

**Hillside Community Council Meeting**  
**Minutes for Monday, March 21, 2022, 7:00 pm**  
**Draft**  
**Location: Held via Zoom**

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

1. **Board President Warfield opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.**
  - Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Moment of silence to observe the passing of Congressman Don Young.
  - Call to order & welcoming remarks.
  - Membership & voting requirements.
  
2. **Consent Agenda:**
  - President Warfield requested a motion to amend the March HCC meeting agenda, to add an update from School Board Member Lessens to Item 4 and an add action item to Item 5:
    - Moved: Todd Brownson, Seconded: Robert Redlinger.
    - Motion carried.
  - President Warfield requested a motion to approve the agenda as amended:
    - Moved: Robert Redlinger, Seconded: Todd Brownson.
    - Motion carried.
  
3. **Business Updates:**
  - FCC Delegate Johnson:
    - Was unable to attend the March FCC meeting.
    - From the minutes:
      - The Mayor created the “Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification Advisory Committee.” More information at [www.acda.net](http://www.acda.net).
      - Anchorage Chamber of Commerce city-wide cleanup is scheduled for May 1-28.
  - Treasurer Report:
    - No new spending to report.
  - HALO Delegate Redlinger:
    - HALO recently hosted a candidate forum for Assembly and School Board Candidates at the Zoo.
  - President Warfield:
    - Encouraged everyone to vote in the Municipal Election. Hopes to see an increased voter turnout.
    - A study has been commissioned to evaluate traffic patterns and possible solutions for the O’Malley Rd/Rockridge Rd pedestrian crossing.
      - Study will look at current conditions and patterns at O’Malley Rd/Rockridge Rd, and also at a comparable school zone with characteristics similar to those that will be at O’Malley/Rockridge once road work and improvements are completed.

- Spoke with the Principal at O'Malley Elementary, who appreciated the efforts to address student safety.
  - The Upper O'Malley LRSA does not have funding for Rockridge Dr improvements, but a request has been entered into CAPSIS to request State funding.
- Reapportionment is nearing completion. The review period has been extended from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - A Special Assembly meeting is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, where it is expected the Assembly will approve a map.
  - The current map under consideration, Weddleton/Wells Map 11v2, does not reapportion a group of Hillside residents in with Eagle River.

#### 4. **Reports from Elected Officials and Community Representatives:**

- Representative Laddie Shaw:
  - Over 400 bills introduced. Expect the budget to be presented later this week.
  - President Warfield asked if a special session was likely?
    - Rep. Shaw did not expect that to happen; legislators will want to campaign.
  - Expecting the size of the PFD dividend check to be a major talking point in House Finance Committee.
- Emma Torkelson, for Senator Josh Revak:
  - The CAPSIS deadline was March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All community council items were included.
  - Sen. Revak is moving forward with a bill to help homeowners in HOAs and a bill to extend the Purple Heart Memorial Trail.
  - Julie Coulombe asked about the status of the funding Mayor Bronson is requested for the Port of Anchorage?
    - The request is moving forward, but unsure of its present status.
- President Warfield, reading for Assembly member Suzanne LaFrance:
  - The Heritage Land Bank is taking comments on the draft HLB Work Program until 5 pm on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Assembly's primary focus is working on an exit from mass care for the homeless at the Sullivan Arena. Funds have been identified for the development of a new adult navigation center.
  - Ballot measure includes funding for ASD improvements.
  - Mayor has asked legislature for \$600 million for the Port of Anchorage.
- ASD Board Member Kelly Lessens:
  - The AEA contract has been signed, which will help with workforce retention.
  - The budget has been adopted; focuses on using federal funds to improve student outcomes.
  - The Anchorage School Art Show is going on now.
  - There is a School Bond proposition on the ballot, which would address critical maintenance and security upgrades.
  - An outside firm is helping with the search for a new superintendent. The applicant pool has been narrowed to five semi-finalists. Three finalists will come to Anchorage next week for interview.

- President Warfield asked if any Alaskan education professionals are finalists, and when the names of the finalists will be announced?
  - Will share this information as soon as able.
- Marc June asked about a looming deficit (about \$67 million) expected for the 2024/25 school year?
  - The Base Student Allocation has been flat for several years, while costs have been going up. This has effectively reduced the school budget year over year. Federal relief funds have been used to maintain person to teacher ratios for now.
- Rep. Shaw spoke on the need for accountability in spending for the school district.
  - Additional dollars spent do not seem to correspond with improvements.
  - The retirement system is broken and high turnover in teachers is a problem.
- President Warfield asked about redrawing school boundary lines?
  - Expect this to happen in 2022. Required every ten years. Will be a very involved community process.
- President Warfield asked if the ASD Board is considering making changes to the Administration Section in budgeting and looking for efficiencies? Teachers often seem to be the first target.
  - It is difficult to identify programs to cut in order to save money; many programs are highly valued by the community.
- ASD Board meetings will be on Mondays next month.
- There will be a board reorganization after the election.
- Assembly member John Weddleton:
  - Reapportionment continues. Special meeting on Wednesday, with three amendments up for consideration.
  - Working with Mayor to address homelessness. Put \$800,000 towards design of new low-barrier shelter on Tudor Rd (to accommodate 200 persons). Getting ready to close on the Sockeye Inn; private money is going to cover the cost.
  - Looking for \$600 million from legislature for the Port of Anchorage. Total cost for project could be \$1.7 billion.
  - There is a proposal for tax abatement for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) for a ten-year period. Expecting an updated version of proposal from Assemblywoman Zalatel.
  - President Warfield asked if any more amendments are expected regarding reapportionment?
    - Not expecting any significant changes, but it is possible.
- Joy Boston, JBER Community Liason:
  - Polar Force exercise is starting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Demonstrating base readiness. Increased noise expected.
  - There will be two booths at the Sportsman's Show, running from April 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - There is an Unaccompanied Veteran Committal Service on the last Wednesday of every month, which honors veterans buried in cemetery without family present.
    - President Warfield asked if this service happens on the same day every month?
      - Believe it is, but not certain.

5. **Presentations:**

- Wildfire Hazard Mapping Presentation & Living with Wildfire Risk:



- Rachel Ries – candidate for School Board Seat B:
  - Does not believe there is currently any accountability with school spending.
  - Would like schools to get away from ideology and back to academics.
  - Contact information:
    - <https://RiesForAlaska.com/>
    - FACEBOOK: Ries For Alaska
    - TWITTER - @RachelMRies1
    - Email: [RiesForAlaska@gmail.com](mailto:RiesForAlaska@gmail.com)
    - Phone: 907-406-6127

President Warfield requested a motion to extend to 9 pm.

- Moved: Todd Brownson, Seconded: Robert Redlinger.
- Motion carried.

- Randy Sulte, candidate for Assembly District 6:
  - Want Hillside to remain the unique place that it is. Responsible development. Follow the Hillside District Plan.
  - At Kaladi Brother on Huffman, every Saturday, 8-10 am.
  - Contact information:
    - Email: [info@sulteforanchorage.com](mailto:info@sulteforanchorage.com)
    - Website: <http://www.sulteforanchorage.com>
    - Cell Phone: (907) 229-2977

8. **Announcements:**

- Community information on the agenda, website & Facebook page.
- Next HCC Meeting on will be on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Anticipate meeting will be hybrid (in person and Zoom options). Considering moving to a different night, to avoid conflict with GBOS.

9. **Open Discussion:**

- Brice Wilbanks for the Mayor’s Office (arriving from GBOS meeting):
  - Local elections are happening right now.
  - The homelessness plan is moving forward, including purchasing the Sockeye Inn.
  - Pothole hotline: 907-343-6363. Please report potholes.

10. **Adjournment:**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.