.
- HALO Delegate Redlinger:
  - There are three pending FOIA requests from HALO to the MOA, relating to property appraisals.

6. **Presentations:**

- AK Child & Family – Director of Development Angela Rush, Treatment Foster Care Therapist Kelsey Ledford, and Director of Community Programs Katy Smith
  - Has been providing young Alaskans for 131 years with mental health services.
  - There is a significant unmet need for foster care in the community.
  - Asking community members to help spread the word about the need for foster parents.
  - [www.akchild.org](http://www.akchild.org) or (907)792-4111

7. **Community Information:**

- JBER Community Liaison Joy Boston
  - There is a new JBER History app, <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Info/History/>, or link to the Historian’s page from the JBER Connect app, <http://apps.appmachine.com/jberconnect>.
  - For beneficiaries that use the JBER Pharmacy, beginning December 15, 2021 Walmart and Sam’s Club pharmacies will no longer be part of TRICARE’s pharmacy network; CVS will join the pharmacy network.
    - More info at the JBER Pharmacy – 673d Medical Group (Official) Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/205145626176618/posts/4734793909878411/?d=n>
  - Also, two opportunities this summer, one at JBER for budget analyst internships in Summer 2022 and the AIM HIGH Flight Academy in Florida.
- President Warfield requested a motion to extend the meeting to 9:10pm.
  - Moved: Robert Redlinger; Seconded: Todd Brownson.

8. **Candidate Forum:**

- Jennifer Sonne, House Candidate
  - Will be running in House District 11.

9. **Announcements:**

- Next HCC Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 7pm. Will feature presentation from Jack Gadamus w/the MOA, on Property Tax valuations, Green Cards, Exemptions for Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizens, and more.

10. **Open Discussion:**

- None.

11. **Adjournment:**

- President Warfield thanked all who attended the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.