

HALO Meeting Minutes
7:00 pm Thursday, April 4, 2019
Holy Spirit Retreat

I. Call to Order and Welcome by Katie Nolan, Chair. Board Members present: Pat Abney; Albert Fogle; Peter Johnson; Mike Kenny; Christine Monette, Treasurer/Acting Secretary; Gail Morrison; Rodney Powell, Past President; Kurt Rein. Peter Johnson Absent: Sarah Denson, Brena Doolan,

II. Agenda was accepted

III. Treasurer Report shows \$1423.06 in checking account. The savings account is \$15,594.52 The checking account balance includes \$355.00 from the Candidate Forum, and \$185.00 in membership dues collected at Feb. meeting and in the mail. Received but not yet deposited are Forum donations from RCCC and HCC at \$75.00 each.

IV. Presentations

A. Assembly Aide Adam Lees for Suzanne LaFrance reported the ballot props that cleaned up Charter Amendments all passed. AFD has been reorganized to recognize the fact that the Department responds to more medical emergencies than fires, and serves more as an EMS department than a fire department. This reorganization will create more ambulance staffing. There are two new ordinances pending sponsored by Dick Traini. One will be a playground barrier that treats public playgrounds like schools for smoking areas (100' away from designated area). The other will raise the smoking age from 19 to 21. There will be a Public Hearing on designating electronic vaping the same legally as smoking. Another decision will be to add Assembly Representatives to the Board of Equalization, the Board that addresses tax appraisal appeals. This will be done to address emergency situations such as the earthquake, where there are numerous tax appraisal appeals. The Heritage Land Bank 5-year plan will go to PH on April 19. House Finance voted to completely stop school bond debt reimbursement.

Assembly Member John Weddleton reported that there is a pending Ordinance to address cell phone use in school zones. The bear ordinance has been delayed. Current staffing makes enforcement impossible.

B. School Board Representative Andy Holleman thanked the community for supporting the school bonds in the last election. The State House representatives are promoting the idea of no longer doing bond debt reimbursement. This will cost the average area homeowner an additional \$600 per year for the outstanding loans taken out for prior ASD projects in addition to the total costs for the school bonds we just

passed. He recommends contacting our elected representatives if we disagree with no longer having state reimbursement. Q. Eagle River school status? A. Will probably take two years to return from earthquake damage. Q. School consolidation? Underutilized schools? A. District will try to consolidate as economic conditions are difficult. Q. Do we have five vacant schools? A. Two in Eagle River are not safe to enter due to earthquake damage. Two schools on JBER are closed. One is being used to house the mainframe for the District. It was built to resist earthquake damage and kept ASD online through the entire event. Not aware of any other vacant schools. Q. BSA allotment? A. The per-child BSA is based on school size. Schools with less population have a greater BSA than large schools. This should be addressed, as it is hurting Anchorage schools.

C. APD has created patrol areas that now include Hillside. These new “community beats” are a new focus of APD, and the area south of O’Malley and east of the New Seward will have dedicated officers on all shifts. APD Officer Chris Wright is the designated area patrol officer on the midnight shift (11 pm to 9 am), and attended the meeting to inform residents of this new staffing. He is a resident of Bear Valley, and specifically asked for this new patrol area. Having an officer assigned to the area lets the officers get to know the area. Specific teams will be available for special projects. Q. What to do if I see someone casing a house? A. Try to get license plate (most important) and a vehicle description if possible, as license plates on stolen vehicles are often switched. Call APD. It will take two officers to respond to this type of stop. Always try to be safe. Be aware of surroundings. Q. What about the other shifts? A. There will be a day shift and a swing shift officer, so the area will always be covered. There will be occasional circumstances where a patrol officer is not in the immediate area, such as when transporting prisoners, but these circumstances are few. Q. When patrol cars make a traffic stop on the highway, why do they stop with their units slightly into the lane of traffic? A. This is for officer safety, as more officers are injured by other vehicles during traffic stops than during any other circumstances. The unit parked ‘nose out’ into the lane of traffic gives officers some measure of safety and time to get away in an accident. Officer Wright gave those present his business card with contact information and will plan to attend as many community meetings as possible in order to create strong community relationships and gain knowledge of the area. He can be reached at 786-3152 or cwright@muni.org. The phone is a message phone, but he checks it often. Q. Will we meet the other officers assigned to Hillside? A. Hopefully yes. Please let him know of your concerns.

V. Committee Reports

A. Website. Monette reported that the website is current, and all that remains is to upload past documents.

B. Historical and Archival. Abney & Monette reported that they are still working on a presentation for our June meeting, but that we are no longer sure of the actual “born on” date of HALO. A group formed in 1969 was called the “Square Foot Committee”. Our Articles of Incorporation show 1974. Diane Holmes has much of this information stored.

C. Board Development. A new Board Development Committee will be discussed under New Business.

VI. Old Business

A. Candidate Forum Recap. The Forum was a success and well attended. We brought in \$355 from the event in donations and dues. RCCC and Hillside donated following the Forum, and HOCC has agreed to make a donation. This means that the event was “in the black”. We also gained some new members. Discussion on questions, written format vs allowing people to ask their questions directly. Decided that our format allowed a tight agenda that maintained respect and decorum. Discussed participation from area councils.

VII. New Business

A. Board Reorganization and Development. Motion by Powell, second by Morrison to take the G3-B split seat and move one of those persons to the Seat A, making Monette Seat G3-A and Nolan Seat G3-B; motion passed with unanimous consent. Discussion of the ability to easily fill vacant seats when we have a ‘feeder league’ with split seats. Request of those in attendance to write down names of people they know in their neighborhood who should be active in HALO, and take the lead in contacting them to invite them to attend the next meeting. Request of those in attendance to also think of people they know on Hillside who should serve and contact them. Request of those in the audience to volunteer themselves to serve as split seats, and an explanation of the benefits of this idea. This allows HALO to always have a quorum at meetings, allows additional input on decisions, and gives us a wider leadership. Our ByLaws allow up to 20 board members. Susan Richards volunteered to serve on a split seat G3-A. Marc June agreed to serve on a split seat G4-B. Frank Pugh volunteered to serve on a split seat G5-A. This gives HALO double coverage on Areas 3, 4 and 5. We need to find individuals willing to commit to serve in Areas 1 (O’Malley/Birch/Dowling/New Seward) and area 2 (Birch east and south to DeArmoun). Anyone interested can look at our map online at anchoragehalo.org to determine their area. The new Board Development Committee will be working on this project. Anyone wishing to assist please contact Nolan.

Discussion of our boundaries. When formed, HALO designated everything from Dowling east and south, as that was where ‘town’ ended and dirt roads with no services began. Does this still serve our purpose? We get little support from Abbott Loop

Community Council. Most of those residents are 'flatlanders', with public services. Most are small R-1 lots, multi-family and commercial. Do their needs match ours? Can we adequately represent their needs? In addition, the Hillside District Plan boundaries are Abbott south, Lake Otis to the highway, and everything to the east. Should our boundaries be adjusted to the HDP boundaries? Those present at the inception of HALO included Abney and Rein, among others. They stated that the majority of that zoning is commercial and high-density. It might make sense, as their needs are 180 degrees from ours. The HDP boundaries still include some large lots in the Abbott Loop CC area. Weddleton contributed that the 2020 census will involve redistricting, and investigating this now would be a good idea, as the redistricting will probably move boundaries. He also stated that the Assembly is looking at moving from an 11-seat body to 12. Suggestions were made for investigating this idea. Volunteers to form an exploration committee include Monette, Morrison, Abney and Nolan. Other volunteers are welcome. This committee will meet online.

B. Motion Powell, second Rein, to pay our PO box rental; unanimous consent.
Motion Powell, second Rein, to put our PO box rental on auto pay; unanimous consent.

VII. Open Forum

A. Weddleton invited all to attend the RCCC meeting on April 11 for a presentation from AFD regarding wildfires. The demonstration will be from 6 to 7 pm, and will include lots of good information for strengthening the safety of our homes and neighborhoods. He also suggests that we ask Station 8 to do a CPR class at an upcoming meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Monette, Acting Secretary

Action Items:

Invite Station 8 to give a CPR class (Nolan)

Boundary Committee (Monette, Morrison, Abney and Nolan)

Board Development Committee (Nolan)