

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2010  
Spenard Recreation Center

Announcements: Willowcrest Elementary will be celebrating their 50th anniversary with a party. The Chamber of Commerce will be doing the annual clean-up around Anchorage. Kim of RuralCAP announced there will be an open house on May 19, 6:30-7:30.

Rep. Mike Doogan spoke about the recent legislative session. They passed a budget of \$3 billion and are anticipating substantial vetoes. Over 150 bills were passed of which one of the most important will be that political ads must identify who is sponsoring the ads.

Ernie Hall is the new representative on the Assembly and he gave a report. He had a two hour meeting with all the community council presidents in his area. Economic development is of critical importance to him. There were first quarter revisions of the municipal budget; Mayor Sullivan vetoed the police academy which he supported. They passed additional funding for bus service on two days which had been cut. He would like people to call him or email him with their concerns at 562-2088 or [ehall@alaskallife.com](mailto:ehall@alaskallife.com).

Chair Rene Haag announced the March meeting minutes were not at the last meeting nor tonight.

Gary James of MOA Project Management gave an update for projects in Spenard. The one at 35th and McCrae is on schedule if the state grant portion is not vetoed; it is currently 50% state funds and 50% road bonding. Prep work is beginning with 2012 construction as a target. Spenard is the biggest recipient of street maintenance work, they are targeting those streets needing the most attention. Newsletters are sent out of refined maps and dates of construction to the neighbors and others impacted by the construction work.

The project at 48th and Van Buren will be put out to bid in two weeks for the work to begin this summer. The work on the soccer fields next to the Spenard Rec Center will be done in 2012.

Spenard's CIP list is one of the most important ingredients in planning road projects. There was a discussion about the CIP list: how projects are chosen even when they aren't on the CIP list or state road projects that are also not on the list. Mr. James said they are originated by complaints and calls to the department. Then assessments are done and added to the list of "to do" as needed.

There was extensive talk about the Spenard Road project. Tom McGrath stated some people don't want it to go forward until there is a consensus among the property owners along the road. He presented to the chair a petition about the road that was not read nor adopted by the council. Mr. James said there is no funding to move forward on the project at this time. Rep. Doogan said money was pulled from the project this session - this summer there will be a series of meetings for the people most directly affected by any work done on Spenard as well as the general community.

Greg McCracken of USKH and Mike McCool of Carlson/Green did a presentation about the Romig Master Plan. The focus of the plan is to use the school in a broader community sense. Access is a problem. They may change the configurations of street access to align to ingress/egress of parking lots nearby. There is talk of acquiring land from Hope Lutheran Church on Northern Lights or the office supply place on Minnesota to increase the footprint as it is a very small site (44 acres). The West High and Romig schools will also be renovated and improved.

Jon Sinclair of Chugach Electric came to discuss the request they have to move the helipad 1000' from its present site. There were objections about the noise from the helicopters and their flight paths. The issue is coming before the Planning and Zoning Commission in June.

Pamela Jackson and residents of Woodland Park came to ask support of the council for improvements they are trying to make to Minnesota Park. They are making requests for funding from three different sources. They can match some of the funding with volunteer time. They are having a cleanup June 26, 9:00 to noon. A motion was made and approved to support their efforts to pursue the grant funds by the deadline of May14.

Matt Burkeholder- P & Z report: Avante Clinic is adding parking to the rear of their building and bringing the lot up to current municipal standards.

The Public Safety committee sent out a survey and received only 41 back. Not all of the SCC area was included; they are contemplating sending them to other areas within the council. The next meeting is Friday, May 7, at 7:30 at the Village Inn on Spenard Road.

Jason Bergerson did a report on the annual CIP list. The CIP committee made their recommendations based on the last three years of the SCC CIP lists. McCrae Road should be added to the list. Spenard Road has been moved to #3 on the list as it was 6-8 years ago. We are asking for pedestrian facilities at grade crossings of the Alaska Railroad and a trail connection along Northern Lights near Forest Park. Tom McGrath made a resolution to make sure Spenard Road and Fireweed Lane improvements be done only with general consensus on the plans. The motion was approved unanimously. Tom McGrath made a motion that Van Buren near the Recreation Center be renamed Thornhill Way after Allen Thornhill who has worked tirelessly to improve the road and safety in general area for children for more than 30 years. It was passed unanimously.

The announcement that Players House of Rock has been closed was made.

Motion to adjourn was made and passed at 9:25 p.m.