

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

Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m. by the new chair, Rene Haag. Motion to approve the agenda was made.

Red Cross will be at the Spenard Rec Center for a blood drive on March 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Bob Nanney asked for a volunteer for the April Municipal elections. They will be working out of the Spenard Rec Center. It's a paid position at \$9.50 an hour.

Chairperson Haag said there would be a change in the agenda for the legislative report to be later in the meeting. Peggy Auth stated that Hollis French had told her he would be away from Juneau but that he would ask Rep. Mike Doogan to call in his stead.

Cora Weaver from the Municipality's Code Enforcement office explained the program called "Rust in Peace" where they are are working with the public to help remove junk cars from their properties. If you have a question or want to take advantage of the program, you can call her at 34304141.

Brian Looney from Anchorage Tomorrow, a group that is working to pass the road bonds in the April election spoke about Propositions 1, 4 and 5. Proposition One includes 33 projects from around the municipality for road improvements and construction. One project will be to do the long anticipated realignment of Van Buren and 48th that the community council has been working on and supporting for over 20 years. This will be taking the heavy truck traffic away from the schools, park and

Rec Center where there are safety concerns for the children using those facilities.

Prop 4 is for vehicle purchases and bus maintenance, improvements and purchases to improve public transportation. Prop 5 is a land exchange so the alignment previously mentioned can occur. There will be no bonding for the improvement of Spenard Road this year and the only work being done there is the completion of the project begun last summer on the hill near Romig.

Debi Baldwin from RurAL CAP returned to ask for a resolution to support RurAL-CAP's plan to secure funding for a child development center. The property they desire to build on is located at 1304-1310 West 32nd. This is a followup to her presentation at the February council meeting. Ms. Baldwin has met with Harriet Drummond and Matt Claman from the Assembly and Sen. Hollis French. Heather March from RurAL-CAP was introduced. She will be assisting in their efforts to garner capital funds.

Concerns were raised about the Carousel Lounge and it's proximity to the facility. Tom McGrath pointed out there may be problems with some of the people who live in the upstairs apartments. The Carousel is grandfathered because they were there first, but ordinarily a bar would not be allowed in such close proximity to a child care facility. Ms. Baldwin said she is trying to reach out to the nearby community and has been making efforts to get to know the people at the Carousel. She also said they are trying to get to know the people at the nearby Habitat for Humanity multiplex project which is on the other side of Spenard.

Questions were asked about the differences between the Boys and Girls Club on West 36th and RurAL-CAP and why they

can't pool their resources. (The demographics are slightly different as well as the ages of the children served.) Questions about the property itself were asked. It is vacant land which once had housing on it and it is zoned for child care.

The resolution was approved with the provision RurAL-CAP keep aware of the security concerns raised.

Officers Will Cameron, Mark Karstetter and Carla Culbreth from the Municipality police department CAP team were there to explain how they are working with the community to slow crime in Spenard as they have been able to in Fairview. Officer Cameron explained about the law, Ordinance Code 880, whereby an address can be billed for excessive police calls. Commercial properties can have as many as 100 before they are billed. This is an effort to make property owners more responsible for the activities that happen on their premises.

There are currently 3 officers and a fourth has been added. Officer Natasha Welch is doing Neighborhood Watch. As they say, "Nosy neighbors are good neighbors." Officer Culbreth is trying to bring awareness to the Special Olympics. The torch will be originating at West High. They are coordinating with the school district and others to make this a success.

Brian Litmans from Anchorage Bicycle Commuters came to talk about the Anchorage Bicycle Plan that is coming before the Assembly. It's been two years in the making. Planning and Zoning looked over the plan and has a revised version. Questions were raised about the need for such a plan. Mr Litmans brought up how bicyclists reduce air pollution, decrease traffic congestion and are easier on the roads. The plan is on the Municipal website.

Matt Claman gave a presentation on the recent Assembly meeting where they were discussing "Housing First". It was very contentious. The other big issue is that the Anchorage Fire Department no longer has water rescue as part of their services due to cuts by Mayor Dan Sullivan. Mr. Claman said the ambulance bond that is coming up on the April ballot is one of special concern to Spenard as there is now a lag time in services due to having to allocate the one ambulance we have now in West Anchorage to such a large portion of the Municipality.

In and Out Liquor Store continues to be a nuisance by selling alcohol to street inebriates. This has been a ongoing problem that fails to be addressed and permanently handled.

Jason announced the legislative representative for Spenard will be at Romig on Sunday, March 14th from 1-4 p.m. for their annual pizza party. It's a good chance to meet and talk with your representatives. We will be getting our CIP list two months early this year as had been requested so we can get a response back in time for a timely submission to the Legislature. There was no legislative report as none of the representatives called in.

Chair Haag said she is trying to get a Saturday market going in Spenard and looking for volunteers.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.