

Spenard Community Council Minutes: DRAFT

February 4, 2009 7:09 PM. Spenard Recreation Center

1. Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Discussion of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

Discussion of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

2. Announcements

-Jason Bergerson filled in for the absent Matt Burkholder tonight. Aloha.

3. Legislative Report

We had no 'phone hook-up with Juneau, and so no Legislative Report.

5. Local Projects and Discussion

b. Jim White gave a presentation on the concept plan for a renovation/expansion of Fire Station #5 (2207 McRae Rd). There will be an open house at the station February 18th from 7-9:00 PM. Construction will start toward the end of the year. Suggestions from the council included a wider bike path/sidewalk, substituting a pony wall & fence instead of trees between the driveway and the bike path.

a. Linda Bustamonte, communications director at Anchorage International Airport made flyers available and informed the council of upcoming activities at the airport: June 6 there will be a mass casualties exercise simulating a disaster; volunteers are needed. There will be another job fair March 14th at the North Terminal. Fed Ex, NAC, the Railroad, Pegasus and others will be there. Projects for this season include Lake Hood Bank Stabilization. Two prototype slips will be installed this summer; full construction is scheduled for 2010. There will also be a public meeting in March to discuss all the construction projects scheduled at the airport this summer. Passenger flights have been holding steady; heavy cargo flights are down about 15%. The A & B concourse project is on schedule. Anyone with questions and concerns about any of these issues should call Linda 266-2107.

4. Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond: The Assembly meeting went until midnight last night. Bond issues were the main topics. Road bonds were reduced from about \$44 million to \$34 million. The southern half (Hillcrest to Fireweed) of Spenard Road project was cut. Other projects, including the design for the next phase of Arctic Blvd, were deleted or postponed. The Police bond for headquarters expansion was approved, but proposed funding for the tactical shooting range was cut in half. Some Parks and Rec. projects were cut, as were some projects from the Area wide Facilities fund. There is a small request for a library downtown to take advantage of an anonymous private donor that has offered money to furnish a library that must be in the original townsite. An ambulance to be stationed in Sand Lake was cut. School bonds include a project to remodel and expand Service High School, an Eagle River water and sewer project, Girdwood K-8 design, and a district wide maintenance and repair bond. That bond includes a sprinkler system for the Aquarian school building, roof repairs, bleachers, Bartlett synthetic surfacing for

fields. Questions and Discussion: What does the regular maintenance program do (or not) that \$27 million is needed for area wide repair projects? Why were after hours community programs discontinued; they are sorely missed. How much in old bonds are being retired? (\$44 million) What is the school district doing for alternate energy and conservation education and practice?

There will be special meetings February 17th and March 10th (work sessions held on the previous Fridays) to discuss the Administration and the proposed budget. Q&D: There needs to be more transparency and accountability in the process.

6. Old and New Business

a. Faith Community Christian Rezone AO-2008-107 Jason presented for review and comment a draft resolution (attached) prepared by the executive committee. There is still confusion whether the property has already been rezoned or not. Planning committee and assembly provide conflicting information as to status. There was discussion on how (and to whom) to best the council's concern that the residential component of the development be kept and traffic impacts concerned. **It was decided to amend the Resolution by deleting language requiring subdivision and then forward it to the Assembly.**

b. The executive committee also met with Lt. Gary Gilliam and came up with an outline (attached) for goals of the SARA project in Spenard and the goals for the Council's involvement. Sam O'Connor has apparently moved to the East side, the Westside patrol and our Public Safety Committee have been inactive for months. A discussion followed: we have to publicize the issues (newspaper, radio, emails), get businesses involved, get more people involved, the Public Safety Committee must be re-established so there is a mechanism to coordinate with the CAP team in implementing SARA, use of technology (surveillance cameras) as a possibility to supplement the Westside Patrol, coordinate with neighboring councils, possibility of neighborhood watch, clean sweep broken window code enforcement.

e. Jason, acting as chair of the FCC and the presidents of the Spenard, Northstar, Turnagain and Sand Lake Community Councils are attempting to coordinate efforts in the West Anchorage District Plan and the review and prioritization of capital improvement. They intend to meet at least quarterly. Discussion: There is concern that participation in the West Anchorage Advisory Group is being limited by URS and the planning department. Also, there is concern that geographical boundaries are not being inclusive enough.

d. Players House of Rock status: Sharon Berger reported that the past month had been fairly quiet, probably because of the cold weather. No one was present representing Players. Harriet reported that Players would not be on the agenda of the next Assembly Public Safety Committee meeting; process is being followed. There is a proposal of unknown origin floating towards the assembly to expand the after hours club/restaurant concept. APD has made it clear that they do not support the idea. Lt Gilliam reported that there were 10 calls for service at Players in January, three disturbances, one threat; all but one were in the early morning hours.

8. Elections:

The current officers have agreed to serve for one more year in their current positions. Sadly, there were no other nominations – even for secretary. The present slate was re-elected. So again, we will have

Chair - Matt Burkholder
Vice Chair – Jason Bergerson
Treasurer – Alan Thornhill
Secretary – Jim Bowers
Auditor 1 – Susan Elkins
Auditor 2 – Tom Bischel

6c. Taft/Van Buren Project: Tom McGrath requested that – when considering that since 1979 Alan Thornhill has been the one constant presence in the council, the neighborhood, the establishment of the parks and the recreation center – there should be some recognition made of this fact at next month's meeting. He suggested that the new extension south of 48th be named after Alan. The motion had several seconds and widespread popular support.

Other business: Merle Akers complained about the Airport, it's dissemination of (mis?)information, pollution and erosion in Lake Hood/Spenard.

One other item that came out of the meeting of the Westside council presidents was the desire to have a Mayoral Candidate Forum held at the Spenard Rec. Center next month. There are school board elections, too. Time and Date to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35