

# **Spenard Community Council Minutes: DRAFT**

June 3, 2009 7:17 PM. Spenard Recreation Center

## **1. Minutes and Agenda:**

The minutes were approved after President Matt corrected a typographical error.

The agenda was approved after Matt added the North Star Business Association/North Star Community Council's request for funding to support the Spenard Solstice Party.

## **2. Announcements**

a. Matt asked for a motion for the Council not to meet in July and August; said motion passed.

b. Thanks to Allen Thornhill for doing the work so that we're kicking off the summer now with hot dogs and pop.

c. The Spenard Community Council's Safety Committee will be having a busy summer crafting and conducting a survey of residential, business and hotel establishments this summer. This is being undertaken with Susan Chamard's help and will help the Anchorage Police Department's SARA project and CAP team. They are also planning to put out a guide book of how to effectively interact with APD to solve different problems.

## **3. Legislative Report**

Senator Hollis French reported that there were three major issues to report on: 1) Addressing the Governor's veto of \$28 million in energy assistance money. Various legislators are taking different approaches...who are for and against taking the money and whether to have a special session to override it. A discussion at large followed whether to support the governor's position or not. 2) Senator French took an energy field trip in preparation of the development of a statewide energy plan: he visited Chena Hot Springs, the Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks, Tanana and Ruby. Hollis saw a lot of different alternative approaches to conserving and generating energy. 3) Hollis took a DOT sponsored trip from Deadhorse south on the Haul Road.

## **4. Assembly Report**

Acting Mayor Claman reported on four topics: 1) \$120 million in Muni road projects are starting up, plus all the State DOT projects in town. 2) Youth employment in parks program is kicking off. 3) Stimulus dollars are being spent on a homeless coordination program to make non-profit organizations efforts more effective. 4) There was a meeting with the Airport to encourage the formation of a standing committee with representatives from affected community councils that would meet with the Airport management team on at least a quarterly basis. Q&A: There was a question, explanation and discussion as to why the Muni has done such a good job with street sweeping, especially in comparison to the State DOT. There was a question about the status of the 48<sup>th</sup>/Van Buren project. Stan Jones asked how to get the bureaucracy to respond to potential beaver dam caused flooding in Northwood Park. There were questions why sidewalk and trail sweeping and general maintenance is so poor. (Call DOT for sidewalks; trails may be DOT or the Muni). There was a question and discussion about the "gay rights/anti-discrimination" ordinance under consideration.

Vice Chair Harriet Drummond reported that at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly meeting the Brown Jug was recognized for passing its 50<sup>th</sup> consecutive Alcohol Control Board compliance test and making their business model a nationally recognized best practice. Funding was approved for the Animal Control Facility Spay and Neuter Program. The non-represented Muni employee furlough program was approved. Bond money was approved for the Spenard Fire House project and the Romig Hill section of the Spenard Road project. On May 26<sup>th</sup> the Assembly approved the Anchorage Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, amended the contract with DOWL to allow continued design and oversight for the 48<sup>th</sup>/Van Buren project, approved amendments to the Teamsters and Police contracts. There is a food code change is being proposed. Chapter Seven of Title 21 is being crafted. In response to requests from the council, traffic calming measures are being considered on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> avenues between Minnesota and Arctic. There was a question about the need for calming and an investigation of improper right of way use on 33<sup>rd</sup>. Tom McGrath raised the issue of the lack of public restrooms in Anchorage and asked about the possibility of providing porta-potties. There is a need for both the homeless population and the community at large. The idea received support from the general membership in attendance. Tom Bichsel asked for clarification of sidewalk design on the Spenard Road project (10 feet wide, west side only, protected by jersey barriers). Tom Atkins asked for something to be done about the skateboarders on Aspen and Northwood. They have removed many of the skate-stop clips from the top of the retaining wall, are skateboarding on the wall and all over streets. This led to a discussion to abuse of the skate board park and late night noise.

## **5. Local Projects and Discussion**

a. Phil Steyer gave a presentation on a planned project to expand capacity at the Chugach Electric Power Plant. Assuming that all permits are obtained and ordinances followed, three gas and one steam turbine are planned. Ownership will be 70% Chugach, 30% ML&P. The plant is scheduled to come online in 2013 after construction begins next year.

b. Matt announced that there will be a volunteer maintenance project at Red Bridge Park on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Old and New Business**

a. Matt announced that the North Star Business Association was putting on a Spenard Solstice block party north of Benson. Details aren't available yet, but the North Star Community Council has donated \$350 to advertise the event; we are expecting to be asked to contribute, also. A motion passed to allow the executive committee to appropriate money up to the amount donated by North Star Community Council to be used to promote the event.

b. Matt announced that the owner of the land where the old Zodiac trailer court/proposed Maple Ridge development is considering donating some to the Muni and developing a Senior Center on the rest of it. This led to a broader discussion about graffiti and vandalism in Northwood Park, noise outside the recreation center etc.

## **7. Committee Reports**

- a.** Planning and Zoning Committee: Matt is monitoring several issues, none of them major. The new Comfort Inn has corrected its liquor license application.
- b.** Public Safety Committee has been meeting regularly with Gary Gilliam and Susan Chamard. Surveys are coming out soon. Volunteers in Public Service will be conducting the surveys in about a month.
- c.** Membership committee: no report other than Rene Haag has joined.
- d.** FCC Delegate Report: Jason Bergerson attended the NUSA conference in Spokane and has been elected to the board.
- e.** CIP Committee. The executive board met this past month, passed the project priorities list as submitted last meeting, leaving Spenard Road at #3, but attached a comment stating that the design process should include public involvement to build consensus. Tom Bichsel objected, stating that comment should have stronger language, opposing the current design
- f.** Alcohol committee: Matt sent the alcohol committee a survey today; the committee will complete the survey to the best of its ability.

## **8. General Discussion**

A general discussion about the need for public restrooms; the entire council seems to support the idea.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.