

Spenard Community Council Minutes

January 7, 2009 7:10 PM. Spenard Recreation Center

1. Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Discussion of Agenda: The agenda was approved after the addition of: 5b. Jon Isaacs (URS) and Tyler Robinson (Muni Planning) presentation ~ West Anchorage District Plan; 5c. US Census Joel Graebe. Also, change to 6e: Mark Butler substitute for Jed Whitaker and "TBA".

Discussion of Minutes: The minutes were approved.

2. Announcements

-Matt Burkholder summarized the SARA project meeting held on December 20th. Attendance was encouraging despite the timing and short notice. There will be more meetings and workshops to follow; please participate.

3. Legislative Report

-Senator Hollis French attended the meeting. The legislative session starts in about two weeks. Big issues will be the budget, in light of the falling price of oil and the legislature's relationship with the governor, in light of the recent campaigns and elections. The capital budget is expected to be more modest. Questions & discussion: Concerns raised included helping senior citizens with property taxes and health costs (The state has increased revenue sharing to decrease property taxes for everyone. Hollis has been working to provide better health care insurance for everyone. There is also an idea of building new clinics to provide access for seniors.); trying again to get a statewide data base to enable better auto insurance compliance and revisiting illegally dark auto window tinting issue. (Hollis will try for both, but Rep. John Coghill of the House Rules Committee is philosophically opposed to the window tinting bill and blocked passage last year.) Different ideas for deterring violent crime were also discussed. Also, Hollis will again be chairman of the Judiciary committee and a member of the legislative budget and audit committee and resource committee.

5. Local Projects and Discussion

a. Jake Metcalfe and Aurora Howland introduced a **resolution to memorialize Thelma G. Bucholdt by naming the greenbelt around Woodland and Fish Creek Parks after her**, citing her many civic and social accomplishments and contributions. The resolution also supports the construction of a picnic shelter in the neighborhood. The resolution **passed unanimously**.

c. Joel Graebe, recruiter for the US Census Bureau, announced that they were establishing an office at 2000 W International Airport Blvd, Suite C-6. They will be hiring for up to 100 temporary positions, paying from \$13.25 to about \$25 per hour. Multilingual applicants are particularly sought.

b. Jon Isaacs (URS and west district resident) and Tyler Robinson (supervisor of the Physical Planning Division) presentation ~ West Anchorage District Plan: TR: Part of the Anchorage 2020 Plan requires planning on more localized plans, in this case the yet to be defined area around the airport. Some of Spenard may not be included. Besides the

airport, input will be solicited from Turnagain, Sand Lake and Spenard Community Councils. Point of contact for the plan will be the Planning Department's website. JJ: Resident input is very important. A Westside Anchorage Advisory Group (WAAG) will be established to this end. There will be regular reports to the Council in addition to special meetings with interested parties, focus groups and citizens at large about core values, special interests and needs of the area in advance of general public at large meetings. Discussion: There were repeated comments from several council members resistant to the idea of not including the entire Spenard Council Area. Different reasons were given but the sentiment was unanimous: don't exclude any of Spenard; include all of West Anchorage. The North Spenard area around REI is a de facto town center in and for Spenard. There were also complaints that citizens' input for plans and projects in the past has been ignored in the past. TR hopes that this will not occur in this instance because their goal is to produce a plan within a year so that momentum and focus will not be lost. JJ: all comments will be recorded, understood and acted on within constraints – and to the extent possible perceived constraints will be evaluated.

6. Old and New Business

a. Russ Oswald, MOA Project Manager, gave an update on the 48th & Van Buren project: Negotiations are underway with Sourdough and American Fast Freight to acquire land, provide different access to AFF and the School District warehouse to allow construction of some variation of the original plan that will keep truck traffic away from the neighborhood, the recreation center and pedestrians. Russ will try to get a revised set of plans for review. The majority of the funding is in place, although final cost is unknown depending on land and construction costs. A second phase that will involve further land swaps to move and reorient the soccer field will be addressed with a separate ballot issue in 2010. Concerns raised included possible loss of park area, loss of wetlands, convenient parking and access to the soccer fields for maintenance. Russ will draft a resolution for the Council to consider as the plans near completion. Existing soccer field will remain open for the 2009 season, new field under construction (if the second, reorientation phase is approved, in 2010 and will reopen in 2011.

6b. Faith Community Christian Rezone AO 2008-107 (tabled from 12/3/08)

No representatives from petitioner present. Matt B summarized the situation – developer now wanting to delete phasing requirement of the special limitations, will that evolve into no residential? Have traffic issues been resolved? Tyler Robinson suggested the council pass a resolution that the limitation requiring the residential component be maintained.

Motion passed to defer to executive committee to draft a resolution that the Council can support.

6c. Players House of Rock: Ron Berger reported that things have been quieter recently due to the cold weather and holidays, but is concerned that disturbances will resume with warmer weather. Antonio Anderson assured that security measures will remain in effect as long as Players has their license. Lt. Gilliam reported that there were forty calls in November; there were seven in December. Eileen Zaiser said the subwoofer noise has been absent. Antonio and Players manager credited their actions for the improvement. Eileen echoed Ron's concern that the noise returns later. Antonio asked for a copy of the by-laws and audio recordings of the meetings since May. (Minutes and by-laws available on web site) Jeff Matosky asked for a copy of the recordings, citing an e-mail request to

Matt B. Matt suggested that, to keep the rest of the agenda moving, they take the matter up after the meeting.

4. Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond: December 16 & 17 assembly meetings approved police and fire dept. contracts. Resolution of public safety retirees' medical issues delayed pending lawsuit in court. HD was elected vice-chair after Sheila Selkregg's resignation. The assembly approved purchase of land in the Sand Lake gravel pit area for future schools and parks, with intention of protecting aquifer that supplies water to residents. January 6 meeting saw HD assume position of acting Assembly Chair and Dan Coffey was elected vice chair. MOA between Anchorage and Mat-Su signed for transportation planning. A resolution was introduced for the legislature to adopt the south central region energy policy as proposed by tri-borough commission last February. The municipality's legislative program has just been released. The Spenard Road project is number 2 on the list. There are a number of other specific projects in the area, too. More information should be online. As Assembly chair, HD is now assigned many more committees than before including a Public Safety meeting with the Players issue on the agenda will be held January 14th at City Hall Room 155 from noon to 2:00 PM. More resolutions: monthly evaluation and financial reporting and postponement of some new hires. January 6th meeting also saw Assembly minutes from Oct. 14th when HD brought forth Assembly Memorandum regarding Players House of Rock. HD shared copies with the council. Discussion: How does the system work with our two assembly members now mayor and chair? Can our area be represented as well? Can vacancy be filled? HD: charter is silent on the issue. Perhaps HD can get Matt Claman's funding for an additional aide.

6. cont.

d. Spenard SARA project Lt. Gary Gilliam gave a review of the community policing problem oriented method which includes SARA – scanning, analysis, response, assessment. The strategy was first implemented in Fairview, now in the assessment phase. We are currently in the scanning phase in Spenard. Two officers come on board in February, will be introduced in March/April and plan will proceed. Lt Gilliam, Sgt Allen and Officer Jones will be heading up the effort. Calls are being entered into data base; calls to APD are critical! Executive board will meet with APD again before wider implementation. Discussion: Some problems are seasonal; don't ignore us if there are no calls now. Please give some specific guidance on what to say, how to deal with dispatch and the website. (Call 786-8900; there is no non-emergency three digit number for land lines.)

e. Spenard Rd Reconstruction and traffic calming - Mark Butler, advocate for the project, distributed copies of the 65% complete plans for the project north of 31st Ave. to Chester Creek. Mark also passed around a two part resolution for the Council to consider. 1) Safety improvements (as discussed by Jed Whitaker and Doran Powell last meeting): speed humps and speed limit enforcement. (2) Support for the "non-controversial" portion of the Spenard Rd plan, i.e. the 1/3 of the project between Hillcrest Drive and Chester Creek. Discussion: HD suggested speed humps also be installed between Spenard and Minnesota, as well as between Spenard and Arctic. **The council passed, with one**

dissenting vote, the resolution as amended by Ms Drummond to expand the speed hump area to include side streets between Minnesota and Arctic.

7. Committee Reports

Committee reports were postponed until next meeting.

a. Planning & Zoning Committee – none.

b. Public Safety – none.

c. Membership – none.

d. FCC Delegate – none.

e. Capital Improvements - none.

f. Alcohol – none.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM