

HALO Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2019

- I. The meeting was called to order by President Katie Nolan at 7 pm. Board Members present: Pat Abney, Peter Johnson, James Kaufman, Nancy Kaufman, Christine Monette, Gail Morrison, Rodney Powell, and Frank Pugh. Board Members absent but excused: Brena Doolen, Marc June, Albert Fogle, Susan Richards. Board Members absent: Sara Densen, Mike Kenny, Kurt Rein.
- II. The June Agenda was accepted with additions.
- III. Presentations
 - A. Assembly Representative John Weddleton. On the Assembly Agenda Tues Aug 6th Item 14H is a general study done on creation of a muni-wide stormwater utility. The Assembly had placed \$450,000 for this project, but used that funding to address the homeless issue. The question now is whether to borrow \$1.5 M to study the issue or wait for next year and designate another \$450,000 to do the study. There will be fees charged to property owners for this new utility. Weddleton feels these fees should be based on your impact on the stormwater system. It is also a method to capture funding from non-taxable non-profits, who would be responsible for their share of impact. Evacuation in case of wildfire? Adding ways to escape is a big issue. If we can use the funds on hillside road funds, but needs match. An idea is to put on the ballot for April - bond for emergency match good deal for Hillsiders. If that fails, maybe an area wide savings account. HALO did a nitrate study approx 6 years ago, hiring independent professionals. Would like if HALO would redo that study. Q. What's the motivation; the end goal of proposed stormwater utility? A. Have heard discussion but no direct answer. Well water study is not posted on our website, but the report can be uploaded. Weddleton can provide it as well. DOT got more budget cuts; so may be delays in plowing this winter.
 - B. Legislative. Chris Birch - Finished with second special session - Capital Budget approved and believe the Governor will sign the budget. \$1 billion in federal money, but requires a state match - approved in Senate 19-0 vote, but tangled up in the House - held up as exchange for \$3000 PFD. Conversation leaning toward 3rd special session. Wanting consistency and stability with agreement with the PFD. Q. Governor Walker did not follow the law about what is required and whether law should be changed to address the PFD. A. People own the money and resources, when Budget is passed it's a statute, and it overrides the PFD law. A law is basically a statute, but those laws are in conflict. He used the Senior Benefit program as an example. Legislature is responsible for appropriating those monies. Q. Do you think Dunleay has learned anything? A. Back pay and current PFD requested (\$3,000) would amount to about 3 billion dollars. Q. Recall the Governor effort? A. It's a high hurdle to recall the governor; I would rather get together and work things out. Q. State spending is high, and APIG reported that State salary levels should be addressed; could result in cost savings. A. Governor is in a position to address that - but, it takes work. Can't just do drastic cuts.
 - C. APD Hillside Patrol. Officer Christopher Wright. The police chief and mayor community policing process working to be assigned specific areas. He works Midnight patrol: 11 pm - 9 am. Try to attend community meetings. Please take his business card for contact.

Bear Valley invited him to summer program visiting with the children to create positive interactions. Big fires this summer. House fire on Hillside; no injuries reported. Q. Recommend home surveillance package? A. They are very important but department can't recommend a specific company. If notice any suspicious activity, please make note of license plates so he can run the plates. Q. How pervasive is neighborhood watch program. A. Natasha Welch is specifically assigned to get those set up. Communication with neighbors can oftentimes solve the problem without police enforcement. Comment: must have 10+ houses in eyesight to have neighborhood watch program. So, large lot areas instead have immediate neighbors text each other frequently to communicate local happenings. Kaufman stated there is also a middle ground - Coalition of Community Patrols, next meeting Denny's at DeBarr 6 pm 1st Friday of each month. C. Where do we stand now on current law replacing SB91? A. Low morale as a result of SB91, new law just passed, enforcement officers encouraged by this. Business cards up on the front table.

- IV. The Minutes of June were accepted as amended with replacement language "Steel tanks are permitted, however, the MOA has not approved the way the tanks are being coated at the local manufacturer."
- V. Treasurer Report a balance of \$1,573.18 in our checking account, \$15,603.40 in our savings.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Website (Monette) Current with what we are working on now. Backlog with previous years material. 2019 information is current. Ours is a heavy data driven website. Working with website facilitator *Go Daddy* may need to change website to address the issue that our site will not hold all our information, minutes, etc. Q. Well water quality report found? A. Asked Weddleton to give her a copy to drop in there tonight. Comment: Also, SWU survey still on there; one component of that report.
 - B. Land Use and Parks (Pugh) Last meeting wrote up starting up committee; look at broader community. Committee is Pugh, Densen, Fogle, Johnson, Morrison. Welcomes others to join. Pugh will organize a scoping meeting.
- VII. Community Council Reports
 - A. Bear Valley - Called police on four-wheelers driving dangerously. Reported at least 20 gunshots fired in the area.
 - B. Hillside - Council is aware of questionable activity in neighborhood.
 - C. Rabbit Creek - Picnic at Moen Park, Firewise and information on park campers. Grace Johnston trying to collect funds to match for a Parks Foundation grant for adult exercise equipment.
- VIII. Old Business
 - B. Lewis & Clark Appeal - Joan Priestly and others appealed the Assembly decision to rezone this subdivision to R10. Not too late to join the association to join the appeal for the next meeting. Priestly noted that the appeal is available and she will provide it to the Board. The appeal states that the Assembly did not follow Title 21 in making their decision. Current zoning R10 with special limitation. Fear is that nearby large properties will use this decision to rezone to higher densities than allowable under Code. Priestly asks for interested parties to sign on as co-plaintiffs.

IX. New Business

- A. Wildfire. Several HALO Representatives attended a tour of the MLK Fire with Assembly Representative John Weddleton. This fire was fairly simple to address, as it was in flat lands with vehicle access, water and personnel available. It still took a major effort to suppress, with multiple agencies assisting. A fire on the Hillside would be far more difficult to suppress, with our lack of roads and water sources. Although several homeless campsites with huge quantities of debris were found in the burned area, a direct cause could not be proven legally. One of these sites contained much debris from burning the plastic coating off of copper wiring. Rabbit Creek Community Council has been working on a complete Firewise Community plan. HALO should work with them and our area community councils to help create evacuation planning and further the Firewise goals. Motion by Pugh, second by Morrison, to create a Firewise Community Committee; this committee will work on integrating efforts with all our area councils; motion passed unanimously. Morrison, J. Kaufman, Pugh all volunteered to join committee. J Kaufman agreed to Chair. Discussion about Firewise program and defensible space and float up if fire were to occur on Hillside. Hopping Committee will address: evacuation plans, clearing projects, coordinating activities and ideas from area Community Councils

Cannot assign blame, but 3 homeless camps in that area known to have burned insulation over wire as well as other fires in Anchorage stated to be human caused. Weddleton stated ordinance passed that resalers cannot accept copper that has been exposed from burned wire. Q. What happened to fire-watch drone? A. Pugh stated one at Service. Q. Do we know where these camps are located? A. There is a homeless reporting system but Muni won't share this information with us. Q. Community Action Team has done tremendous effort but not that simple - due process for that to happen. A. Weddleton stated that clean-up efforts are very difficult for non-functioning homeless. Discussion about role model in Omaha NE with detox and rehab centers. System to get them in and get them out. Firewise committee volunteers please meet at the front to discuss before we leave tonight.

Recommend for line item for next meeting: Homeless enforcement

- B. Update on Well Water Quality Report. Nolan will contact Report authors to ask about doing an update. Motion Powell, second Morrison, to spend up to \$5,000 to reimburse update expenses; motion passed unanimously.

X. Open Forum

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kaufman, Secretary

Action Items:

Well Water Quality Report update - Nolan

Firewise Committee - J Kaufman

Homeless camp enforcement for Sept meeting - Nolan

Well Water Quality Report to website - Monette