

Minutes for HALO Board Meeting, September 1, 2011 (draft)
Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Anchorage

President Wayne Westberg opened the meeting at 7:04 pm. Other board members present were: Rodney Powell, Judy Moerlein, Dianne Holmes, Kurt Rein, Beth Terry, Katie Nolan, Robin Holm, Steve McKee, Matt Burkholder/John Weddleton*.

Excused: Susan Olson, Peter Johnson, Pat Abney Absent: Matt Moore, Chris Hamre

President's Message: Water well quality report is nearly done and will be available on HALO's web. The next Hillside District Plan (HDP) implementation measure to be addressed for our discussion will be the roads, drainage, trails service area.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Moerlein and seconded by Powell to approve the July, 2011 minutes. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account: \$4,122.44; Legal/Savings account: \$21,848.82. Included in the savings account is \$1,920 devoted to the Well water quality report. Motion by Homes and Terry to accept Treasurer's report. Passed.

Legislative/Assembly report: Senator Cathy Giessel was present and spoke on a meeting to be held in Fairbanks next week on petroleum-related jobs being filled by non-Alaskans and the need to have trained Alaskans for those jobs. Regarding the cost of hotel rooms at out-of-state conferences that legislators attend—she said her hotel in Hawaii was (about) \$160 a night.

Presentations/Speakers/Guests:

Potter Highlands Update: Ric Davidge reported that the rezone for Potter Highlands will come before the Assembly again on Sept 13th. The city administration wants to insert language about requiring a 2nd access in the first phase of the development. Ric would like support from HALO opposing this potential requirement. No action was taken. Ric's e-mail is: pm@cylaska.com

Old Business:

Well water quality report update: for fundraising suggestions, put pledge cards in community councils' newsletters. Five thousand is the goal to produce the report and pay HALO back for funding it. Almost \$2,000 has been raised so far.

Chugach State Park Management Plan update: Tom Meacham discussed the CSP plan. The crowded parking situation at the Glen Alps entrance is of concern to many HALO residents. The deadline for comments is now Oct 31st which will give HALO time to see comments from prior trail and access plans before submitting our own. These more specific plans should have come after the management plan, however. The current trailhead plan is to extend Sultana Rd around the east side of the viewing knoll and meet up with the current parking lot; the current access out to Glen Alps would be deleted. The plan gives no estimate as to the cost to build nor maintain this new road. State Parks does not have funds for this road nor for maintenance. Another idea, from a Glen Alps resident, is to purchase the 40 ac Native allotment near the Glen Alps park entrance and make it into a parking lot. Another idea is to have shuttle buses, in summer, bring visitors to the park. The shuttle might come from Upper Huffman to Glen Alps or from Hill Top. Two residents have drafted letters on the CSP Plan—Susan Olsen and Barbara Winkley. This topic will be on HALO's October agenda.

HDP Road, Drainage, Trail Service Area—John Weddleton explained the next phase of the HDP will likely be consideration of implementation of the service area concept. The HDP includes keeping the LRSA (Limited Road Service Area) mechanism. State funds will likely be needed to help convince the residents to vote for the service concept. This is what occurred in Eagle River when they formed a similar service area. Jennifer Johnston suggested that HALO write a letter requesting state funding to implement this part of the HDP. Weddleton passed around a letter he'd drafted. The issue will be on HALO's October agenda.

New Business:

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) update: Sharon Weddleton spoke on Title 31 which deals with AWWU. It will now be brought back under the umbrella of the MOA rather than be a separate, quasi independent utility. Title 31 was created because independent utilities can get funds and raise rates, while government-owned utilities often operate with political intervention. However, Title 31 was not sufficient to reduce oversight regulation; instead there was triple regulation—Board of Directors, Assembly and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA). Now Title 31 is gone and the purchasing department of AWWU and other sections will come back under the MOA. \$12 billion in assets will come back to the MOA. AWWU will now only be double regulated—by the Assembly and the RCA, however there is a question as to whether funds will be granted to maintain the infrastructure—which is often a question when a utility is publically owned.

Title 21 update: John Weddleton reported that the mayor’s re-write of Title 21 should be out in September for public review with P/Z holding public hearings in mid-October or later. The Assembly will start holding their Title 21 Committee meeting again soon, rather than waiting to hear P/Z’s comments.

Announcements:

Moerlein would like to put out a quarterly hard-copy newsletter to HALO’s members. Motion by Moerlein and Powell to produce a hard copy newsletter which will serve as HALO’s quarterly NL and to include in the NL an update on Title 21 when the latest version is available for review and to make a plea for funding for the Well water quality report.; NL will also include an overview of the Chugach State Park Management Plan by Tom Meacham. Passed.

Dianne 9/5/11 12:15 PM
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South High Sports Facility update: Nolan reported that the Urban Design Commission (UDC) had this issue on their consent agenda earlier this year, not as a public hearing. The Planning Dept would not put it on the agenda as a public hearing. Nolan said the Planning staff told the UDC that the HDP was not relevant in this case. The Anchorage School Board was not part of the decision for this large sports facility and residents want a new ASD policy which would trigger a public hearing and input for major site use changes that hold such potential impact to the neighbors. Nolan would like HALO to write a letter of support for this policy change and will draft a letter for the board to vote and edit electronically.

John Weddleton 9/5/11 9:57 AM
Comment: Would be nice to confirm this statement.

Adjournment: 8:55 pm

Submitted by: Dianne Holmes