

## **Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Spenard Recreational Center**

### **November 3, 2010**

Chair Haag brought the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. October minutes were read and approved. November's agenda was approved.

Colleen Carroll from RuralCAP did an update on the new childcare facility to be built in Spenard. They have purchased the land and things are moving along in the design.

Jim Bowers spoke about the WADP (West Anchorage District Plan). The planning committee got an email from the planning department, there would be no meeting for the group and the plan is on track to be released in mid-November. He stated we need to get it out in such a way that the community council will have a chance to review it and perhaps take a vote on it before the comment period is up. The biggest issue for him is proposed disclosure requirements of property owners if their property is near the airport. This could lessen the value of their property. Some of the plan is very good.

Chair Haag will have Mark Butler of the FCC put the plan out to council members on the internet once it's released.

Merle Akers announced the Turnagain Community Council is forming an airport community committee and needs a representative from Spenard. Questions remain about the helipad on Chugach property which was proposed to be moved in their expansion of their facility on International Airport Road. The municipality seems to be unaware of a new helipad. At Lake Hood, the State bought several homes to have a clear zone for safety purposes, but now the Airport may move the air strip closer in to the neighborhood with the expanded boundaries. If they do so, it negates it as a safety clear zone. Military helicopters have been flying over neighborhoods for the past three to four weeks starting at 9 p.m. and going as late as midnight.

Cora Weaver from Code Enforcement is here to take complaints or do an update if anyone has a question.

Senator Hollis French did a legislative report. The Senate organized a bipartisan coalition, 10 Democrats and 6 Republicans. Station Five, which serves Spenard and is located on McCrae, was going to be renovated but it is more practical to replace the old station with a new building. The station will be operating out of the old Armory on Spenard near International while the work is being done.

There will be a land swap to accommodate a storage facility for natural gas in Cook Inlet. It should be online by next winter, 2012. There are questions about bringing in liquified gas but we shouldn't have to import it.

Assemblywoman Harriet Drummond did an Assembly report. On October 12 all budget documents were released and starting October 26 they opened the hearings. You can

testify at the November 11 meeting then again at the November 23 meeting. It is possible for one to testify at all three meetings, but they are trying to hear from as many people from the public as possible, so those who did not testify at an earlier meeting will have preference. AWWU submitted proposed rate changes to the Regulatory Commission. Proposed increases would mean an 11% hike for residents. There are fiscal issues at AWWU. A liquor license was turned down for a package store on Huffman and the Seward Highway. Hillside doesn't want commercial east of the Seward Highway. Granite Construction was awarded a contract to recondition the roads in Spenard next summer. The Assembly is considering a cigarette tax hike.

Jim Frederick of Anchorage Neighborhood Housing came to speak about a new ten unit assisted living housing project for low income and those with disabilities. It will be located between Spenard and Minnesota on 32nd. There will be no age restrictions. Because most of the occupants will be disabled and therefore without cars, they will have limited parking requirements with more landscaping. Concerns were raised about service vehicles and guests to the building, where they will park and how that will impact the neighborhood. This is a Section 8, federally funded project.

Assemblyman Ernie Hall discussed last month's budget meeting. The mayor has proposed fees to make up the shortfall in the budget. Plane owners and pilots are upset by increases in personal property taxes on their planes. In 1995 then assemblymen Bob Bell and Craig Campbell took away personal property taxes on planes from \$1,000.00 and replaced it with a simple registration fee of \$75.00 per annum. A false alarm at a home with police or fire dispatched would also incur a fee. Public transportation would increase from \$50.00 to \$55.00 a month. Vehicle registration would increase from \$29.00 to \$150.00 a year. The State collects this fee and disburses it back to the Municipality.

Assemblyman Hall gave an update on Spenard Road. PM&E (Project Management and Engineering) has a preliminary draft design. It is going through legal and will be coming out soon. Both Mr. Hall and Ms. Drummond feel the department is 30 days behind where they should be in their schedule.

Anchorage Parks and Recreation would like a group of eight people from the community - two from the council, six from the general community - to help make decisions about local parks. Please contact the Parks department if you want to volunteer.

Suzy Baird did extensive work on the community council's response to the annual renewal of liquor licenses in our community.

Jason Bergerson is working on the 2011 Neighborhoods USA conference which will be held in Anchorage in May. The website is: [NUSA2011.org](http://NUSA2011.org). They need lots of volunteers and help with cash and in-kind donations. It will cost approximately \$300,000.00 and will bring 300-400 people here. The organization trains people to work in their communities to be more effective by learning to speak before groups in

and learning how to take a project from beginning to end successfully. Contact Jason or Rene at [spenardcc.org@gmail.com](mailto:spenardcc.org@gmail.com).

Anchorage School District is looking for input from the community for their bonds in 2011. If you want to volunteer, please contact the district.

Bob Auth, as the representative of the Spenard Community Council at the Airport Advisory Committee, reported last month's meeting had been cancelled. They are rescheduled for a meeting tomorrow and he will report back at next SCC meeting.

The Anchorage police department CAP-SERA did a bust on Spenard and Aspen. Several people were arrested.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.