

## HALO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 6th, 2021 7 pm

**I. Call to order and Welcome.** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm by Katie Nolan, President.

**Board Members present were:** Peter Johnson, Marc June, Nancy Kaufman, Mike Kenny, Christine Monette, Gail Morrison, Lizzie Newell, Rodney Powell, Frank Pugh, Susan Richards and Carmela Warfield.

**Board Members absent:** Pat Abney, Sarah Denson, Brena Doolen.

**II. Agenda.** April Agenda; no additions.

**III. Presentations -**

**A. Assembly** - John Weddleton. 1st ¼ budget revisions after April - passed budget with some amendments. Mil rates calculated from the budget divided by assessed values. This year made a big difference because at the end of last year we had not spent all the CARES Act money so we put it towards first responders. After that, funds can be spent on whatever is deemed necessary - but needs to be spent so it won't be lost by the end of the year. That threw accounting out of whack because it gave a lower mil rate to police and fire, so that went to area wide budgeting. Next round of recovery rescue money can be spent through 2024. Will start getting to businesses and people long before that though. Bears are out so bring in bird feeders; trash should go out that morning and bears are also figuring out how to get around the bear proof containers. Budget is \$550 million, up almost 2%. Taxes will go up more than that due to school bond debt; will be noticeable for most people. Rescue Act funds: will have town hall probably 2nd week of May. Won't know the details until after May 10th. About \$50 million this year and another \$50 million following year. Don't believe Emergency Proclamation will go past June 1st. Q. Two assembly members back Bear Valley's Heritage Land Bank (HLB) land grab but it didn't go through the Community Council. Why does the city want this land in BV? A. City owns a large parcel there of approximately 20 acres and HLB manages that property, but it has no access. So, that land has virtually no value without land access. Buying property adjacent to it; they could plat a road just a few hundred feet to that property. The Community Council felt they weren't informed, but HLB said they were told about it. Additionally, they were not required to inform the Community Council. Postponed for 2nd meeting on May 12th. This property is also up against Chugach State Park. If it becomes Park access then it does fit in with the Hillside District Plan. Q. Concerned about the city budget and CARES ACT funds; hiring Equity Commission with a salary of \$150 grand and staff - what are your thoughts on that? A. Equity officer salary- ½ paid from the alcohol tax and ½ from the operating budget. Some concepts with CRT, feel we are consistently moving forward. Equity officer there to show us what we might have missed. We'll gather data and see if there are issues and then deal with it. During ride-alongs, it became clear to me, best to have gender/racial balance in the policy department. Don't cut standards, but we can consider race to equal balance in our force. That's the kind of things they will be looking at. Our charter requires a staffer, but not building a whole new regime. Would like to see him talk himself out of a job! Q. Difference between Equity and Equality? A. Equality has to do with giving everyone the exact same resources, whereas equity involves distributing resources based on the needs of the recipients. Q. Couldn't an existing staff person do this? A. Other staffers' job duties wouldn't allow enough

time to focus on this entirely.

**B. State - Seth Duggan, staffer to State Senator Josh Revak** remarked on three bills currently going to the house floor and trying to get funding for the fire prevention program. Q. Where did funds come from? A. Money from the state budget. Q. Infrastructure money - what's the status on what the state will be doing with the infrastructure money. A. Call Dirk at Revak's office for details on allocating those funds. Q. Bond debt reimbursement - forward funding for education but also includes bond debt reimbursement. If anyone feels the state should pick this back up again - tell your legislators. This could mean a lot to Anchorage; so bond debt reimbursement is a big deal to us. Contact for State Senator Joshua Revak [Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov) or call #907-465-3879

**James Kaufman, State Representative, District 28.** Update: had the budget hit the floor debating last weekend, the majority lost a few people, pulled back, will continue on our amendments. By next week the budget should be back on the floor. In State Affairs and Labor and Commerce, we are debating Governor's bills on PFD, and the House carried a Reinsurance Bill for the Governor - passed unanimously. Also passed with a unanimous vote HB 63 for a restructuring board that oversees the Marine Highway system. My background as Quality Manager was well received by the majority. The bills' prime sponsor is HB 187 which is a document reduction bill that causes the executive branch to see what they can do to reduce hard copies; additionally every two years the legislature will receive an analysis report of their progress. To be heard in State Affairs and also receive licence plate bill HB 201. In our research, we found a pre existing bill to push responsibility to agencies that can do it. HB 204 carrying the house version workers comp for Firefighters when they incur cancer related to fighting fires. Q. Cancel bill for firefighters - thought we already had one. A. Companion bill to it - addressing language and some gaps. Contact for State House Representative James Kaufman [Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov) or call #907-465-46949 and newsletter: [akrepkaufman.com](http://akrepkaufman.com)

**C. ASD - Andy Holleman** - Seated four new School Board members last Tuesday. I will be covering for HALO. Board passed an Anti-Racism policy. Policy impacts staff; it has nothing to do with curriculum- nothing in policy will impact ASD curriculum in any way. We are doing a survey in the community about things they like about ASD. Goal for fall education is to get back to normal again. Q. Kelly Lessons said she is the liaison or are you sharing that role? A. She's probably correct - she has the South area and I cover the Service area. C. Both of you are welcome! Q. Critical Race Theory - why is it even being discussed? A. Nothing to do with policy-don't think taught outside of college. Not part of what we passed. Won't impact what we will teach in the classroom as all. Always feel free to contact me at 301-7004 or [Holleman\\_Andy@asdk12.org](mailto:Holleman_Andy@asdk12.org) and messages for the whole Board and Supt. can be sent to [SchoolBoard@asdk12.org](mailto:SchoolBoard@asdk12.org)

**D. AFD - Lan Hecimovich**, new Firewise Coordinator performing Firewise inspections for home. Currently, going back to backlog along with homes waiting for payment for their work - checks going out to those folks. Wood lots will be opening shortly - we'll be taking applications after we get the backlog caught up. Q. Once the backlog is caught up, can open up programs for new applicants and would it be better if we got the whole street interested? A. Haven't discussed that aspect yet - call and leave a message for me to help follow up. Can be reached at 907-441-8072 and email: [milan.hecimovich@anchorageak.gov](mailto:milan.hecimovich@anchorageak.gov) Q. Is there some way to get funding to help you? A. A lot of funding came from former Senator Stevens and grants.

**IV. Minutes of February and April were accepted as published.**

**V. Treasurer Report** - Current savings/legal account balance is \$15,632.14. The current checking account balance is \$1,190.76. Check #630 and membership donations of \$351.11 through paypal. One outstanding for mailbox \$246 not cleared yet. Current balance is \$911.87. Membership dues of \$10.00 can be sent to: P.O. Box 110096, Anchorage, AK 99511

## **V. Community Council Reports**

**A. Abbott Loop - Lizzie Newell** - Picnic on 6/24 at Abbott Loop Community Park at 5:00 pm. We've been discussing the Spruce Street extension and the municipality's amendment to allow homeless centers in B1. We voted down a resolution to oppose amendments to AMC 21.050.040. At the next meeting, we will vote on a resolution to support the amendments.

**B. Bear Valley - Scott Pexton** - Clean up and BBQ will be held May 22nd. Next council meeting is 5/12 Heritage Land Bank (HLB) Shelley Rowton, Land Management Officer will address Lot 5 Block 3 (AO-2021-8). Another discussion item will be wetlands mitigation in Section 36 along Heights Hills Road into the lower part of the valley. Also, I participated in the Firewise event on April 20th. Woodlot will open this Friday, May 7th. Hours: Thurs-Sat 10-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm, although this Sunday, May 9th will be closed. Fee has increased to \$20.00. Additional information:

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/Fire/Wildfire/Pages/WoodLots.aspx>

**C. Hillside - Carmela Warfield** - Next meeting is Monday, May 17th at 7pm - still on Zoom Meetings. We have 2 presentations and requests for resolutions of support on our May agenda: 1) Hilltop Ski area is being updated to revitalize the facility, including adding a bike park, and they are seeking support for the bike park. Trevor Bird, GM of Hilltop will be at the meeting to present and answer any questions. At our April meeting, Trevor advised that Hilltop has applied for a beer and wine license as a part of their updating plans. 2) A rep from S4 group has requested a resolution of support for the Sky Ridge rezone, and will present at the meeting as well. Also, in March, the HCC formed a Zoning committee to look at proposed Title 21 changes in the B3 zoning district; and plans to bring its recommendations forward at the May meeting.

**D. Huffman/O'Malley - Julie Coulombe** - Next meeting is Thursday, May 20th - we will be electing our Board with two more slots to fill. Talked about the Capital improvement list. We have a survey monkey on our web page for people to comment - ending on 5/20. In support of John & Suzanne ending emergency declaration.

**E. Rabbit Creek.** Town Hall on where to spend stimulus money. Spruce Terraces update on that and some members agreed to upgrade our social media capabilities. Q.

When/where are meetings now? A. Third Thursday of every month at 7 pm still on zoom for May meeting. Hoping to do a hybrid possibly this summer.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

**A. Firewise - Frank Pugh.** Great prizes! We all had a great opportunity to get better educated on this important subject. C. Kaufman and Revak and I participated in a simulated fire on Birch and DeArmoun road area: how to identify, evacuate and communicate to the community. Nixle may not always work that well; may need some improvement on community communication - but the organization is professional.

**B. Sky Ridge Rezone.** Awaiting the new application the Assembly requested.

## **VII. Old Business**

**A. Property Tax Appraisal** - letter put together how they are basing the appraisals. Just received a reply back from Muni. but haven't opened this correspondence yet. Will send it to the rest of the committee. It appears the Muni has been inconsistent on how they

evaluate property values. The committees we put together do have expertise - will send to the rest of the committee.

## **IX. New Business**

**A. Election of Board Seat B positions.** A Seat Board positions voted on even number years and B positions odd number years. Paper ballots for those present and poll online for those on Zoom. Peter provided elections results:

Area G-1 Seat B Sarah Denson

Area G-2 Seat B Brena Doolen and Carmela Warfield

Area G-3 Seat B Katie Nolan and Julie Coulombe

Area G-4 Seat B Pat Abney and Marc June

Area G-5 Seat B Mike Kenny

**B. Election of Officers.** Katie Nolan, President; Frank Pugh, Vice President; Nancy Kaufman, Secretary; Christine Monette, Treasurer.

**C. ByLaws Update** - ByLaw changes were designed to ensure consistency on gmail accounts and simplify mailings. When you serve, you take care of and transfer your knowledge over to new members. Also mailing 10 days in advance - too much time. Back up to 5 days notice, currently on 7 days notice. Make sure that we don't pay officers. Any questions about those changes? C: Have suggestions. C. We have to publish them 30 days in advance, so we traditionally do that at the Annual meeting and publish 30 days in advance so everyone has a chance to look at them. But, it can be discussed further at the June meeting. Q. Sec 4, notice of meetings to members.... how many emails do we have for HALO members? A. Approx. 398 member email addresses. Q. Are we dropping the notice of meetings? A. No we are adding and we no longer do hard copies unless requested. Currently only have 1 member requesting by mail. Motion by Monette to accept ByLaw updates as published, second Powell; motion unanimous.

## **IX. Open Forum**

Concerned about funding for staffing - will reach out to Feds. C. Wildfire committee looking at state funds with Senator Revak and Representative Kaufman. The hope is to have access to State lands and use Team Rubicon to lead the process.

Update on Susan Richards: She is doing well.

Julie to Carmela: Sky Ridge in next HCC meeting - did they resubmit a new proposal? No but they asked to be put on our Agenda for a presentation; find out more on 5/17. Maybe this is something Huffman/O'Malley needs to have as well. Q. Has HCC made an official statement for or against Sky Ridge to the Assembly? A. No not at this time. C. For those who didn't attend Sky Ridge application at the Assembly, Julie stated she took objection to the engineer working for Hulquist. They stated that community councils always voted against their developments. The fact is that the councils support any development at established densities and that comply with the Hillside District Plan. This one does not, which is why it is opposed. If the revised application is at existing R-6 densities, councils will support it.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Kaufman, Secretary

**Action items:**

- *Send Muni Appraisal response letter to Appraisal Committee to evaluate & discuss*