

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2010
Spenard Recreation Center

The meeting was called to order by council chair Matt Burkeholder. The meeting minutes for January were approved. Matt asked for volunteers for the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Debi Baldwin from RuralCAP gave a presentation on the services they provide and asked for the council's support in their pursuing funding for a new care facility. They have been located at a small mall behind the Moose's Tooth and want to move in order to serve more families. They found a site in Spenard on West 32nd behind the Carousel Lounge and have made an offer on the land and plan to build a new building there. Ordinarily, a liquor establishment would not be allowed so close to a child care building, but the Carousel was there first and is grandfathered. They have received a grant for \$390,000.00 and will seek more funding. They must build by 2012. The council voted in favor of their efforts to secure further funding.

Currently, they serve 64 families. The age of the children range from 19 months to 5 years. Fees are on a sliding scale with most of the families eligible for child care vouchers.

Matt Claman presented the news from the Assembly. Harriet Drummond was out sick. The Assembly approved a large road bond for the April elections. There are no roads in Spenard in the bond package. The Assembly also passed on a bond for \$250,000.00 for the Sand Lake fire department ambulance which will be voted on in the election.

The Assembly also let die a proposal to allow a \$50,000.00 exclusion on residential properties, up from the current \$20,000.00.

Alana Humphry from the Boys and Girls Club is seeking support from the council for a request to the Alaska Legislature for funding new sprinklers for their building on West 36th. The child care program serves 300 children. They are required to replace the sprinklers under code if any construction is done on the building. A resolution was approved to support their efforts in obtaining \$230,000-\$320,000.00

Beth Nordlund explained the function of the Anchorage Park Foundation. Beth and Kelly Marker, who was also present, have left Parks and Rec to work there. The non profit is working with the municipality to work on crucial park issues. They work to fix dilapidated park equipment, restore and maintain vegetation and improve facilities. They have a list of parks throughout the municipality they are going through with volunteers each summer to improve. Their next projects in Spenard include Woodland Park and Minnesota Park. The Filipino community is actively helping to restore Woodland Park in honor of Thelma Buchholdt, the first Filipino-American elected to serve in the Alaska Legislature.

Beth also asked the council to vote their priorities for funds slated for Spenard Recreation Center. They will be compiling a list of the council's along with those of the people that use the center.

The council passed resolutions supporting various school requests. The funds will be coming from the Stimulus package passed by Congress. These include \$140,000 for playground surfacing for the Aquarius School, \$10,000.00 for school signs and audio library at Northwood and \$35,000.00 for new books and electronic board for Willowcrest. The council also passed a resolution to keep our CIP priorities the same as last year's to submit to the Legislature.

Camille Parker and Chuck S asked the council for assistance in getting the cars off the street on McKinley that are currently being used for overflow from a nearby body shop. Matt asked them to forward information to the Safety Committee.

The Public Safety Committee had a meeting last weekend. There is a application for a new package store liquor license next to Blues Central by a group called Golden Nugget. The council voted it down. The CAP-SERA project has done a survey of hotels and businesses and plan to target residents in their next survey.

Peggy Auth did a presentation of the Westside District Plan. They are now in the phase of working on Airport issues. There has been much discussion on disposal of lands around and on airport property with the idea of protecting the community from airport noise, sound and air pollution.

Our annual elections were held with Rene Haag as our new council chair, Jason Bergerson as the vice-chair, Margaret Auth as the secretary and Alan Thornhill as the treasurer. The auditors will be Suzy Baird and Matt Burkholder. Congratulations to the new slate of officers and thanks for the service of our past officers.