

**HALO Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 7 pm**  
**Shepherd of the Hills (corner Klatt Rd & Elmore Rd)**  
**Zoom Meeting ID 455 419 5765    Passcode HALO**

The meeting was called to order by the President. Board Members present: Peter Johnson, Marc June, Mike Kenny, David Michael, Christine Monette, Gail Morrison, Lizzie Newell, Joan Priestly and John Weddleton. Excused Absent: Rachel Ries, Carmela Warfield, Jason Warfield. Absent: Sarah Denson, Brena Doolan, Frank Pugh.

Special Presentation – Sen. James Kaufman and Rep. Julie Coulumbe

3 Key of Capital projects and how to get ideal results into CAPSIS

- Sen. K and Rep C last year's approved capital projects for Hillsidd
- 1) political environment – very important
  - Minority / Majority
    - Maj has better weight to get projects through
    - Min – Sen. K and Rep. C
    - Who holds the governorship + relationship with the gov.
    - Relationship w/ Legislator
    - Relationship with Controlling Party
    - Relationship with Governor
  - Advocacy with others in Maj. And Minority
  - Budget
    - Projected revenue – tight in 2025
    - Surplus or deficit
    - Room for capital budget
- 2) CAPSIS System Submission
  - Capital Project Submission Information System
    - Best to submit projects through Sen. K and Rep. C so they can vet the proposal and try to push the projects through the system
    - Try to get them aligned with the Muni's projects / needs
  - Projects can be submitted in two ways:
    - The Legislator's office
    - Through the organization's Sub-Account

- Legislators have access to CAPSIS. They can also create Sub-Accounts for Community Councils and HALO to submit project through
  - All projects to be considered must be submitted by deadline – usually Late Jan -> mid-Feb.
- 3) Capital Project Timelines
  - Gov Budget – Dec 15
  - CAPSIS Submission, Jan/Feb
  - Senate Version – Late Feb
  - House Version, April
  - Conference Committee, May
  - Passage /Vetoes –
- What can you do?
  - Gather info about the project
  - Create a compelling case
  - Communicate with the Project's Sen and Reps
    - Why is this important?
    - Why is it a Big Need?
    - How / who will this project benefit?
  - Be ready before CAPSIS opens so you can submit your project in a timely fashion
  - Influence other legislators by making your case to them during public testimony
- Summary
  - Getting a Capital Projects passed is a complex and intensive projects
  - Keep connected / communicate with comm councils, reps, senators, assembly
  - CAPSIS
    - [Edra.Morledge@akleg.gov](mailto:Edra.Morledge@akleg.gov)
    - [Emma.Torkelson@akleg.gov](mailto:Emma.Torkelson@akleg.gov)
    - [Rep.Julie.Couombe@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Julie.Couombe@akleg.gov)
    - [Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.James.Kaufman@akleg.gov)

Rep. C and Sen. K – coffee klatch @ Holy Spirit at 10 am

- Troy - Facilitating January meeting.
- Ky - Check with Amanda on the \$300K and with Julie.
- Ky follow up with Troy on the January meeting.
- Send CC invite - requests for attendance - but as individual, not required to be a formal CC rep - Katie help Troy.

- All - share possible projects or grant ideas with Stephanie, she can help with coordinating with the State. (

#### School Board - Pat

- Closures – 2 schools – Lake Hood and Nunaka Valley
  - Expecting another school closure in 2025
- Trying to get classes down to 30; depends on funding
- Teachers – high turnover. Teacher salaries at 15-20% below what they should be.
- Budget
- Alaska Native charter school – in 2 years, will level the school b/c it's less expensive to level than update to code; this school may take over the Nunaka Valley school
- Expecting 3% student decrease per year

#### Wildfire Honcho – John Glover – wildfire Program Manager for the AFD

- HALO \$180K in the firewise pot; should be able to get 1 or 2 projects done
- Working on aligning leftover projects + other muni projects
- Reinstating the fuel break at Tour of Anchorage Trail (Campbell Tract) and Abbott
  - BLM has a few projects ... off Elmore
  - Removing dead spruce
  - Off O'Malley golf + Ruth Arcand + Hanshew Middle School – mostly black spruce; plans to widen trails for fuel / fire breakline
  - Forsythe Park – reduction effort to remove dead/down trees.
  - Bear Valley projects if \$ is leftover
- AFD + BLM – Good Neighbor grant \$2 million to (G&A? GNA?)
  - Hilltop ski area to prospect hts – fuel break along northern residential side
  - Connector from Hilltop to Basher – fuel break – North interface area
  - Tour of Anchorage – G&A grant and connection work
    - \$2 million – submit in Feb / hear about it in Sept.
  -
- The firewise office putting in for more grants ... \$8 - \$10 million
  - Fuels treatment
  - Widening fire breaks
  - Graveling fire roads for egress potential
  - Leveraging projects with federal partners
  - Projects / Objectives
    - Egress for firefighters
    - ?
    - ?
  -
- Christine – what about projects HALO put forward / funded
  - Christine - Some of the smaller projects are getting done?

- Katie – we're focusing on a few of the bigger projects
  - Not all HALO projects could be put under "firewise"

Abbot – NA

Bear Valley - NA

Glen Alps – Working on pedestrian safety

Huff – NA

Rabbit – NA

Committee Reports:

ByLaws – Tweaking – vote in February

Land Use – Nothing new

Treasurer Chk \$591.84      Sav \$14,675

Assembly – John W – Ordinance to get rid of multi-design standards.

Ky and Katie – working on an expanded wildfire committee. Will include other hazards including power outages, roads, earthquakes, etc. Asking for commitment from all councils.

- The community patrols might be helpful on the Resilience Committee. They can do work before a fire and after the fire. Patti – President of Anchorage Coalition of Community Patrols

**Elections in April**

- **Would be great to have someone familiar with Hillside to run**
- Eric Gurly – Oceanview since 1977. Access Alaska, Inc.