

Thursday, September 26, 2024

Minutes- ALCC General Membership Meeting

6:30-8:30 pm- In-person at Trailside Elementary or Via Zoom

Call to Order:

- Round of Introductions 6:41 pm
- Changes or additions to agenda
 - Change to agenda proposed- Add action/Assembly Ordinance 2024-83(S)- John Wedleton and Mary Miner.
 - Motions made, seconded, no objections- approve with changes to agenda.
- Approval of minutes from August 29th, 2024 meeting: Kathleen Easley, no objections- approved as submitted.
- Treasurer's report: Heather Schrage- \$220.22 balance from last month's meeting.

Abbott Loop Community Council Elections:

The President appointed Walter Featherly to manage the election process; he is not running for any office.

Officers- Nominations from August were listed and read. Requests for any new nominations for each position were asked one position at a time. No new nominations made for any of the individual positions. Seeing no other nominations, and each position was uncontested with no objections, each position was announced as listed for the 24-25 officer seats:

President- **Lizzie Newell**, Vice-President- **Susan Soule**, Secretary- **Kathleen Easley**, and Treasurer- **Mary Miner**.

Nine Board seats- Nominations from August were listed from the August meeting, one new nomination- Mike Dinneen from the floor. Removal of JOn Roder, and two others that were not reached for ability to participate. A ballot for the nine-member Board of Directors was handed out. After review of nominations- 9 total nominations. Brief introduction by each nominee. Removal of Emily Carol, Rachel Alaki, and Jon Roder. The following were the 9 nominees: Pat O'Hara, Patti Higgins, Emily Sullivan, Charles Joy, Kari Nore, Mark Miner, Marilyn Russell, Simon Rose, and Mike Dinneen. 9 total positions, 9 nominees, no objections. Final approved Board positions for 2024-2025: **Pat O'Hara, Patti Higgins, Emily Sullivan, Charles Joy, Kari Nore, Mark Miner, Marilyn Russell, Simon Rose, and Mike Dinneen**.

Legislative Reports: Q & A:

- Senator District F: James Kaufman- not in attendance, no report.
- Representative District 11: Julie Coulombe-Edra reporting- not much to report. Newsletter on ALCC website. Here to take notes and available for any questions. Busy with tours, meet & greets. Capital projects and working with the muni.
- Representative District 12: Calvin Schrage-Brief update- campaign season. Not in session. PFD announced and is now going out to people- \$1702, which includes an energy relief portion (tax or not to be determined on energy portion). Vetoes coming out of the Governor's Office over the last month or so- some was very bipartisan and popular- HB17: Access of contraceptives, a 12 month- supply, passed by a large margin, good for rural areas and so you aren't having to get refills every three months- it was vetoed. Rental car taxes- Larger rental companies pay a tax, Turo does not. There is a lawsuit with Turo and SOA to potentially collect these taxes. Veto by Governor on this.

Community Reports and Q & A:

- APD- can request an officer and they will attend if duties permit, not requested for November.
- [Assembly member\(s\)](#)
 - Randy Shulte-COSA 2025 with the Mayor. Waiting for the Governor's decision on Eklutna and Anchorage's tie to 1991 water/Eklutna. AFD wildfire coordinator now after a year. FCC had their first of three town halls, next October and November. Muni approved a web software to help with crime identification- no facial recognition. Pedestrian Fatalities- trust that Administration and Police will look

at this and make some changes to help increase safety and pedestrians. Budget season. Project Anchorage- presentation if AEDC can do a presentation. Hope to bring up the next meeting. Question about changes to PUD AO-83(S). Likely to be introduced at our next meeting is his guess. Mary asked to put that off one more meeting cycle so that the council can review. He will ask Meg about doing this. Planned development and allowing more homes with reduction of planning and zoning bogging it up. Mary notes that it removes planning and zoning review- but they have to approve these- so it is confusing.

- Felix Rivera- Budget- Got the 120 day memo from the mayor-over of goals the mayor would like to achieve, a draft proposal budget. Meg and he will get together to review next week and see about midtown items that they may want to prioritize. Personnel changes- to attract and retain staff. Telecommuting, paid parental leave benefit, \$3.4 million for new and replacing snow equipment- not for this winter- but it will help in the long run for any future Snowmagedions. The Next Step program from the data seems successful- last year 150 out of emergency shelter into placements. This summer funds for 45 people from shelter into housing. Program going really well. Do we continue to invest in this as a solution? Last years number of unhoused was around 900 now around 500 individuals unsheltered- Able to do this with support from state funding at the 200 bed cold weather shelter and with the Next Step program. Do we want to move on to the next step of this and invest and commit to this so maybe next year we have less. Homelessness- Admin bringing forward in the next few weeks the proposals for the 500 beds with the Winter non congregate plan- likely hotels and the cold weather shelter. Goal for October 23rd to get things online.
- [School Board member\(s\)](#)
 - Kelly Lessons-Looking ahead- Elementary/Middle school kids- Parent teacher conferences in October-with new start times ½ days they are released at 11:30 (Elementary) and 1:00pm (Middle school). New Chemistry curriculum those materials- available for public review- dates available for community review 10/15 and 10/16, 10/31 and 11/8 at ASD Ed Center. Board committee meetings- **Finance:** Chair- briefing about budget approvals for next school year- current deficit projections \$84 million (spend fund balance down to 8%-best practice). If we spend more aggressively (use the spending fund down to 5%) we can have a deficit projection down to around \$64 million. No relief funds, no cavalry coming- some very challenging conversations are coming. Hoping that legislators and Assembly hear this. **Governance:** Proposed HS schedule change- with the career Academies- expanding number of classes (7 or 8 classes instead of 6) per semester. November- more info on the right sizing of the schools. Survey available for community members.Helps develop a rubric of right size preferences wanted by the community- to right sizing over the next few years. **Communications:** Remorse learning on election day Nov 5th to keep schools safe and voting at schools open and easy- not crossing students with community.
 - Pat Higgins-Spoke to classroom sizes. Calvary coming- this will happen with voting- Legislators that we vote for- it is up to the voters to determine SBA increases and other defined benefits for teaching staff. We are the only state that doesn't have salaries (about 15- 25% under) and no defined benefits. Per Calvin Schrage- process now is to have to reintroduce the defined benefits bill- did not pass. Will be starting a new legislator all past bills that did not pass are dead- will have to be re-introduced.Janice Park- if we could do a defined benefit in the legislature- when would this need to be done? Budget by end of Feb- informs HR activities- so determinations- only allows a few weeks for anything to happen- there is a nationwide teacher shortage.
- [Mayor's Office Report](#)- no one in attendance, no report.
- [JBER Community Engagement](#)- no update.

Candidate Introductions:

- Walter Featherly House District 11
- Janice Park Senate District F
- Calvin Schrage- House District 12

Reports:

FCC Representative: Lizzie Newell

- Training series Sept 23, Oct 21 and Nov 18th about community councils.

HALO Report: Lizzie Newell

- Discussing LARSIS and Fire mitigation- up before the Assembly.

Roads & Projects Committee: Mary Miner

- Traffic Study/Calming Updates- Proposed to postpone Traffic calming to the next meeting in October. Traffic study wouldn't happen until next year at any rate. Motion to move, seconded and no objections. Move to October agenda.
- Quinhagak Street Reconstruction project- Holly Spoth-Torres Huddle AK/Justin Keene from CRW Engineering presented. Project is slowly moving forward. Brief project update. Open House in the next few weeks. Upgrade Quinhagak Street from Askeland to East Dowling Rd. Street pavement, curbs and gutter, lighting, and storm drain. Ultimate goal to get constructed- not sure it will make the Roads and Service Bond in April- if it does it will go to construction in 2025. Oct 16th at The Polaris School 4:30-6:30. <https://quinhagakstreetreconstruction.com/> for information and updates. Bruce- one of the worst streets in the ALCC area- has been for years. Glad to see moving forward. Local road, residential and industrial road- State does not provide money for the Muni for roads and projects- it has to go through local bond votes. Voting yes on Bonds supports local roads, drainage when they come up.

Parks & Rec Committee: Mark Miner

- Updates: adopting Adkins Park with Alaska Native Cultural Charter School- Susan/Patti- No updates but will review and bring a resolution to an upcoming meeting for the body to vote on supporting this or not.

Planning & Zoning Committee: Mary Miner

- John Weddleton-Speaking to AO-2024-83(S). Lot sizes and setbacks- features like trails, pathways and parks. Many of our nicest neighborhoods are set up with these kinds of planning and development. The proposed is fairly dramatic- more developments than normal zoning. Changes: Apply on sizes (2 acres to 1 acre), special limitations are normally specific to where the community is. Halving the private open space requirements from 30% to 15%-30% might be high, but changes and removes this requirement- of easements, parking, and snow removal spots- it would be counting in this space- ultimately adding that, completely changed the private open space (maybe leave these requirements). Removes sidewalk requirements, removes landscaping requirements. Think that has gone a bit too far. The Assembly is doing dramatic changes and moving too fast to let community councils weigh in on these things. Asking for more than two weeks. Mary Miner- Motion to remove two meeting minimums to create and vote on a resolution, seconded by Susan Soule. No questions, no objections, approved. Mary Miner makes a motion to support a Resolution to ask the Anchorage Assembly to postpone voting on AO-2024-83(S) for extended public comment. The turnaround time for public comment and timing of community council meetings do not align, just proposed and are voting in two weeks. Resolution asks for a 6 week postponement until the Assembly's Nov 4th meeting to give time for public review and comment. Bruce motions to approve a resolution, Charles Joy seconds. No questions, no objections, approved. Mary will write the resolution to extend another 6 week delay on taking action on this AO with John Weddleton's help and get it emailed to officers. Email to Lizzie Newell and Kathleen Easley for signatures, and Kathleen will email it to the Anchorage Assembly. ALCC 2024-03.

Cannabis & Alcohol Committee: September 1st notice of all liquor licenses in the ALCC area to renew- No questions.

- Higher Altitude/Hollyweed-88th- Marijuana Licence #11304
- Speedway Express- 9110 Vanguard Dr, LL# 3732
- American Legion Post #28- 7001 Brayton Dr, LL# 59
- Barbie's Cafe- 6728 Lake Otis Parkway, LL# 5039
- Long Branch Saloon- 1737 E Dimond Blvd, LL# 670
- Midnight Sun Brewing Co.- 8111 Dimond Hook Dr, LL# 4866 and LL# 5967
- Oaken Keg #2628 1725 Abbott Rd, LL# 4167
- O'Malley's on the Green- 3651 O'malley Road, LL # 2696 and LL# 5030

Membership & Events: Lizzie Newell- Donation jar on sign in table.

Abbott Loop Community Patrol: Patty Higgins <http://www.accpatrols.org/>

- Still out there and on patrol. We live in a nice neighborhood.

Old Business:

New Business:

- Fair and Impartial Courts- Alaska Judicial Council- Suzanne Decantro-Alaska Bar Association board. Judge Una Gandbhir. Presentation on how judges are selected and that voting is to retain or not- retention evaluations are done. Spoke about the selection and placement process as well as review of judges in Alaska. www.ajc.state.ak.us or www.knowyouralaskajudges.org are websites for more information on this.
- Motion to extend meeting to 8:45pm from Lizzie, seconded. No objections. Extending to 8:45pm.
- Project Anchorage-3% sales tax initiative-presented by Walter Featherly board member of Anchorage Economic Development and chair of Project Anchorage. What you accomplish with a tax would be lowering property taxes- offsetting this cost to property owners, funds building new projects to improve Anchorage, and ensuring visitors contribute. Looking for feedback and input from the community. This is happening before the Assembly drafts any ordinances and has been vetted and reviewed for the vision the community wants. Working on this for over a year. Looking at household necessities, goods and services should be excluded- so the lowest income residents would not be impacted- Exempting things like groceries, gas, medical care, childcare, and so on. There would also be a capped at the first \$1000, of 3% for large purchases like a car. Lots of considerations on exemptions, cap, and what the cap should be. Website <https://projectanchorage.com/> or email questions or info@projectanchorage.com

Announcements/Comments:

- Candidate forum 10/3 with HALO.
- School rentals and dates for next meetings- October 17th is the next council meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: ALCC monthly meetings are usually the last Thursday of the month but can be subject to changes based on holidays and the ASD school schedule.

- October 17 New board and officers first meeting
- November 14th Potluck
- December TBA/No meeting

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, seconded. Adjourned at 8:48 pm