

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2009

Spenard Recreation Center

Chair Matt Burkholder brought the meeting to order at 7:06

Announcement:

Peggy Auth is acting as secretary for this meeting since Jim Bowers is out of town.

Stan Jones - Airport advisory group meeting coming up. You can ask him to communicate your concerns about the airport for the next meeting coming in December. The meeting will be held December 9 at noon at the airport main terminal. You can email Stan at spenardcc@gmail.com.

Mike Doogan gave a legislative update about the need to replace Rep. Richard Foster (D-Nome) who recently passed away. There was also talk about the spending of stimulus funds and the budget.

Harriet Drummond spoke about recent transportation and budget hearings. Spenard Road improvements are back on the CIP, but some of them are set farther in the future and not making the 2010 plans.

Matt Clamann talked about the municipal budget and how people can express their concerns on how it is set and where the cuts will be.

Mary Ann Pease, as spokesperson for KABATA (Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority), gave a presentation regarding KABATA and how this is a unique public/private partnership for building a bridge from Anchorage to the south end of the Knik River. Members of the council were generally opposed to the project. The project is going through a public comment period at this time.

Diane Holmes of Anchorage Citizens Coalition gave a rebuttal to Mary Ann Pease and KABATA. Discussed were the negligible impacts on travel times to the north of Anchorage, the costs and the negative effects on the neighborhoods. Monday night (11/9) the Planning and Zoning Commission will open up hearings once more for the project. The project was not approved the last time it went before the Commission.

Rene Haag, the owner of Blaine's, is asking for a variance from a 5' additional setback the Municipality is asking for an easement. She has been doing major bioremediation on the soils to prepare for a new building. A vote was taken and the council unanimously agreed to support her petition. Margaret Auth will represent the council by posting to the Municipal website a letter of support for Blaine's.

Margaret Auth gave a report on the West Anchorage District Plan and how it will affect businesses and residential communities. The Plan is moving quickly and comments and questions on the Plan can be taken by her to address to the Municipal staff and

engineers working on the project.

Matt gave a report on the Midtown Plan. It is coming up quickly for hearing before the Assembly. He stated his concerns that the residents not be overwhelmed by the big developers' plans to turn everything in the planning area to commercial.

Tom Bischel stated he was a part of the Midtown Planning Group 2 1/2 years ago and it was left alone until recently. He said it was important for Spenard to keep its unique character and not go the way of the big box stores.

Jason Bergerson forwarded a resolution to utilize the Westside Patrol grant funds that have never been used for a CAP SARA project. The Westside Patrol is no longer operating, therefore there is no way to distribute the funds to them. Since the CAP SARA project is also about community policing, it seemed apt to use the monies that way. The resolution passed.

Matt said we need to increase membership and there was a discussion on how to do so. It was decided to have a December open house with refreshments. A resolution passed to allow Allen Thornhill, the council treasurer, to withdraw \$60.00-\$70.00 to purchase food for the next meeting.

A motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.