

**Hillside Community Council
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting:

In-person: Shepherd of the Hills Church - 11600 Elmore Road,
Anchorage, AK 99516 Zoom

1. **Welcome/Call to Order 6:33 pm.**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Sign-in & membership verification for voting was completed.
- Voting Requirement – Must have attended one Council Meeting in the preceding 12 months.
- **Board members present:** Carmela Warfield, Bob Redlinger, Daniel Robbins, Bruce Vergason, Dr Helena Wisniewski
- Board members absent, excused: Sandy Blomfield, Todd Brownson.
- **Quorum established.**

2. **Approval of September 2023 HCC Meeting Agenda**

- **Move** Mark June
- **Second** Bob Redlinger
- **Motion carried.**

3. **Business Updates (10-15 minutes total)**

Treasurer's Report – Daniel Robbins; balance of \$1,778.46, no withdrawals or debits.

FCC Delegate Report – Carmela Warfield

FCC is on summer hiatus, meetings will resume in late September.

HALO Delegate Report – Bob Redlinger

- A robust discussion was held about proposed rezoning ordinance at the HALO meeting.
- A majority of HALO voting members supported reducing a section of Lake Otis Pkwy south of Huffman from 4 to 3 lanes to increase bike access.

President's Report – Carmela Warfield

- Welcome to guests.
- Assembly has a newsletter with meeting details and municipal information.
- Recognized completion of Forsythe Park learning lab by O'Malley elementary students, which was spearheaded and completed by the good work of Ms. Anderson's class and a grant from the Anchorage Park Foundation. Hillside CC members supported this important project, which includes a new learning platform, accessibility features on the bridge, English and French tree info, Schools on Trails maps and poetry in the park.
- Proposed rezoning was discussed; concerns include lack of input by residents, accelerated implementation timeline, due diligence, and more. Extensive discussion ensued.
- Road work on O'Malley is coming to an end in October 2023. Complaints have been received regarding the lack of turn lanes from Birch to O'Malley, which causes traffic log jam during peak hours.
- Community Council is obtaining bids for signage to be placed in District to inform members of community council meeting and location. Signs will be placed before meeting date/time, and removed for storage the rest of the month.

4. Reports from elected officials and community representatives in attendance

District F – Senator James Kaufman - represented by Dominick Harnett.

- Senator Kaufman was in Colorado for a Clean Energy Legislators Assembly conference;
- Secretary of Transportation Buttigieg was in Anchorage, and Senator Kaufman participated in his guided tour of the Port of Alaska. The Secretary and his team were briefed on the reality of living and working in Alaska and the challenges and needs of the state and the port.

District 11 – Representative Julie Coulombe

- Rep Coulombe provided an update, including constituent concerns regarding the double-diverging diamond project slated for the O'Malley/New Seward Highway interchange.
- Rep Coulombe discussed her work as an appointed member of the Governor's Task Force on Child Care.
- Rep Coulombe thanked everyone who attended the District 11 community event at the Zoo. Great discussions, attendance and valuable listening session.

Anchorage Assembly Reports, District 6

Assembly Members Randy Sulte/Zac Johnson

- Assembly approved resources to address issues and concerns at large homeless camp.
- The Assembly approved \$2.4 million in unused American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover the costs of the emergency cold weather shelter plan.
- The Assembly did not approve the proposed shelter and navigation center at Tudor and Elmore Roads.
- Representative Sulte introduced a resolution for the municipality to explore the possibility of designating the former Solid Waste Service central transfer station facility as a temporary navigation center. An amended version of the resolution passed the Assembly.
- This Friday, a work session will be held on Capital requests and the budget.
 - He stated that some community councils did not submit their prioritized lists.
 - President Warfield reported that Hillside Community Council's CIP list was submitted.
- An update was provided on APD Body Cam implementation.

Anchorage School District Board Representative (Board President Margo Bellamy)

- Board President Bellamy reported that the school district was off to a great start.
- However, a budget deficit of \$84M+ is expected.
- Once a month, a committee meeting will be held.

- September 16 to discuss updates and refresh goals.
- October 12 to discuss careers, college and life readiness.
- Discussion ensued.
- Questions: when will enrollment numbers for this school year be finalized?
 - Enrollment numbers will be finalized after October.
- Does deficit include monies allocated to rebuild Inlet View elementary?
 - \$23 million was allocated in budget to rebuild Inlet View, with a possible bond for additional monies needed.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Community Information & Updates

- **RecAccess** has replaced iSportsman as the web platform to safely recreate on military lands. She discussed its features. There will be a community meeting with JBER members about RecAccess and recreating on JBER on Tuesday, September 19, 4-5pm at Loussac Library (Wilma Marston Theater)
- Please check out the Public Affairs article at: <https://www.jber.jb.mil/News/Articles/Display/Article/3481069/recaccess-to-replace-isportsman-for-recreational-access-on-jber/>
- **AIM High Flight Academy** is an opportunity for high school students age 16-18 to attend a 3-week flight introduction program that includes up to 15 hours of flight instruction. This is a free program and there is no commitment to the Air Force or military. More information at <https://www.recruiting.af.mil/AIM-High-Flight-Academy/> .

A motion to extend the meeting to 8:30 pm was passed (Marc June/Bob Redlinger).

5. **Discussion Items**

- a. **State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities – Projects discussion - Sean Baski, P.E., Highway Design Chief Central Region Highway Design Section.**
 - Baski discussed projects on the Hillside; these projects included pavement preservation, resurfacing roads and replacing culverts.
 - President Warfield inquired about the issues intersection of Abbott and Birch. According to APD reports, there were 33

accidents in 6 months with injuries, including a fatality.

- Mr. Baski shared that a past study ranked the intersection of Abbott and Birch as 70th and this ranking considered crash rates as well as other qualifying criteria; projects are prioritized through these criteria.
- Concerns from the meeting participants included that given the proximity of service High School, many student drivers will pass through the intersection.

Discussion ensued. The Community Council will revisit this project and work with stakeholders to consider ways to have the safety of this intersection improved.

b. **Proposed creation of Jupiter Drive Limited Road Service Area – Introduction.**

Any objections should be submitted to the Public Works Administration no later than Wednesday, September 13, 2023. This is the first step in the process.

c. **Clean Slate Strategy, South Anchorage District 6 Community Councils, Housing & Homelessness Committee**

Bruce Vergason, Hillside CC Representative to District 6 Community Councils.

- Mr. Vergason stated that District 6 is developing a position paper for each Community Council.
 - This position paper will include that having a shelter in South Anchorage presents impractical challenges that include lack of public transportation in many areas, access to services and more. Alternative options are being discussed and explored.
- Discussion ensued.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.