

HALO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 7th, 2021 7 pm Zoom Meeting

I. Call to order and Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Katie Nolan, President.

Board Members present were: Marc June, Nancy Kaufman, Mike Kenny, Frank Pugh.

Board Members absent: Sarah Denson, Brena Doolen, Albert Fogle, Gail Morrison, Rodney Powell, Kurt Rein.

Board Members excused absence: Pat Abney, Christine Monette, Peter Johnson, James Kaufman and Susan Richards.

II. Agenda

A. Items added to Agenda: Seminar, Candidate Forum, Board Vacancies

III. Presentations

A. Assembly. Assembly Representative John Weddleton - Changes to election code are primarily just editorial. A line was added that clarifies that when requested clerks can gather background information of candidates. Also, dates for run-off elections changed to correct existing inconsistency. Current emergency proclamation expires 1/15. The meeting on the 12th will debate having another. Q. clerks gathering info; who do they pass on to? A. APD and FBI in National elections.

B. State. Senator Cathy Geissel - Comprehensive measures are in place in Juneau for our Legislatures concerning Covid. Court hearing tomorrow requesting re-injunctive relief from the governor that violated the law he signed into effect last March. Also, a redistricting board meeting tomorrow to discuss the delay as a result of the delay in census data.

IV. Minutes of November, 2020 were accepted

V. Treasury Report - Current savings/legal account balance is \$15,627.00. The current checking account balance is \$1,490.76. Outstanding check to AK Zoo \$300.00. Balance includes a donation from Rabbit Creek Community Council towards the Fall Candidate Forum.

VI. Community Council Reports

A. Hillside - Bob stated that there was a request to put a stop sign or warning light at the intersection of Hillside road and Huffman. Weddleton asked that Bob send him his email so he could forward the Hillside Intersection study completed a couple of years ago. President asked that Hillside CC let us know how we can help.

E. Huffman/O'Malley - Julie stated they have been discussing the Sky Ridge estate PZC meeting last week but it was late and reiterated the Hillside plan. Also discussion about the voting changes.

F. Rabbit Creek - Kenny said that DOT gave a presentation about Scooter drive overpass; a lot of push back from other sources not necessarily all RCCC This was more of a question and answer session; no vote taken. Also discussion about 92nd to King Street. Still in it's preliminary stage but considering. DOT stated there are lots of projects out there with lots of competition for the 100 million federal dollars.

VII Committee Reports

A. We will need to replace the Firewise/Resilience Committee chair as James Kaufman will be our new State Representative. Please contact Nolan if you are interested in chairing this committee.

III. Old Business

A. Sky Ridge Estates rezone. This rezone, Cases 2021-007 and 008, makes changes to the Hillside District Plan, the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and the 2040 Land Use Plan Map. On Monday 4 January the Planning and Zoning Commission approved these changes. Next these must be approved by the Assembly, which is the opportunity the community has to have a say in this rezone. This conversation will continue under “New Business”.

IX. New Business

A. Planning Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Monday night to deal with two rezone applications that dramatically affect Hillside, 2021-007 and 008. It was thought that there would be many comments against these proposals from the community, as concerned neighbors attended both the Huffman/O’Malley Community Council and the last HALO meetings to express their opposition. It was also thought that several Hillside councils would comment, as these cases set precedent to allow rezones of HDP-area properties to small lots and bring in public services including water and sewer. However, Rabbit Creek was the only council to comment against these proposals, and only two individuals testified against the rezones. Several of the Commissioners expressed concerns about these cases, including traffic and extension of public services, but since no neighbors testified against the cases, the Commission approved them.

After giving this issue thought, Nolan believes that too many of our residents do not know how to protest applications that negatively impact our neighborhoods. With the limits of zoom meetings, we are not getting information out as we used to, and it has become difficult to work together to oppose problematic situations. Nolan discussed this with Weddleton, and they realized that we needed a Hillside-area seminar on how to talk to the Muni, how to share concerns in Planning and Zoning cases, and how to voice issues with the Assembly. Nolan asked HALO membership if they agreed with this idea, and there was unanimous consent.

HALO will hold a live Zoom seminar on Tuesday, February 2nd, at 7 pm. Featured speakers will be Weddleton and Attorney Marc June. Nolan will rough draft a flyer. Do we have a graphic artist who could make it attractive? Each HALO member can help distribute the fliers in their neighborhoods, LRSAs, etc. Julie agreed to work with Monette to get info onto Facebook and work towards building our social media presence. We really need one of the Hane Street neighbors to step up and get their neighborhood involved in the seminar.

It was noted that this seminar will prove too late to work on asking the Assembly not to approve the cases referred by the PZC. Weddleton stated that it will probably come to the Assembly early in February. Nolan will attempt to gather interested individuals to work towards talking to the Assembly.

B. Candidate Forum - Nolan asks whether or not we should hold a Spring Candidate Forum in March. There are 10-plus Mayoral candidates and four School Board races (seats B, E, F, G). Everyone was given the opportunity to offer their opinions. Comments included:

- Last forum, facebook and zoom programs were in conflict. Should stick to zoom only. This should eliminate the technical difficulties we had last fall.
- With 10+ candidates for mayor, will need to separate into smaller groups. Based

on fundraising? Probably best and fairest division. With too many candidates, must split into smaller groups. Too many candidates in a section will decrease effectiveness.

- We use Forums to inform our residents and to do an info gather and fundraise, as many people pay their dues at these events. With zoom, we can't do real fundraising or info gathering.
- A successful event last fall had the host in a studio and the candidates on zoom. Would this work?
- One of the comments that all the candidates agreed on at our Fall forum was that it was good to be in the same room as their opponents, and for some the only opportunity they had to be together in the entire race.
- We spend \$300 on renting a room for these events. With only Rabbit Creek donating to offset expenses, this event is in the red. Does it make financial sense?
- Why can't we make a real effort to get other councils involved and contributing? At least HOCC and HCC?
- HALO Candidate Forum is a brand we need to keep - it's important.
- Questions were an issue last time. Too many questions were duplicated and sent to both Facebook and zoom, were too long, or were long discussions with no real question. It made it very hard to get the questions submitted before that section was over.
- Next time we should have a deadline for the audience to submit questions. Maybe stop taking questions for those candidates when each section is introduced.
- Could we give all the questions to all of the candidates and have them write out their responses and then read their response aloud?
- RCCC did their last election completely on zoom. They had nice software. Can we ask Ky Holland to help? Kenny will ask.

C. Board Appointments. Right now, Doolen and N Kaufman are splitting Board G-2 Seat A. We are losing Board G-2 Seat B, as James Kaufman was elected to serve as our State Representative in Juneau. The President is allowed to make appointments between elections. Nolan announced that Doolen will be moved to G-2 Seat B and N Kaufman will continue in G-2 Seat A.

We also have vacancies in Area G-1 (Dowling, Birch, O'Malley, New Seward) and Area G-2 (East of Birch/Huffman). If you know anyone that lives in those areas please get them involved. Exact boundaries are on our website.

X. Open Forum

Bob from HCC stated that some board members would like an update on Stormwater Water Utility and O'Malley Road upgrade. Weddleton answered that not much has happened lately with SWU; there is a contract out with an approved company. O'Malley Road phase 2 - start up work this summer. DOT money has been allocated. Q. John asked David - anything with Mountaineer? A. Not much since mid-autumn. Probably several years off with paper work, a 3-5 year project. Shawn Baskey overseeing it.

Rachel & Kyle Shedd are visiting the HALO meeting. They live near Upper Huffman and Hillside.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kaufman, Secretary

Action items:

- *Volunteers are needed for the Muni 101 Seminar, including a graphic artist. All are asked to make copies of the eventual flier and distribute them to their neighborhoods, LRSAs, etc. Please contact Nolan to get involved.*
- *Need volunteers for the Candidate Forum, individuals to ask their councils to get involved and to donate to offset costs, and ideas to make a better forum under current circumstances.*
- *“Save the Date” email to candidates (Nolan)*
- *Volunteers to fill open seats G-1 Seat A and G-2 Seat A.*
- *Volunteer to chair Firewise/Resilience Committee*