

Federation of Community Councils

Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2006

Attendance - Councils

Airport Heights – Mark Fish
Campbell Park – Sandy Traini
Mid-Hillside – Lance Powell
Rogers Park – Bob Williams
South Addition – Kathy Weeks
University – Tim Neale
Mayor’s Staff – Teri Albrecht
STARS – William Lidster

Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule
Eagle River Valley – Tom Freeman
Mountain View – Kep Pierce
Sand Lake – Robert Hayes
South Fork – Sara Pullen
CC Center – Deborah Bauer
ASD – Tim Steele
Vanya Marinkovic

Birchwood – Nanette Belk
Government Hill – Julie Jessal
Northeast – Bob Reupke
Scenic Foothills – William Theuer
Tudor – Connie Quinley

APD – Sgt Cindi Stanton
Tom Weaver

Vice Chair Bob Laule called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

The October 18 Agenda and the September 20, 2006, meeting Minutes were approved.
Introductions of those present.

Council Sharing:

Airport Heights: A change to the traffic calming measures on 16th Ave. without Council input was made on the request of a few residents. Their Community Patrol needs grant oversight by an Airport Heights Community Council Committee. They identified the need to recruit and involve more Council officers. Difficulties include reaching those in managed developments.

Birchwood: Title 21 - separate Chapter. Northwest quarter of Section 25 - they have been trying to get this parcel dedicated to Beach Lake Park for many years and want it finalized before any land gets traded or rezoned.

Campbell Park: Crime is increasing. Vagrancy and camps at Campbell Park in the woods behind Dimond Drive.

Government Hill: The first Knik Arm Bridge public comment meeting took place Monday (10/16) at the Capt. Cook Hotel. This provided the opportunity for the public to voice their concerns or support for the construction of the bridge. Several Government Hill residents spoke on behalf of the Government Hill Community Council regarding what they perceive to be a lack of communication and “good faith” efforts by KABATA to address alternatives to the Erickson and Degan Street routes. Several requests to extend the minimum 45-day public comment period were made by anchorage residents. The Stu Hall Memorial fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 21st from 1 - 4 PM at one of the Brown’s Point cottages. Funds will be dedicated to the Stu Hall Memorial to be placed at Browns Point Park. Construction of traffic calming surfaces is being added to three intersections.

Mid-Hillside: The Hillside District Plan (HDP) - the Mid-Hillside Community Council is fortunate to have a Board member on the HDP Committee. A Candidates Forum with HALO was held on October 8th and was well attended and well presented. The “hot” issue at the Mid-Hillside October meeting will be the discussion of electric lines easement and placement.

Mountain View: The Council members are working on their CIP list for the legislature. A Crime Committee has been formed and has been meeting every Tuesday evening. They have solved a couple of problems already, but have more to go. Mountain View Drive will be finished by Friday, October 20th. Then the Council and the Muni will begin designing Phase III - Bragaw to Klevin - for construction next year. Fire Station 3 (Airport Heights Station) is the oldest fire Station, having been built in 1962, and is in dire need of being remodeled and brought up to Code.

Rogers Park: The Rogers Park Community Council reported that they finally have a new sidewalk, complete with landscaping, for Maplewood drive and Drake Avenue. This sidewalk makes walking much safer for area residents. Our area also received funding from the Alaska State Legislature to fund the first phase of a sound barrier/fence for the area from LaTouche to Lake Otis. The funding will provide only one or two sections. We will continue to work with our legislators and will present the request for additional funding to the new Governor in hopes that the Governor will include the funding for the complete project in his D.O.T. funding request. The Rogers Park Community Council would like to request that the Councils adjacent to RPCC consider joining with RPCC at least once per year for a joint Council meeting so we can discuss issues of mutual interest. Please contact RPCC President Heather Ireland.

Sand Lake: A big concern is the growing youth and gang crime, which is producing more graffiti, vandalism and illicit drug usage.

Scenic Foothills: A new church is being constructed at the corner of 36th and Muldoon - ground has been broken. Assemblyman Ken Stout is attending both the Federation of Community Councils and Scenic Foothills meetings. A member suggested a topic for consideration by the Federation of Community Councils is sustainable landscaping - he stated our current landscaping doesn't get well maintained. There was a question about the qualifications to vote at a Community Council meeting. Does one have to live in the Community Council boundaries to be eligible to vote? Funding for Baxter Bog has been received and work has started.

South Addition: Knik Arm Crossing: with or without public comment. The KABATA process seems to be focused on the alternatives pre-selected by KABATA. The South Addition Community Council has not supported either the bridge itself or the selected routes, but, like Government Hill Community Council, we have a high sense of frustration. Comments must be in by October 30, 2006.

South Fork: Long Range Transportation for Eagle River/Chugiak. Separate Chapter in Title 21.
*Speeding on Hiland Road and new mail boxes (locked) for Birdsong Drive.

Tudor: We continue to be concerned (sometimes alarmed) at the noise, crowds and crime related to David Green Park at 36th and McInnes. Residents of homes bordering the park and Community Council members are frustrated by what they see as inaction and indifference from MOA agencies. Our Council is interested in learning how other Councils have dealt with similar problems. They are looking into Neighborhood Watch. There is continued interest in the Seward Highway rebuild from, 36th south.

University Area: Rescue Mission folks crossing Tudor without a traffic light near the Rescue Mission. People coming to the Mission under the influence of alcohol or drugs are turned away to filter into the local neighborhood. Bryn Mawr development of 86 units with access onto and off Northern Lights is a major concern. 40th and 42nd need to be upgraded and improved.

Bill Lidster from **STARS** Youth Development Program told us that they have 300 kids in their program: "Winning isn't everything - Attitude is!" Their mission is to provide educational and athletic opportunities to Alaska's youth to foster a positive quality of life now and for their futures. In 1997, two volunteer coaches took a single basketball team and trained those kids to compete in organized athletics. STARS has grown into a highly recognized name in local athletics. They teach:

- Leadership by developing a great deal of self-confidence, encouraging the individual to rise to occasions and molding others to recognize and respond to effective leadership.
- Teamwork by teaching how rewards and hardships are handled as a member of a team, all striving to achieve a common vision and goal.
- Volunteering is a unique component within STARS - the alumni, teenagers and young adults, come back to the program to work with others. They serve as some of the greatest role models for the participants and continue to learn the joy of giving back to their community.
- Education - achieving in a sport is a direct reward for academic achievements. STARS requires academic excellence and brings forth the resources needed to help participants achieve that high standard.
- Friendship is at the core of the STARS program and is the fundamental that all participants are a part of a special family with a common bond with many others. In all arenas, the relationships developed with STARS last a lifetime.

Next **Tom Nelson** from the **Planning Dept.** gave us an update on Title 21 and the schedule for the first Chapters (1, 2, 8, 13) to be reviewed in Draft #2. Title 21 as currently written is very hard to use and understand, has no index and has been amended a lot. This is the reason it is being rewritten.

An Economic Impact Assessment is being prepared, and it was discovered that there were issues with the draft as written. There would be a cost to property owners and legal due process issues if the proposed rezoning were to be enforced. This rezoning amounted to regulatory taking and the general conclusion was that it was still too vague - it didn't make everything crystal clear, as was the intention of the rewrite. This delay will allow them to make changes to the draft before getting into the Public Hearings. Chapter 9, Girdwood, has been completed, as has Chapter 11, Signs. There is a placeholder for Chapter 10 for the Eagle River/Chugiak provisions. The Public Hearings on Chapters 1, 2, 8, and 13 can go forward because they are not likely to have an economic impact of the value of property - they contain general provisions. There will be an Open House meeting and information on October 25th at the BP Energy Center from 6:30 - 8:30 PM for these chapters.

By keeping the basic zones as they exist when the new Title 21 is adopted, they won't have to go through the area zoning process. This will soften the impact of nonconforming uses. Any new construction or remodeling will have to conform to the new uses.

Tim Steele from **ASD** reported that the budget advisory committees are working on the budget with a November deadline. They have held the first of their Candidate Forums - the big concern is who will pay for the changes to the PERS and TRS, and which candidates will support the State picking up the funding before pink slips have to go out in March? All the candidates so far have said they will take up the issue early in the session and support the \$82 million to be paid by the State. They have applications for 2 new Charter schools. The AEA and ASD are now going to non-binding arbitration.

Sgt. Cindi Stanton, APD, said that Chief Heun is now in charge and will come to our meeting soon. A Citizens Academy started last week and will last 8 - 10 weeks. She recommends that Council members attend one. They are doing a big testing for new officers and hope to fill an Academy to start in January. There are currently 4 people cleared for that Academy who have been trained to give parking tickets. If anyone has concerns, please get them to her by email ahead of your meeting, if possible, so she will be prepared when she attends your Community Council meeting.

Teri Albrecht from the **Mayor's Office** handed out the CIP letters for the Councils they have received lists from. She also handed out the Airport hearing schedule. She told us that Chief Heun will attend our individual Community Council meetings if we wish. The Town Hall meetings previously scheduled have been postponed until after the first of the year except for Girdwood. These meetings will be held in the four Municipal Park Districts to discuss any issues the public has. The mayor and Department heads will be there to address these issues and answer questions. The new Audience Response Meters will be used to rate CIP projects at these meetings. If there are issues you want included in these meetings, please let her know. They are also encouraging Community Councils to work together to help each other accomplish more.

Debbie Bauer, Community Councils Center Manager, took us through an exercise that showed us how many more things we have in common than we would have thought.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.