

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2010
FCC Conference Room

Meeting minutes for March, April and June were read and approved.
Kristin Peterson from Senator Hollis French's office is here and will report back to him.

Assemblywoman Harriet Drummond greeted everyone to North Star Community Council area. She announced that Romig Hill at Spenard and Hillcrest will be reopening soon. There was an amendment to the contract for another \$250,000.00 for items such as the retaining walls. The Assembly has been relatively quiet and adjourning early at 7:45. They are working on storage in Cook Inlet for peak gas use periods. The Begich administration audit came to the conclusion there was lack of oversight on the parts of both the Mayor and Assembly. An amendment is being introduced to address the issue. U.P.S. is removing their junior pilots from Anchorage; Mayor Sullivan and the Assembly support the pilots.

Assemblyman Ernie Hall met with Ron Thompson, Jerry Hanson and Jennifer from Public Works about Spenard Road. There may be a possible MOA purchase of a key lot from someone who had previously been an unwilling seller. That could change the road design. The problems with snow removal and snow storage on Spenard came up. There was a consensus for slowing down Spenard to 25 mph - they have been discussing that as well as on Romig Hill, the current maximum of 30 mph is too fast. There would be two crosswalks between Fireweed and Northern Lights.

The West Anchorage District Plan is in committee. Four and a half months passed between the last meeting and when the draft plan got back to the committee. They were informed they had three weeks for their review of the document and to get their comments in to the Planning Department. Ernie spoke to Jerry Weaver who heads the Planning Department and it was decided to give the group until the end of September, at least.

The Administration released a report that if they keep taxes under the cap, there will be a deficiency of \$18 million and at the cap will be \$8 million. There is the possibility the mill rates will increase. The school's budget will be cut \$85 million next year as there will be no more stimulus dollars. As in the past, there was a discussion about what to do with the old DOT building on Spenard and Benson and if the MOA can do anything about it. Ernie reported that Cash Alaska and the Burger Stop leased the parking lot from DOT. He'll look into why that happened when the parking area they are using is part of a park agreement between the MOA and DOT when the new Benny Benson Park was established.

Tom McGrath: As far as the work being done around the Spenard Rec Center, our community council requested that Van Buren Street be renamed **Allen Thornhill's Way**. How do we start the process to make sure that happens? Allen has been involved since 1979 with the area and deserves recognition. Also, what happened to the **Midtown Plan**? He doesn't like the Plan, but would like to see West 27th between Minnesota and Blueberry as a bike/pedestrian access trail because it is not a good road and would tie in well with the Spenard Road update.

Ernie Hall replied to that by saying the WADP will tie into the Midtown Plan because it's all inclusive to cover West Anchorage. The planning group needs to have ownership in it, their comments will be part of the preliminary draft which will be incorporated into the which will then be released to the general public. Harriet Drummond will meet with Elvi Gray-Jackson and Dick Traini from the Assembly because it is in their district.

Allen Thornhill said **road rage** is a real problem with part of the problem being the lines waiting for people to turn right on a red. There followed a discussion about right turns on red and right hand turn lanes.

Barry Blumenthal brought up the issue of placement of the **bus stops on 36th and Spenard**. There was a question as to the status of the application Chugach Electric made to have their helipad moved. Assemblyman Hall said it's been delayed a year.

Jay Stange congratulated Chair Haag on her new building (Blaine's). Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond, along with Hall's staff, Ira Perman, have been busy with meetings on the roads and we are grateful for that.

Mark Butler did a report on the **Spenard Farmer's Market**. The Market borrowed \$2,000.00 from SCC and have spent \$2,500.00 to set it up. They are already in the black. The co-chairs are Rene Haag and Mark. There have been 15 farmer's market so far and what does the council think? Seventeen hundred people have signed up on Facebook as friends of the Market. Chilkoot Charlies have been very generous in loaning us the space, equipment and staff and underwriting the costs of insurance and other fees. Mark gave credit to Jason Bergerson, our former SCC chair, for coming up with the idea years ago.

Debbie Baldwin from Rural CAP came in with a 10% design of the new, planned childcare facility they are hoping to bring to Spenard. The building will be situated on land behind the Carousel Lounge. She has been in several times before to bring us updates and to explain what they are trying to accomplish. They have met with many people throughout the area, both future neighbors and members of the Anchorage Assembly, as well as from the Alaska Legislature. They are taking ideas and comments from the community on how best to utilize their space; for instance, the Council wondered if ingress/egress to the parking lot can be narrowed so that it only serves those using the facilities and making it safer for the children.

The revenue for the center is a mix of grants from the State and CIRI. There is a long waiting list. Their current facility is close to the Moose's Tooth and new DMV building, so parking and traffic are a real problem. It is planned as a Green (environmentally) building. MOA is taking comments for the CDBG (Capital Design Building Grants) and can make larger grants for non-residential buildings.

A motion was made to support the new building, but Jason Bergerson reminded the Council that one had been made and passed before, so it was decided to let that resolution stay as the voice of the Council.

Bob Auth did an **airport committee report** - Only two community members were there out of the six meetings. The next meeting is Oct. 21. The committee is supposed to be a conduit for the Airport to communicate with the community.

Jim Bowers did a report on the progress of road work being done at Taft and 48th. Phase I should be completed this year with the exception of landscaping which will be next year.

Barry Blumenthal announced the **Shriner's are sponsoring the North/South Girl's Fly Football game** on Oct. 23 and the tickets will be free.

Phil Eisley made the announcement he is running against Lindsey Holmes in the general election for State House.

Jason Bergerson - The **NUSA** board will have their quarterly meeting in Anchorage later this month so they can see the progress being made for their national meeting, scheduled here May, 2011. There will be tours around Anchorage of successful neighborhood projects. He asked if someone can sponsor a dinner for them while they are here, such as at the Spenard Rec Center. They would need food and volunteers for a potluck. Please contact Chair Haag to help.