

HALO Board Meeting, June 3, 2010
Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Anchorage

Past president Chris Hamre opened the meeting at 7:10. Other board members present were: Beth Terry, Steve McKee, Chris Hamre, Dianne Holmes, Scott Pexton, Susan Olsen, Katie Nolan, Peter Johnson. Excused were: Judy Moerlein, Robin Holm, Wayne Westberg, Christine Monette. Absent: Rodney Powell, Kurt Rein, Cathy Giessel, Dave Cottrell.

After reaching a quorum later in the meeting, business requiring a board vote was conducted.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Nolan and Pexton to approve the May minutes, as corrected. Correction: under New Business, cite Nolan as offering to write a letter to council presidents. Passed without objection.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,231.48 is in the HALO checking account; \$18,763.69 is in the Legal account. Motion by Pexton and McKee to accept the treasurer's report. Passed without objection.

Committee Reports:

Programs/Special Events: There was discussion on the need for a new chair for this committee as Sharon Clawson retired from the board.

Communications: There was discussion on having an e-newsletter. Nolan described how her council does it. Holmes pointed out that last year HALO agreed to have a quarterly e-newsletter, but it has not been done regularly. Nolan also mentioned getting generic G-mail accounts for HALO officers to make the transition easier from one administration to another. Hamre suggested waiting until the president was available to decide on Gmail accounts.

Hillside District Plan: no new report was available.

Old Business:

Title 21 update: Holmes reported on the Title 21 Assembly Committee meeting held earlier in the day and how there is now a 4th composite version that appears to represent HALO's request for vegetative buffers around non-residential uses in R6+ districts.

New Business:

Steve McKee's presentation: McKee described his lengthy and frustrating process to appeal his property appraisal. The \$100 filing fee for an appeal will be returned if a resident shows up for the hearing, dismisses the appeal, or wins. The application form is on-line at muni.org. It is important to file by the deadline and to get all necessary information ready. While a 'manual' is used to determine property appraisals and in appeal decisions, McKee has not yet been able to get a copy. The key to a successful appeal is being able to prove the appraisal is incorrect. If an appeal is denied, it can be appealed to the State Superior Court but no additional information can be added to the case at that point. Another critical point in the appeal process is the 'comps' (comparative values). How the Muni compares one property against others to arrive at a value is important to understand and research. The Muni apparently is not required to disclose how and why they use the comps that they do in their appraisal process.

Announcements/Additions to Agenda:

Nolan said there was a situation in her council where a homeowner has cleared far into adjacent parkland near a creek and brought in fill; the council has not gotten results from the city code enforcement on this matter and she would like HALO's help. It was suggested she bring in documents for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be August 5th.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 pm

Submitted: Dianne Holmes, Sec