

HALO Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 5, 2019

- I. The meeting was Called to Order by President Katie Nolan at 7:07 pm. Board members present: Peter Johnson, James Kaufman, Nancy Kaufman, Rodney Powell, Frank Pugh, Kurt Rein, Susan Richards. Absent but excused: Christine Monette, Sarah Denson, Brena Doolen, Mike Kenny, Gail Morrison. Absent: Albert Fogle, Pat Abney, Marc June.
- II. Agenda was accepted.
- III. Presentations
 - A. Assembly Representative John Weddleton - Storm Water Utility on Hillside. Admin proposes area-wide function, \$1.5 M needed. Will be heard at the Tues. 9/10 Assembly Meeting - all invited to come and provide public comments for amendments. Amendments and Ordinances posted online Q. Can these Amendments and Ordinances be sent to HALO to post. A. Yes they will be emailed to HALO to post. Assembly wants to hire a consultant to conduct study. Another amendment (coded in blue) based on rate study. John proposes to do it now before proceeding with any next stages. Sept. 24th - set-up utility advisory commission forces people from LRSAs, Hillside to become a part of this commission (stormwater). Q. Has there been a rate study? A. Stormwater Utility study at the Anchorage Muni website describing costs and needed work, Sept. 24th. He is asking for an oversight board with 3 Districts (not including ARDSA). Rate structure should provide LRSAs to receive reimbursements. All utilities are outside of the tax cap. Sec. 8 should lower the tax cap to reflect the new utility. Both of these will be heard at the Assembly Meeting Sept. 24th. Q. Any further comments on Homeless Camps? A. Weddleton visited a successful model "Dignity Village" in Portland. There are also numerous unsuccessful models. They must be very well managed, self-governed, and their rules should be firm - no drugs, no alcohol and don't get too big. This model may work here. Q. Will they meet the 9th District Court criteria of "sheltered environment"? A. Can't kick out of parks without a roof/shelter where homeless can go to. Comment: If we add additional structures, how does that actually diminish the problem; not just create more attractive niches. Q. Is it fair to compare the financial uncertainty of the proposed Stormwater Utility to our experiences with SAP? A. SAP was supposed to be a \$9M item that became \$90M. We don't know what the Utility would cost.
 - B. Guest Speaker Ric Davidge - "Solving Homelessness in Anchorage" - Davidge feels his having grown up as a foster child gives him a greater understanding of the issue of homelessness. He is the Vice President of Midtown Community Council. The 9th circuit court gives Alaska tremendous problems - not so for some other states in terms of regulation, specifically "If you do not have shelter - you cannot move them". Anchorage Mayor and staff are not interested in transitional or temporary housing. Mental Health Trust has a lot of land that may accommodate many homeless. Believes good competent management and rules for any homeless facility that will be built as detailed in "We Can Do Better" hand-out. One of the key problems is spending money on symptoms rather than the solution to homelessness. Send homeless home if they wish to return to their origin and follow up is necessary for success. Purpose of the handout - engage other Community Councils. "Broken Window - type biggest problem, based on much research is lawlessness! Serious health problem brewing on Hillside - camps being built in the woods creating e-coli, wildfire and debris problems. The Homeless Industrial Complex or Homeless Business that has been built up to help the homeless does not allow a solution. Currently 40 non-profits and 22 government agencies responsible for solving

the issue. Anchorage has the highest number of non-profit's funded through grants than anywhere else in America. HUD and the "complex" does not want to fix the problem. "Seattle is Dying" documentary about Seattle's Homelessness problem is an example of this. There is a site proposed on Base for homeless vets.

The key points:

1. Panhandling that is passive (a sign not a voice) is protected as free speech 9th Circuit Court. Giving us not. We offer a number of reforms.
2. The MOA s refusal to immediately provide shelter (broad definition) for the homeless leaves them on the street and in the camps. The MOA has consistently said they will only support long term supportive housing which is connected to the homeless industrial complex.

The cities who have quickly and professionally provided some type of transitional shelter including tent camps have moved them all off the street in a few months. This MUST be a priority.

3. Approaching each homeless person as a person is far more successful then in groups
4. The mental health component is greatly limited by a long list of old laws that are based on the knowledge of the brain from the 1950s and MUST be reconstructed at the federal and state levels.
5. Spending a vast amount of funds on symptoms rather than focusing on root causes is not going to fix the problem.
6. A rewrite of the state alcohol tax that allows this funds collected from the Anch market should be returned to the MOA under a negotiated Memorandum of Agreement for very specific spending which should be reviewed every two years to ensure MOA performance as agreed and the possible redirection if funds to new initiatives as needed.
7. The gathering of CCs is essential to these reforms.
8. Lawlessness is the underlying cause of most of the stagnation in solving the homeless problem. This needs serious attention within the MOA and the state.

A copy of the Report and Resolution was provided to members and guests tonight. He encourages HALO to create something in support. Q. What percentage of the population of homeless are veterans? A. About 10% and the myth that: 80% from rural Alaska...actually less than 40%. Q. Most panhandlers are natives; are the Native Corporations doing anything? Q. Villages don't want to be involved with those people. Cause: most villages today today don't have any economic activity or purpose. Two things changed Bush Alaska: permanent government welfare and TV. Fixing root cause is much more effective than managing symptoms. Not adequate mental health professionals in the state to help those who are homeless and mentally ill. CC's needed to get all the community councils, assembly, the mayor on with the idea to focus on these ideas and deal with them. Most of those on street corners are not homeless but live in hostiles \$25.00 a day. Q. Who is handing out the meals? A. Unknown. Davidge will email his handouts to Nolan to post and distribution.

- C. ASD - Andy Holloman reported that the District is only down 500 students, not the 1000 they had expected. Proposal before the Board to play the National Anthem at least once a month in every school.

- IV. Minutes were accepted as published.
- V. Treasurer Report shows \$1,573.18 in our checking account and \$15,602.06 in the savings account.
- VI. Community Council Reports
- A. Abbott Loop
 - B. Bear Valley
 - C. Hillside
 - D. Huffman/O'Malley
 - E. Rabbit Creek - 08-Aug-2019, members of the Rabbit Creek CC Land Use & Transportation (LUT) Committee met with Shelley Rowton, the incoming Land Management Officer for Heritage Land Bank (HLB), in the MOA Planning Department Offices located at 4700 Elmore Road. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the portion of Section 36 owned by HLB which is located in the Bear Valley Community Council area. On 29-Aug-2019, members of the Rabbit Creek CC Land Use & Transportation (LUT) Committee took Shelley Rowton on a tour of HLB Properties located in the Rabbit Creek Community Council and Bear Valley Community Council areas. The purpose was to discuss the desires of some members of the Rabbit Creek Community Council as to how HLB should manage certain properties with respect to drainage, access roads & trails, neighborhood connectivity, fire resilience/safety, development densities, Chugach State Park trail access, intersection capacities, and wetlands mitigation.

The properties visited were as follows:

- 1) BLM Parcel (located at the intersection of Rabbit Creek Road & Old Seward Highway) to discuss installing a Rabbit Creek area sign;
- 2) HLB Parcels 2-127 thru 2-136 – drainage along Old Seward Highway;
- 3) HLB Parcels 2-135 thru 2-136 – Moen Homestead Trail, Chugach State Park, and potential future road access;
- 4) HLB Parcels 2-144, 2-146, & 2-147 – Potter Valley Road developments, connections/access to Chugach State Park;
- 5) HLB Parcels 156 – Golden View Drive to 172nd to past Moen Homestead Trail connection and Legacy Point drainage issues, density/carrying capacity;
- 6) HLB Parcels 2-127 thru 2-136 – wetlands and access issues;
- 7) HLB Parcels 2-125, 2-126, 2-124C – Storck Park/Section 36 wetland issues, also noted HLB Parcels 2-139, 2-143, & 2-152;
- 8) Visited the Honey Bear Trail Head and Brewster's Homestead Road – discussed trail access through HLB properties in these locations.

- VI. Committee Reports
- A. Website (Monette) is up to date.
 - B. Firewise (J Kaufman) Kaufman introduced the preliminary plan for the HALO Firewise program and explained that the key parts of the plan are:
 - HALO's role would be to coordinate an outreach/publicity program to raise awareness of wildfire risk on the Anchorage Hillside. This will include communications, and events coordinated in a manner similar to what is typically seen in a political campaign.
 - The plan will go beyond the current boundaries of Firewise which is presently focused primarily upon what individuals should do with respect to their homes/property. The HALO program will seek to go further, and explore what a fully networked community

can achieve when all potentially available resources are optimized to (a) reduce the potential for a fire to start, and (b) respond effectively should a major fire occur.

- The timeline for the plan is to develop a preliminary program between now and the end of 2019. Q1 2020 would be used to further refine and begin to perform small scale roll out including talks at churches, schools, etc. Early Q2 2020 would be when the main public presentations (such as at the zoo or other large venues) would occur, timed with breakup, just prior to the start of fire season.
- Current partners in the awareness program include entities such as the Alaska Zoo, Anchorage Fire Department and Anchorage Police Department.
- J. Kaufman has met with the director of the Alaska Zoo, they are interested and agreed to offer free use of their 150+ capacity meeting room, help with publicity, graphics and other assistance. Similar opportunities are being sought elsewhere such as Hilltop Ski area, local schools and churches.
- A worksheet was presented as an opportunity for the HALO membership to provide their input for consideration. The worksheet includes the "problem statement" and two tables where potential improvement ideas can be offered under individual categories titled Prevention and Mitigation as well as subcategories for governmental and non-governmental organizations. The HALO president will send the worksheet to the general email HALO distribution with instructions to provide questions/comments/input directly to J. Kaufman at jkaufman@gci.net

VIII. Old Business

- A. Well Water Quality Report (Nolan). As directed at the last meeting, Nolan contacted the individuals who created the first Report. They have agreed to do an update this Fall.

IX. New Business

- A. Motion Powell, second Johnson, to write Resolutions to the Assembly supporting Weddleton's proposed amendments to the proposed Stormwater Utility; unanimous. Pugh and J Kaufman agreed to attend the Assembly meeting and speak in support of the amendments.
- B.

X. Open Forum

- A. Can we have a speaker to discuss aquifers? Nolan stated that the updated Well Water Quality Report will address this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Kaufman, Secretary

Action Items:

Resolution in support of Weddleton amendments to AO 2019-87 (Nolan)

Attend Tuesday night Assembly meeting in support of AO 2019-87 (J Kaufman and Pugh)