

Spenard Community Council Minutes: DRAFT

May 6, 2009 7:15 PM. Spenard Recreation Center

2. Announcements

- a. The Anchorage Chamber city wide clean up is in progress; go to their website for details.
- b. AIA's simulated airplane crash training exercise is scheduled for Saturday June 6th; volunteers are needed.

3. Legislative Report

Senator Hollis French and Representative Mike Doogan were both present at the meeting. Hollis led off: The Legislature passed both Operating and Capital Budgets. He referred to the Operating Budget as a "hold the line budget", but still \$1.3 billion were required from savings due to low oil prices. \$6 billion still remains. The Capital budget was \$800 million less than last year – roughly \$500 million in state money, \$1.5 billion in federal money (including \$500 million in stimulus funds). Bills passed included funding for an Electronic Medical Data Base; Minimum Wage Increase; Charter School Funding; Booster car seats for kids; increase in Denali Kid Care funds; several energy assistance and research bills; and a bill requiring webcams be installed in legislative conference rooms. Two other things that took a lot of time were the hearings to seat a new Attorney General and the process to replace Senator Elton.

Mike: With oil revenues down, money for communities to maintain existing roads and facilities will be really scarce. Ideas are welcome on how to access what funds there are. Comments, Discussion, Q&A: 1) What about Anchorage's future gas supply? [There is plenty of gas left in Cook Inlet, but it will be much more expensive than it is now. Geothermal energy may be an alternative in the future.] (2) Window tinting bill passed the Senate and is now in the House. The issue is amazingly controversial. (3) A few years ago the tax on alcohol was tripled with the promise of better mental health treatment. What happened to the money for better health treatment? [HF: send an email tomorrow and he will ask for an audit of the situation to find out, because he too is unhappy with the situation. More needs to be done for treatment and prevention.] **A motion made by Ann Maria Umholtz passed to prepare a resolution supporting this effort.** (4) There was a question about Federal taking of land near Cantwell because the BLM is giving land to the State. Hollis and Mike weren't aware of any such activity, but will investigate. There are also access problems for hunting and fishing, too.

4. Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond reported that after the election, she is again Vice-chair of the Assembly; Debbie Ossiander is Chair.

April 14th meeting: Landfill gas recovery is out to bid. The "Bear Safety Ordinance" passed. Garbage regulation is anticipated. The Fire Fighters Union gave up a \$1 million in wage concessions. There have been "rolling blackouts of service" due to budget & overtime. The Public Safety Committee is working on an "After hours ordinance". APD is against it; Doran spoke in favor. The discussion is how to enhance public safety, not

duplicate what Players House of Rock is doing. The Assembly heard a report on the Point Woronzoff composting situation and the need for better recycling services.

April 21st meeting: certified the election.

April 28th meeting: First quarter budget revisions compromise passed unanimously. Some State and stimulus funds will be directed to property tax relief. Mill rates were passed.

Acting Mayor Matt Claman: will return to the Assembly in July. Matt spoke to the issue of Proposition #9, the use of a five year rolling average for inflation when negotiating contracts and preparing budgets and that it will affect property taxes, too. Dust clean-up is underway early. Call 343-MEND for pothole patches. Discussions followed about how the Muni assesses and taxes properties, develops budgets and manages overtime.

5. Local Projects and Discussion

a. Aaron Christie (DOWL/HKM) gave an update on the 48th & Van Buren Project Design: A Memorandum of Understanding between the Muni and American Fast Freight is proceeding. Parks and Recreation also passed a resolution for the necessary land swap. Parallel parking is safer than angle and on-street parking is only intended for overflow parking from the future parking lot. Lighting and stop signs at Van Buren and 48th are being evaluated. Better lighting, bigger stop signs, “stop ahead” signs are all being considered. No speed bumps are being proposed now. Construction is expected to begin late this summer. Questions were raised about an overhead flashing light at 48th and Van Buren, that parallel parking is the only parking until an uncertain Phase 2 is complete and the need for public notification in advance of construction.

6. Old and New Business

a. Suzanne Boots, a Barbara Drive resident, reported on poor grading and drainage resulting in street flooding and deterioration of the street itself. The situation has been getting worse over the past few years. She is asking for advice and help from the Council to get positive action from the Muni. Maintenance has helped with bandaids, but not a real fix. Harriet led a discussion about forming Road Improvement Districts to rebuild/repave streets. Costs are usually shared between private citizens and the Muni 50/50 to 70/30.

b. Chris from Off the Chain, a volunteer run community bike shop that is in the old Mat Maid building, introduced himself to the Council. Off the Chain provides education, some parts and maintenance (shop time \$15/hour) to kids and anybody that needs help with bike tune-ups. Meetings are Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 8:00 PM; the shop is open from 1:00-8:00 PM on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. www.offthechain.org

7. Committee Reports

a. Planning and Zoning Committee needs new members.

b. Public Safety Committee met last Thursday, is developing surveys for the SARA project. The goal is for APD and volunteers to visit every business on Spennard and a cross section of residents. Sharon Chamard and UAA will be compiling and publishing the results of the survey. This is a continuation of SARA’s scanning phase. Lt. Gilliam: It will take a lot of volunteers and all volunteers will need to be trained for the survey. The CAP team is not waiting on continued scanning to take action, though. In the last month they have closed down three after hours joints and one crack house. Doran Powell asked

about re-establishing the Westside Community Patrol. 'koots will help raise money to support it. Question: how do attract volunteers? Lottie will be in contact with Sam O'Connor for help.

Jason B. made a motion, seconded by Jim B and the **motion passed authorizing the cost of the SARA survey to be paid from either funds currently allotted for the Westside Community Patrol (preferred) or from the Spenard Community Council itself. Estimated cost to be about \$1000.**

The next committee meeting will be held on the 13th at 6:30 at the Village Inn.

c. Membership committee: needs volunteers. Renee Haag offered to join Matt.

d. FCC Delegate Report. Jason Bergerson: no meeting this month. Four delegates are going to the national NUSA meeting in Spokane. The NUSA conference for 2011 will be the week before Memorial Day in Anchorage.

e. CIP Committee. Jason B presented the Community Council Survey priorities as compiled by the committee. Priorities are essentially the same as past years. Projects (mostly State projects) marked for deletion in the past continue to be on the list and continue to be rejected by the committee.

Discussion: Should the Council be weighing in on projects outside the boundary of the Council? [We can attach qualifying comments with our prioritization.] Change in administration will likely result in change to political support to the different projects.

The Spenard Road project and the need for cross walks and parking, whether there is a road project or not, was raised. The priority assigned the Spenard Road was questioned.

[Any improvements are unlikely until consensus is reached and there is a road project.]

There is a difference in opinion on how to proceed, to whether support a project or not.

One possibility is to keep the project on the list, but with an asterisk and comment supporting safety improvements but not necessarily the current plans. Further discussion can take place at the next CIP/executive meeting (June 16th?) and/or at the June council meeting.

f. Alcohol committee report deferred.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50.