

Federation of Community Councils
Meeting Minutes
January 17th 2007

Attendance: Abbott Loop - Al Tamagni
Birchwood - Nanette Belk
Campbell Park - Sandy Traini
Eagle River Valley - Tom Freeman and Bill Holland
Mid-Hillside -Lance Powell
Mountain View - Kep Pierce and Niki Burrows
North Star – Harriet Drummond
Northeast - Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Oceanview - Berni Bradley and Julie Waites
Rabbit Creek –Dianne Holmes and Patricia Rothwell
Rogers Park - Mel Langdon
Russian Jack - Mike Gutierrez
Sand Lake – Robert Hayes
Scenic Foothills -William Theuer
South Addition – Kathy Weeks
South Fork - Bob Gill
Spenard - Jason Bergerson
Turnagain - Cathy Gleason
University - Betty Adkison
Community Councils Center –Deborah Bauer
MOA/Mayor’s Office –Teri Albrecht
APD - Sgt. Cindi Stanton
Information Technology - Terry Monegan
AWWU - Chris Kosinski
Dowl Engineers - Jennifer Payne
Assembly Member - Ken Stout
Assembly Member - Bill Star

Treasurer Lance Powell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. (Justina Meyer had a family emergency and Bob Laule was unable to make the meeting.) Everyone around the table introduced themselves. The Minutes of November 15, 2006, were approved as written.

Council Sharing:

Abbott Loop: No written report submitted

Birchwood: Electrical power outages and rate increases. Poll results for Title 21 Rewrite/Separate Chapter showed support by 76%. Dedication of NW 1/4 of Section 25 that was added to Beach Lake Park in Birchwood after about 30 plus years of work and lobbying by residents of the area, but a timber harvest caveat was attached. The Community Survey conducted for the C-ER Consortium by Dittman Research, Question 3: "Looking ahead, do you feel the future growth in the C-ER area should be guided by one set of land use regulations for the Anchorage municipal area as a whole, or should the C-ER area be guided by a separate set of land use regulations for this area?" The response was 10% for a single municipal set of land use regulations, 87% for a separate set for C-ER, with 3% undecided. The entire survey, including the methodology, can be found at www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/consortium_c_e.html

Campbell Park: Crime and break-ins in the neighborhood. Partying at one house - according to the neighbors, the Police Dept is not responsive or concerned. Snow plowing the center of the street only leaving mailboxes blocked.

Eagle River Valley:

Dittman Research Poll results for Title 21 Rewrite/Separate Chapter reflects community support by 76%. The Chugiak-Eagle River Consortium of Community Councils is leading this community initiative and welcomes comments and involvement from the community regarding separate land use regulations.

Community concern for safety regarding the collector connection of Eagle River Lane to the Eagle Crossing Subdivision. Eagle River Lane has a significant grade, exceeding standards for a collector and will cut through the path of students walking home from Ravenwood School without a clear solution for safety. An ERVCC ad-hoc committee was formed involving the Eagle Crossing developer, ASD, Ravenwood Principal, MOA, and Eaglewood Home Owners Association, ERVCC representatives seeking resolve.

The ERVCC submitted a resolution to the Army Corps of Engineers, not supporting the development of 26 acres off Colombia Glacier Loop. The 26 acres are class B wetlands and the proposal is to clear and fill 8 of the 26 acres for development.

Mid Hillside - elected new officers: Linda Perkins, President; Brian Johnson, Vice-President; Lance Powell, Secretary and FCC Delegate. They passed a Resolution advocating for the Title 21 rewrite adhere to the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. A presentation was made on the Hillside District Plan (HDP).

Northeast: NECC is meeting with Bowman Development regarding their signs and highway screening variances on CIRI's 95 acre shopping center across from Bartlett High School. NECC is having a presentation for traffic calming at 6th Ave and Oklahoma, and 6th Ave and Creekside. Review of liquor licenses. Action on site plan review for Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Grass Creek Development. Report from the Town Center Committee. Northeast park district update. Discussion of the replacement of Fire Station 6 (DeBarr Rd and Patterson) and a possible new site for it.

North Star: We've been trying to get an explanation of what happened on the Arctic Blvd safety upgrade construction. This project dragged on all summer, finally started when the fall rains began, and was open to traffic Nov. 5th. That weekend it snowed and covered up the new striping, so users never got to learn the new traffic patterns. Businesses and residents are all very upset over the way this project was handled, particularly with similar upgrades in the works for Spenard and Fireweed in the near future. SUVs are four-wheeling over the new medians between Northern Lights and Benson as they exit McDonald's and at the median just north of Northern Lights

Old Seward/Oceanview: Road projects at Huffman and Old Seward expansion timeline and traffic interruption. Dan Beardsley is the lead negotiator with Dryden & LaRue. Peninsula Circle drives through access for Anchorage Sand and Gravel trucks did not work out and the trucks must now use Klatt Road endangering pedestrians and students. They neglected to include it in their Capital Projects list, as they understood it would be taken care of. Assemblyman Chris Birch has included it in the Long Range Transportation Plan for the future.

Rabbit Creek: No written report submitted

Rogers Park: Land swap and development on the north side of 36th at MacInnes. The Council defeated a Resolution to support the swap. (Sandy Traini reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the swap - they are advisory.) Fireweed and LaTouche upgrade - the design is 65% complete. It will include under grounding of overhead power lines. To be completed this summer. Northern Lights sound barrier - a portion to go to bid this spring for summer construction. Community Council members have reviewed the design and suggested ways to reduce the clearing limits for the construction. A study has been started to identify traffic calming improvements on Cottonwood St.

Russian Jack: No Report Submitted

Sand Lake: Strawberry Road Re-Construction. Development of Northwood and Raspberry Gas station and Bighouse Apts with Green Area Parks/Sports Dome. Sand Pit Development and Ground water Pollution.

Scenic Foothills: We anticipate a joint meeting with Northeast Community Council on Jan. 25th to discuss the new Begich Middle School. There were to be small group discussions and information sharing. We will be introduced to the new Boys and Girls Club in the Muldoon Mall.

South Addition: Delaney Park Strip Master Plan - new designs for \$17 million of future projects are now on MOA's Web site and public comments will be accepted until Feb. 2, 2007. The Citizens Advisory Group will meet on Jan. 30th at noon in City Hall, Room 155 to consider the new designs. SACC has concerns about lost access, lost parking, lost viewsheds, and above all, lost recreation open area in the current park plans. Too much land is devoured by rows of trees and walkways at the expense of open greens for ball, Frisbee, kits, etc. We urge the public to make comments about their own preferences. At SACC's Jan. 18th meeting, we will be considering a motion to name the Town Square for Ruth Moulton, who was a community activist for decades in Anchorage and who died last year.

South Fork: Electrical outages. 86% of Eagle River/Chugiak area is in favor of a separate chapter in Title 21 for the Eagle River/Chugiak area according to a Dittman Survey. A dichotomy of survey answers, e.g. design standards vs. market forces, personal freedom vs. strict zoning, attractiveness vs. affordability in housing, and single family vs. site condos. Growth issues in South Fork include, Yosemite Drive, ASD drainage, 38 house subdivision, upper Birdsong, wetlands.

Spenard: No written report submitted

Turnagain: Bob Durst's Jan. 6th death has left the Council with a big loss on its Board as well as on projects. He was an active participant on many projects. He worked closely with Cathy Gleason on the Northern Lights and Aero Drive projects the last 3 years and will be missed by the neighborhood and the community of Anchorage. The Urban Design Commission and Planning & Zoning Commission public hearings are scheduled for the AWWU pump station proposed for the Turnagain Slide area near the Coastal Trail. At this point TCC wants to ensure there is adequate year-round landscaping to buffer the facility from the Trail. The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport has agreed to have TCC represented on its Airport Master Plan Update Advisory Committee. TCC's goal is to have representation for Spenard and Sand lake Community Councils as well as the Alaska Center for the Environment.

University Area: The Rescue Mission problem is moving very slowly toward a solution. The Municipality is trying to put together a comprehensive alcohol treatment program. In this process, they are hoping to move the Ernie Turner Treatment Center out near the Highland Correctional facility and move the Rescue Mission to the Ernie Turner facility at Tudor and Bragaw. The Platting Board denied a request by Discovery Construction, Inc. to modify or eliminate the note on Plat 78-167, which does not allow access onto Northern Lights from this site. Their appeal to the Board of Adjustments was denied and they have one appeal left. So far there is no word of any appeal to the Superior Court. There is some concern about the 40th Ave extension. Some of the residents are concerned about the impact that traffic, noise, etc., will have on the adjacent homeowners.

AWWU, Chris Kosinski - (786-5636; chris.kosinski@awwu.biz) told us that he is available to Community Councils if they want an explanation of the coming rate increases, about any projects, or anytime there is a question about AWWU. The current proposed rate increase before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) could be as high as 14.5% for water, and 13% for sewer. Your next bill should show a 7% increase for water and a 9.5% increase for sewer. So single family home rates for water will go from \$34.10 to \$36.50 this month and to \$39.05 if the RCA approves the higher rate. The rate for sewer will go from \$26.30 to \$28.75 or \$29.70 if RCA approves that hike. The reason behind the needed hikes is personnel and PERS costs with fuel also adding to the cost of doing business. Check their Web site for more information on the Cost of Service studies. He also explained that the solids in wastewater are removed, burned, and the ashes are taken to the landfill, because there is too much for John Dean to handle at his recycling operation. The liquids are then treated and expelled into the inlet.

APD, Sgt. Cindi Stanton - The new Police Academy will begin Jan. 29th. Fifteen new police rookies graduated in December and are now doing their on-the-street training. The Chief is working on ideas to enable the department to be more responsive to Crime stoppers calls about drug houses. Right now it is a manning issue with the current emphasis being on gangs. The recent Gang presentation made at Diamond was well attended. The ones at East and Bartlett not so well attended. The department cautions people leaving town to make sure their house looks lived in while they are gone to cut down on the number of burglaries. Neighborhood Watch has some good tips. Sgt. Stanton will be moving to the Detectives Unit soon. She has enjoyed her job as liaison, but a position in Crimes Against Children came open, and she finally decided to make the lateral move to the Detectives Unit.

Assembly Liaison, Ken Stout - updated us on his carpal tunnel surgery - healing just fine (we were all concerned because he is wearing a brace). He is running for re-election. He has put into the Capital Improvement Projects list funding to begin working on Fire Station 6. The Assembly has finally passed a new Ethics bill! He has been working on it for 2 years, and it took a total of 7 years to get it passed. The Public Hearing for the 4th Avenue Theater will be at the next Assembly meeting. He is working on an ordinance to give special needs patients assistance with voting by bringing ballots to them in the hospital.

He introduced Bill Star who is taking Anna Fairclough seat on the Assembly. Bill has been president of Eagle River Valley until now, has been on the Planning and Zoning Commission, managed Alpenglow Ski Area, been a legislative liaison for the Eagle River High School, a Youth Ski Coach and project manager for his church. He has owned Aurora Logistics LLC and Star Air Tours at the Grand Canyon. He will run for the seat in April's elections as well as next year's election when Anna's seat is up. He has stated that Community Councils are the lowest form of government - meaning that that is where it all starts and where the average person can have an influence on what happens in his neighborhood. If you bring a problem to the Assembly, please bring a solution for them to begin working on.

ASD, Tim Steele - Superintendent Carol Comeau sent her regrets. She is unable to attend tonight due to a dinner for the School Board, Mrs. Comeau and one of their union's board members. Their budget presentations are open to the public and will be given on Jan. 23rd and Jan. 25th between 9 AM and 4 PM each day in their new ASD Education Center at Northern Lights and Boniface. The first reading will be on Jan. 31st at 5PM and the second one on Feb. 8th at 5 PM. The public can come and testify, or send email messages to their budget link on their Web site. Bonds totaling \$85 million will be on the April ballot - the first ones in 2 years. In that time, they have paid off \$80 million in bond debt. \$65 million is for the rebuilding of Clark Middle School, but is eligible for the 60% reimbursement from the State. \$20 million is for upgrades and repairs all over the district. There are currently 93 schools. If they upgraded one a year, it would take 100 years!!! Alternative Programs Fair at the ASD Education Center will happen Feb. 2nd between 9AM and 3 PM.

MOA, Teri Albrecht - Teri is experiencing a particularly nasty recovery from surgery in November, so has been working from home and is not back to work full time yet. She is working on the Town Hall meetings scheduled to begin with the Eagle River one on Jan. 31 at 5:30 PM. City projects and initiatives will be presented for comment and to judge the support or concerns of the public. Be sure to attend the Eagle River one or the one near you in Anchorage in February or March. Your input is important and the Mayor wants to hear from you.

Treasurer's Report, Lance Powell - A financial report will be available monthly with an in depth report at the end of each quarter.

CLI Team, Jason Bergerson - Jason, Debbie Bauer, Kathleen Plunkett and several others went to Houston TX to a Community Leadership training to learn how to help build leadership in Anchorage. They will hold a mini Leadership training in Spenard and will be offered city-wide later. They are looking for people who have strong feelings about how the city works to help them become effective. The Delegates are invited to a potluck dinner to introduce it at the Spenard Community Center.

Community Councils Center, Debbie Bauer - We are now required to comply with **Title 1 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request 10 days prior to the meeting date. Call Debbie Bauer to make the arrangements.

Executive Board, Niki Burrows - I have attended the **Neighborhoods USA conference** for 19 years. This is a national conference for Community Councils (Neighborhood Associations in other cities). Mountain View won Neighborhood of the Year in 1989 for our Cleanup program. Then in 1992, Anchorage hosted this conference. It was the first one that had 1000 people attend and all 26 members of the NUSA Board. We would like to host it again in 2010 and need the support of the Community Councils. We are currently working with the Chamber of Commerce on details, and will be making presentations to the Board as plans gel. Please think about what your Community Council can contribute to this great conference. Go to their Web site to learn more about NUSA - www.NUSA.org.

The meeting was extended 15 minutes in order that Dianne Holmes could make two presentations.

Rabbit Creek, Dianne Holmes - Whether your Council uses the **Planning Dept.'s Web site** as much as Rabbit Creek does, or whether you just want to get some information about a case in your Council area, you would be hard-pressed to get what you need other than the case number and the

beginnings of a description and a map. For more information, you must go to City Hall and request paper copies of the entire file, which can be several inches thick. Dianne has 5 issues that need to be addressed:

Cathy Gleason would like a detailed map of the proposed changes to determine whether she agrees the project is fine, or whether she has concerns that she could then look up on the Web. It was agreed that the paper records are produced on someone's computer; therefore electronic documents should be a simple matter of requiring the petitioner to file electronically. Terry Monegan, Systems Programmer in the Information Technology Dept., took notes and said what we were asking for would cost money, but that she would pass the request on to Fred Carpenter. Dianne made a motion to resurrect the Federation Web Site Committee that worked on this a few months back. It was seconded and passed unanimously. Please contact Debbie if you would like to serve on this committee.

Rabbit Creek, Dianne Holmes - Dianne provided a few copies of a history of the efforts by **Ruth Moulton to get Town Square** created. If it had not been for Ruth Moulton, we would not have a Town Square. A group has formed to get the park named after Ruth. If your Council would like a presentation, call Dianne to get scheduled. They would appreciate your Council passing a Resolution supporting this action.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.