

HALO Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 7 pm Zoom & In Person Meeting

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

Board Members present were: Sarah Denson, Brena Doolen, Christine Monette, Marc June, Nancy Kaufman, Lizzie Newell, Frank Pugh, and Carmela Warfield.

Board Members absent: Pat Abney, Peter Johnson, Mike Kenny, Gail Morrison, Rodney Powell, Susan Richards

II. Agenda. June Agenda - no additions

III. Presentations -

A. Assembly - none present because of Town Hall meeting tonight concerning B3 zoning.

B. State - Roger Holland, State Senator, District N. We are into the Special Session; it may run until June 18th. PFD will probably be in the middle somewhere; in other words, not a full dividend.

Contact: Sen.Roger.Holland@akleg.gov or #907-351-8277 cell/text

Joshua Revak, State Senator, District M. In Conference Committee to see where there are differences between the House and Senate. Probably we will continue on until 6/16-6/17. Waiting to see what those disagreements are. During the regular session four bills passed this year with a fiscal positive to the state. Please see akleg.gov for details on those bills. I do not agree with new taxes. Over 3 years, oil production has been reduced substantially. Oil used to pay 80% for state services; we now only have about 20%. Trying to figure out how to increase resource revenues without spending down the Permanent fund or institute any new taxes. Q. With the PFD at \$80 billion dollars, many people don't understand where there is a problem. A. The \$80 billion includes the Earnings Reserve Account (ERA) which is constitutionally protected. We are trying to find reductions in Government. Maintaining at the levels we are at now is unsustainable. The key is to increase revenues from our resources. C. Having a large PFD right now is ridiculous. Cannot spend into the future. Q. Thoughts on long term costs to the environment? A. Need to be the most environmentally friendly extraction state in the country. Our standards are very high with a lot of oversight and permits. C. If there is any part of the Permanent fund that funds the government, then we should pay our way. Some of us are not opposed to that. Q. Any news on Fire Wise in Juneau? A. Received \$40,000 in funds for Fire Wise in D26. The money was from "lapsing grants" of old appropriations that have achieved their purpose and had some left over.

Contact: Sen.Joshua.Revak@akleg.gov or call #907-465-3879

James Kaufman, State Representative, District 28. Senator Revak already provided an overview of where we are in this special session, and the budget process; now in committee, we are waiting for it to be sent back to us for a vote, so I won't dwell on that too much. We are operating under special session rules which limit what we can spend our time on while the Conference Committee negotiates the differences between the House and Senate

versions of the budget.

I am on the Legislative Budget & Audit Committee which does meet year round, so earlier today I attended an interesting meeting to review the annual audit of the State. There were many findings, and some of them have persisted over time which means that the list of findings is growing, not shrinking. I posted a link to the findings and findings summary on my FB page, so take a look at it if you would like more detail.

The permanent fund and the dividend is on everyone's mind, so I'll just say that one of the policy areas that I struggle with is with regards to taxes. Some advocate for a tax and a dividend, but I struggle with this idea because it feels like circular money. Many of us want cuts, but it's hard to cut the fat in government because it's not easy to isolate it. It's more like a well marbled steak with inefficiency blended in with the parts that we do need. Remember, systems that we built when we had lots of money are very complex and it's going to be a big long-term project to make them more efficient, a classic case for Quality Management and Continuous Improvement processes. Getting those processes put in place is the main reason why I ran for office.

Contact: Rep.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov or call #907-465-4949 and newsletter: akrepkaufman.com

Fire Wise Committee is working on its first big project. A local church has dead and dying trees on property. Will advertise & do other PR with Team Rubicon and John See. Please invite neighbors to observe this event. Possibly two weekends on either side of Rabbit Creek - a big educational event for all of us. Those events are progressing. Pizza will be served.

- C. ASD** - none present
- D. APD** - none present
- E. AFD** - none present

IV. Minutes May - no changes

V. Treasurer Report - Current savings/legal account balance is \$15,633.47. The current checking account balance is \$665.87. pmt to po mailbox for the amt \$246 has cleared. Membership dues of \$10.00 can be sent to: P.O. Box 110096, Anchorage, AK 99511

V. Community Council

A. Abbott Loop - Lizzie Newell - Picnic on 6/24 at Abbott Loop Community Park at 5:00 pm. We passed a Resolution in support of B1 zoning. Piece of land set aside as wetlands to be developed by Walmart near Lore Road. Still being discussed.

B. Bear Valley - none present

C. Glen Alps- none present but Marc says they are preparing or presenting a program on bear awareness - lots of bear sightings.

D. Hillside - Carmela Warfield - Resolution passed supporting efforts of Hilltop Ski area to put in the summer mountain bike course. Pay to ride up chair lift and ride down - August. A 2nd Resolution passed to allow homeless services in B3.

E. Huffman/O'Malley - Julie Coulombe - We had our elections and got new people on board with Gretchen Stoddard as our new President. Don't usually meet summertime, but we're having a special presentation about Sky Ridge on June 17th.

F. Rabbit Creek - none present

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Firewise** - See comments under III.B. (James Kaufman) above
- B. Sky Ridge Rezone** - See V.E. (Huffman/O'Malley) above
- C. Land Use** - no updates to report at present

VII. Old Business

A. Property Tax Appraisals - Ian reported that Katie received a response to her letter to the Muni for detailed information on property appraisals. The muni will provide information at a cost of \$1,300.00 without a breakdown of costs. Currently working on a response to that and will speak with John Weddleton to try and get him to bring up that issue through the Assembly for Economic Development Committee. C. Appraise but the property itself the process is opaque and we don't know the basis of those evaluations; utilities, shape, encroachments etc., - no transparency; subjective evaluations. Q. Are they willing to give you anything for free? A. Not itemized, maybe we asked too much at once. C. Ask them what they would be willing to provide at no cost because if they say nothing, it will sound very unreasonable. C. With the new administration coming in, maybe we can get the Economic Community Development Committee to get some of those answers for us at no charge. C. Also maybe Umbudsman can provide information. C. If you contest, it may raise your mill rate. C. Wondering if anybody ever wins - they don't. C. Looking for others who would like to work with us on this committee - contact Katie.

B. Firewise Event - See comments III.B. above (under James Kaufman)

IX. New Business - Next HALO meeting August 5th because our normal meeting will fall on the July 4th weekend. John will get Property Appraisal evaluations on agenda with the Economic Development Committee so we can get our questions in. Sky Ridge rezone is coming up and ADN will call to interview with our questions. HALO always supports anything that exists within the law. May be coming out before Sky Ridge goes to hearing. Plan is to submit in July, get to Committee in August, and Assembly in September. Don't know if there are any changes except traffic impact analysis and the addition to Haines street.

IX. Open Forum

Manuel & Cina Lopez family - live in Ponds subdivision; family of six. Here in AK since 1970 and in 1964 when her father was here with the Military. Neighborhood is great but the Polaris and Rilke Schule schools need better street access. Q. mailing list? A. Yes.

Sarah - throat problem; cant talk

Nancy - lots of bears out in the neighborhoods.

Julie - phrase in Sky Ridge "*vacate the right of way*" what does that mean? A. Street there on the map but not used as a street, nor do they want to use it as a street. Q. What is a BLM lot and how can I get one? A. Five acre parcels; a number of them are still on Rabbit Creek, private ownership. Most of them have been subdivided into 1/2 acre lots. They are still available to buy.

Katie: - trying to rewrite boundaries of the lower hillside - on the Hillside District Plan.

Christine - Shocked with Hillside Community Council presentation - annoyed with John Weddleton who turned down what they presented. If pushed they would come back with higher density. The opposing attitude is that the eastern side of Lake Otis to remain on-site services. Always a push to creep further up the Hillside!

Frank - Dealing with health issues with my father and land dispute issues.

Action items:

- Reach out to friends and neighbors to invite and attend the Fire Wise event
- Contact Katie to help out on Property Appraisal Committee

The meeting adjourned at: 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Kaufman, Secretary