

**OCEANVIEW/OLD SEWARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/o 240 PACIFIC VIEW DRIVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99515**

NEWSLETTER March 2005

The next regular meeting of the Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council will take place on Wednesday March 9 in the Library of the Oceanview Elementary School on Johns Road starting at 7:00 PM.

There is a lot to cover and it will be worth your time to attend. This is the last meeting before the municipal elections take place on April 5 for Assembly and School Board seats and ballot propositions. We also need to hook up with Legislative representatives in Juneau.

Candidate Forum

We have asked Dick Tremaine and Chris Birch, who are candidates running for the Assembly from South Anchorage (District 6, Seat K) to present their election platforms. We have also asked the candidates running for School Board Mary Marks and Thomas Lamb from Seat C and John Steiner, Rod McCoy, and Russell Mjolsnes from Seat D.

Convention Center

The Convention Center is Proposition 2 on the ballot. At this meeting we will hear from Scott Anaya representing the Anchorage Civic and Convention Center Yes Campaign (ACCCY) who will brief us on the proposed Convention Center and hotel bed tax which will be before the voters on the April 5 election. Here is a chance to ask those questions that may be are lingering in your mind after hearing the public debate on the pros and cons of this project.

For starters, here are some of the questions the Executive Committee wants to ask:

- ACCCY response to the Brookings Institute study that concludes convention center space nationwide is overbuilt.
- Explanation for lowering the voter approval threshold from 60% to 50%.
- Who owns the land for the Convention Center site and when does ownership of the Convention Center resort to the city?
- What are the parking arrangements for Convention Center visitors and how will the loss of the existing parking space is compensated?

Expansion to Museum of History and Art

At the last meeting we had a presentation on the proposed expansion to the Museum (Proposition 3 on the ballot). Let your Executive Committee know of any further questions you may have and we'll get answers in time for the meeting. Of particular interest to property tax payers is the proposal to finance the increased operating costs of the Museum from general funds by raising the tax cap.

Road Projects

Dennis Linnell from Hattensburg Dilley and Linnell will address us on Proposition 4 concerning the \$45 million bond proposal for road improvements. We have told Mr. Linnell that we are interested in the project rationale and financing plans for the \$7 million bond proposed for the Lake Otis and Tudor intersection.

Assembly Action

Assembly representatives Janice Shamberg and Dick Tremaine will give us their report on actions before the Assembly. The council is particularly interested in hearing our Assembly representative's views on the newly formed Development Authority, the proposed purchase of the building in Eagle River, and their views on the reduction from 60 to 50% for voter approval of sales tax (bed tax). Also an update on the Mayor's tax package (Proposition 1 Property Tax Exemption) comprising tobacco tax, reduction in property tax, and increase in business taxes for leaseholders on public property. What is the net effect on property taxes?

Legislative Reports

It's time that we talked to our legislative representatives in Juneau. We are halfway through the legislative session and want to know what the Legislature is working on. We would like an update concerning the city's lawsuit regarding AMATS.

Be prepared to ask questions you want answers to, propose legislation on issues of concern to you, or give your input on legislative priorities during a teleconference with our legislative representatives Senator Stevens and Representative McGuire.

138 kV Transmission Line in south Anchorage

There is another meeting of the citizens advisory group providing input to Chugach Electric and their engineering consultants Dryden & LaRue for the proposed 138 kV overhead transmission line to be located on a South Anchorage east/west corridor between Seward Highway and Abbott Loop Road. The meeting is at O'Malleys on the Green from 7:00 to 9:00 AM on March 8 and breakfast will be served. Oceanview airstrip homeowners please note.

Zoning Change

There is a proposed zoning change to merge two lots into one in the Thomas W. Sperstad subdivision at Brandon Street near the intersection of Silver Fox Lane. The petitioner is Mr. Myoung S. Kim and hearing is before the Planning and Zoning Commission on March 24.

Train Whistle Noise Reduction

As a result of the presentation given by the Alaska Railroad on their plans to make changes in whistle blowing at road intersections, Hank Hosford headed up a group of concerned citizens and pursued discussions with ARR. To hear about their progress, come to the council meeting March 9.

Parks and Rec Workshop

We have been notified by the Parks and Recreation Department of a series of workshops in the five Park Districts to discuss development of the parks system in Anchorage. The Southwest District meets at the Kincaid chalet on March 17 starting at 6:00 PM.

Election of Officers

We are still looking for officers to run the council when we resume meetings in September after the summer recess. Please contact John Pletcher as chair of the nominating committee, or one of the officers listed at the end of the newsletter.

CONTACT US

Legislative and Assembly representatives contact numbers:

Senator Ben Stevens (Senator.Ben.Stevens@legis.state.ak.us)

Representative Lesil McGuire (Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us)

Janice Shamberg (jcshamberg@gci.net)

Dick Tremaine (tremained@muni.org)

For those who want more information on what's happening in the City, consult the Municipality website www.muni.org

Contact your Community Council officers listed below:

President	Tim Bridgman	345-3614
Vice President	Hank Hosford	522-8638
Secretary	Margaret Klatt	345-5848
Treasurer	Mary Whitmore	344-2831
FCC Rep	Katie Weidemaier	344-2935

Community councils are the link in the local government chain between the resident and the municipal government and are only as effective as you, the membership want to make them by participating in the monthly meetings.

Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Oceanview Elementary School on Johns Road. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. We are collecting membership dues for 2005--five dollars for an individual, and ten dollars for a family.

Distributed to you by the Federation of Community Councils
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