

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – April 27, 2022, 6:30 p.m. - Meeting Held Online via ZOOM
2022 Winter/Spring Dates: January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25
OSOVCC Website: <http://communitycouncils.org/OSOVCC>
Meetings are Audio and Video Recorded

Board Members: President, Roselynn Cacy, Vice President Carol Fuller, Treasurer Stan Moll, Secretary/FCC Delegate Nancy Joseph
Members are reminded to contact the OSOVCC Board with questions and issues at the following email address so that we can respond and assist as appropriate. Email address for OSOVCC President and Board Members: osovcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. **President Cacy** presiding. Quorum in place. Community Council/FCC Zoom meeting protocol guidelines were read into the record. All attendees were required to state their name, street location in the Old Seward/Oceanview area, or if they were a guest to our meeting, provide their name and affiliation. The April 2022 Agenda and March 2022 Minutes were approved. **Treasurer Report** - bank account balance as of March 31, 2022 is \$1,613.27. Sandwich board decals are being designed for the meeting notice boards to update residents of upcoming meetings. \$150 FCC funds will be used; there may be a small amount which will be paid from the OSOVCC account. May is our last meeting until summer break; we will again meet in September 2022. *Note:* Our new website address is <http://communitycouncils.org/OSOVCC>

Federation of Community Councils (“FCC”) Update Nancy Joseph

- 1) The Federation of Community Councils has its summer get together at Valley of the Moon Park on July 20th. This is a barbeque for all and is an opportunity to learn about and meet people involved in the other Community Councils around Anchorage.
- 2) Capital Improvement Project (“CIP”) priority nominations are due to the Muni in June. These nominations are prioritized by each community council area based on infrastructure needs for roads, parks, trails, drainage, and other upgrades. This CIP list doesn’t include operating expenses. For example, the E. 120th Avenue Upgrade, currently being phased for construction, had been on the list for 10 years. Others that have consistently been on the list are upgrades to our parks and trails in OSOVCC area. Provide your nominations to OSOVcommunitycouncil@gmail.com prior to the May 25, 2022 Community Council meeting.
- 3) In our May 2022 meeting, Jason Grenn of the Alaskans for Better Elections will present a slideshow on the upcoming election voting processes we will encounter for the rest of 2022. Ballots for the temporary replacement for Don Young have been mailed out and voters are to pick one candidate, have the signature on the envelope witnessed, and mail or drop off the ballot timely. Future ballots will require Rank Choice Voting processes, which will be explained. <http://www.alaskansforbetterelections.com/>

OSOV Community Patrol Jeff Childs – Jeff remarked about the number of burglaries and armed robberies in Anchorage over the past month. Other members told of suspicious individuals on Crow Circle and on other streets checking doors to break into homes – one incident with three neighbors outside with guns to deal with it. This was not reported to APD, so neighbors were asked to call APD to report all incidences of attempted crimes for the same reason you would observe a house on fire and call the fire department – contact authorities to handle it. **Volunteers** are needed/welcome to help patrol the OSOV area. Contact Jeff at 907-240-7880. Burglaries and car thefts are on the uptick in our neighborhood at this time.

OSOVCC Note: If You See Something – Say Something. It is important to report all crimes, thefts, and perceived threats by suspicious individuals in order to demonstrate to APD the community’s level of criminal activity affecting homeowners and businesses. Don’t assume someone else is reporting what you experience. Report all suspicious activity and traffic hazards to 3-1-1; if you are in immediate danger, call 9-1-1. Anyone seeing destruction or vandalism in our parks should call Muni Parks at 343-4355 and APD at 3-1-1 when the crime is being observed. Take pictures with your phone. If something is vandalized or playground equipment is broken, make the call to Muni Parks. Report homeless camps and motorized vehicles on our trails.

Anchorage Police Department was invited to speak at this meeting about the manhunt and armed robbery/home invasion near DeArmoun Rd/Old Seward Highway. They did not attend this meeting; we will invite them again to the May meeting.

Juneau Senator Natasha von Imhof – Not present; no report. To reach Senator von Imhof: sen.natasha.vonimhof@akleg.gov and 907-465-2995. Contact Shareen Crosby for information, and links to videos and Facebook at shareen.crosby@akleg.gov

Juneau House Representative Tom McKay – Rep. McKay spoke about upcoming elections and processes and voting in November for Governor, Senators, Congress, Legislators, and the Constitutional Convention question. Other topics included 1) PFD discussions which McKay supports and has voted for higher payouts, 2) an anticipated May 19th Legislative adjournment, 3) \$1.2 Billion for forward funding education, retiring school bond debt, and for the Port of Alaska project, 4) surplus for budgets is there due to higher

oil prices and federal funds available through the infrastructure packages, 5) higher crime is evident in Anchorage including an armed robbery at Fred Meyer over a cell phone, 6) oilfield development is increasing, 7) McKay supports the Constitutional Convention to modify the Alaska Constitution (the process was briefly discussed). Jeff Childs mentioned the Port of Alaska asking about “Juneau’s” requests for funding – it is supported by the Anchorage Mayor and Assembly as well as other mayors from around Alaska.

Anchorage Mayor’s Office Portia Erickson – Briefly,

- 1) Outreach support for Port funding is actively being pursued by the Mayor’s office.
- 2) Community grants for art and projects can be applied for at the link below.
- 3) May 1 – removal of studded tires.
- 4) Firewise at Hilltop on Saturday April 30th.
- 5) Citywide cleanup effort during May – watch for free pass to SWS for orange bag disposal.
- 6) Job Fairs are ongoing with a Youth Job Fair for food service, grocery stores, construction flagging, restaurants.
- 7) May 7 at the DOME - picnic to welcome the refugee population from Afghanistan. After hearing concerns about crime in our area, the Mayor’s office said they will help engage APD to interact with residents.

To contact the Mayor’s office, send an email to: mayor@muni.org

Topics Links: <https://www.anchoragechamber.org/citywide-cleanup-regulations-and-bag-pickup-locations-2/>

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Boards/Pages/Grants.aspx>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-free-summer-disposal-pass-tickets-275127913997>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/afghan-welcome-picnic-tickets-294836482857>

Assembly Suzanne LaFrance –

- 1) Regarding the Port of Alaska, the Mayor’s office and the Assembly are aligned in requesting funding through the federal settlement and the infrastructure packages. Funding through tariffs is not desired as costs get passed on to consumers. The federal settlement funds may be used to construct the temporary North port to be used during reconstruction of the existing port.
- 2) The Anchorage election was certified on April 26th. Over 70,000 votes were cast. The extended certification period allowed for time for Election Division to do the ballot certifications.
- 3) The Reapportionment map (3/23/2022) was approved. OSOVCC is still in District 6, but Bayshore/Klatt are out.
- 4) Downtown Assembly Member election will occur for the 12th Assembly member; however, only that district will vote.
- 5) Homeless program/Navigation Center efforts for Tudor and Elmore continue. June 30th is a milestone for exiting the Sullivan Arena. There are funding questions, contract concessions, and impacts to taxpayers that have been brought to light in the past week that were not previously revealed to the Assembly. Assembly attention is on getting clarity and working through the negative impacts to taxpayers.
- 6) The first quarter budget was approved unanimously.
- 7) A \$25,000 financial allotment was requested by John Weddleton and approved by the Assembly for a public relations campaign along the railbelt regarding the Alaska Railroad’s practices in regard to private property ownership. The decision ruling against Flying Crown HomeOwners Association is being appealed.

Assembly Randy Sulte – Welcome to Randy Sulte as our new District 6 Assembly representative as of April 26th. Randy mentioned the upcoming election and the use of ballot tracker. Randy is ready to help residents of District 6.

<https://www.muni.org/departments/assembly/clerk/elections/pages/ballot-tracking.aspx>

Assembly Contacts:

Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, 907-351-7199 mobile/text, E-Mail: Suzanne.LaFrance@AnchorageAK.gov

Randy Sulte, Anchorage Assembly District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, 907-770-0685, E-Mail: Randy.Sulte@AnchorageAK.gov

OSOVCC Note: Find the Assembly work sessions schedule at

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Meetings-Worksessions.asp>

To receive the **Assembly** quarterly newsletters, sign up at wwmas@muni.org

Anchorage School Board – Not present

Joint Base Elmendorf/Richardson – JBER - Community Outreach Kathleen Bryant, Public Affairs Specialist 907-552-8996
jber.pa@us.af.mil - Current activities:

- 1) Use iSportsman if recreating on JBER; register for an account at <https://jber.isportsman.net> See if training areas are open for recreation and sign in and out of recreation areas.
- 2) April is the Month of the Military Child. There will be events going on across the base to celebrate children of military members. Find out more information at <https://www.facebook.com/100067554468896/posts/313806417547838/?d=n> on the JBER Connect app or on our Facebook page.
- 3) The next unaccompanied veteran committal service will be Wednesday, April 27 at 2:30 PM at the National Cemetery; contact Virginia for help getting on base, Virginia.Walker1@va.gov
- 4) Municipality's Memorial Day event "Anchorage Remembers" will be on Monday, May 30 at 9:30 AM at the Veteran's Memorial on I St between 9th and 10th Ave, downtown Anchorage.
- 5) ANG Band of the South will perform at the Veterans Wall of Honor in Wasilla on May 30 for Memorial Day; more info about the Band of the South at <https://www.music.af.mil/Bands/ANG-Band-of-the-South/About-Us/>
- 6) Arctic Thunder Open House is back this year, July 30-31! Find updates on Facebook and at <https://www.arcticthunderopenhouse.com/2021/12/30/2022-is-coming/>
<https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/>
- 7) Slide shown via Zoom - JBER has released our Economic Impact Assessment for FY21! See the attached PDF for a breakdown on JBER's impact on Alaska
- 8) JBER is returning to normal operations following our reduction to Health Protection Condition Alpha due to the lower transmission rate in the local area. We are actively seeking community partnerships right now and will be revamping our tour program in the months to come. I will keep you updated on any changes we make. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you have!

Old Business: Final Vote on Resolution #2022-01 Opposing the Location of Afognak's licensed Brown Jug liquor store

Recap from March meeting: The OSOVCC Alcohol and Marijuana Committee has drafted a resolution opposing the location of the Brown Jug liquor store based on the comments received from CC members regarding Afognak's plans to locate the store on Lot M-1 between Huffman Road/Industry Park Drive, and Huffman Park Drive. Afognak provided a briefing in the February 23, 2022 Community Council meeting which met with members' comments opposing the site for reasons of oversaturation of liquor package stores in a condensed area and the Muni consultant's engineering report stating an increase of 68% in traffic to the area.

Comments from Mike McVittie, Anchorage Wine House, regarding a petition with over 320 signatures opposed to Brown Jug's location. He talked with Randy Sulte, and the Sand Lake Community Council also supports the petition. Berni Bradley says she is the lone No vote and doesn't want the Resolution to Pass.

Resolution Passed with votes taken: 15 Yea, 2 Abstain, 1 No Vote

The signed Resolution will be sent to the Assembly, Mayor's Office, Rep. Tom McKay, Muni Traffic, Muni Planning, and other parties.

Anchorage Parks Foundation Challenge Grant for 2022 – Stan Moll – Our application was denied; however, Stan is hoping to get a committee together to "save" John's Park from vandalization, unauthorized tree cutting, birch tree tapping, and unauthorized creek side harvesting of foliage, and to get the Muni Parks Department to perform our requested Johns Park Capital Improvement Project priority (mitigation, repairs, improvements, repairs to vandalized areas, and to repair the bridge buffer area that failed after the bridge replacement during the same year). **Note:** There is a Johns Park plan registered with the Muni Parks Department that should be reviewed prior to any undertaking of new plans being promoted.

Guests – Joe Alston – Eldon Subdivision contaminated water well situation. Recap: In our March CC meeting, Rep. Tom McKay mentioned the water well poisoning (arsenic and magnesium) affecting 43 homes in the Eldon Subdivision off E. 120th and Huffman. We invited Joe Alston to provide an overview of the situation to inform other community members of the ongoing crisis. The OSOVCC would help to communicate to agencies to resolve the homeowners' water problems. Note: Eldon Subdivision is South of 120th, East of Division St. and includes homes on E. 120th, Bill Street and Jack Street.

Alston presented a comprehensive look at water and sewer situations at subdivision lots, pictures of water contamination, damage to home bathrooms, water from the faucet, discussed potable water problem and cost, discussed the possible effects to humans consuming the water, showed pictures of the top soil mound nearly 2 stories high at A-1 Landscaping yard adjacent to the subdivision, the lack of fire hydrant installations for emergencies, and the lack of traffic and pedestrian amenities on the streets. The giant dirt pile is leaching into adjacent properties and into Furrow Creek. Members mentioned the historical failures of this landscaping lot, including the neighbor disputes and the fire at the compost pile in recent history. Actions under way: Alston is meeting with AWWU to set up a new water district for the residents. Angelus Cemetery had previously committed to the project but unfortunately backed out, which ensured failure of the petition by residents to get the new water district. Randy Sulte volunteered

to help with this immediately, and Rep. McKay asked for the slide pack so he could send this along to state agencies to get environmental actions going. Alston will advise us regularly of progress. OSOVCC will continue to communicate to agencies and representatives.

Guests – Gary Matthews, Project Coordinator – Community Garden at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. At the corner of Old Seward Highway and Oceanview Drive, a new community garden is being built by Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church. At least 30 garden beds will be available to help people grow a garden. There is great community support and enthusiasm, and contractors like Yardacopia, Bell's Nursery, Garden clubs, and others are donating and helping with the effort. Long term plans are for 50 beds, garden benches, and more on this 3-acre plot. The church has been there for 44 years and is happy to bring this into our neighborhood. If you want more information, contact Gary at 907-441-4298 garmat@gci.net

Next Month's Meeting:

Jason Grenn – 2022 Elections Process slide show www.alaskansforbetterelections.com

Scorpion Grass – To discuss future location of marijuana retail store north of Sonic on Industry Way/Huffman Park Drive

Motion passed to Adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

NOTES: APD – Anchorage Police Department AWWU – Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility

CC – Community Council FCC – Federation of Community Councils OSOVCC – Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council