

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2012
Spenard Recreational Center

Chair Rene Haag opened the meeting at 7:10. The minutes for February were approved.

Bruce Farnsworth from the Spenard Jazzfest - The Jazzfest is in its fourth year and will open Saturday, June 9 this year. They are looking for businesses to be a part of their Jazz walk. Rene Haag said her business had been a part of it in the past and it was great fun.

There was no legislative report. Senator Hollis French was traveling. There will be a constituent meeting at Romig on Saturday, March 24 with Sen. French, Rep. Mike Doogan and Rep. Lindsey Holmes.

Assembly report - Ira Perman spoke for Ernie Hall who is away in California. On midnight of March 1, the IM testing was discontinued. The fireworks ordinance may come back again. It is going to sunset this year. There will be a hearing on the ordinance on March 14 at the Animal Control building, noon to 1:00. There were several members in the audience that asked why the meetings could not be held at a time which would make it easier for working people to attend.

Anchorage Tomorrow - Erica Jensen talked about Props 2,3 and 4. Anchorage has one of the lowest tax burdens in the country and is well positioned to bond. The Municipality is retiring more bond obligations than are being offered in the package coming up in the April election. Prop 3 will be used for improvements to the Coastal Trail and the Veteran's Memorial and lights at Kincaid Park. This year there is \$27.5 million in road bonds on the ballot. There is \$40 million coming from the State. There will be no new roads and the money will be going for maintenance. There is a Facebook page for Anchorage Tomorrow.

The AMATS plan is also on the web and will be coming before the Assembly on March 27 or April 10. The public can comment before April 9 to the Assembly.

Chugach Electric - Phil Steyer and Peter Poray did an update on the Chugach project at Minnesota and International. The project is proceeding on time. They plan to be testing the turbines in the summer. This week there was an accident on the project which caused a man's death. OSHA is investigating. The man worked for a contractor and was not a Chugach employee.

The project when completed will use less kilowatts per hour to make electricity. The \$20 million in savings per year will be offset by the costs of the upgrade. The question of the use of helicopters and a helicopter pad on the Chugach site came up again. Mr. Poray said there are no plans as of now for helicopters to be flying from their site. They now fly from the airport. There is no room for the helipad as they are doing their

expansion onto its former site.

Anchorage Airport - John Parrot told the council a Part 150 study has begun. You can look it up online at anc150study.com or anchorageairport.com. You can also see updates for the airport online at gov.delivery. The WADP is coming up before the Assembly on April 17. There will be a jobs fair. On March 20 at 6:00 in the north terminal lobby there will be an open house for the public to see the construction projects that will be happening this summer. The airport will begin their Master Plan soon and are in the process of hiring a consultant. They will be meeting with the Stakeholder group and the Airport Communications group.

Cook Inlet Housing Authority - Dayicia Shiryayve talked about their weatherization program which is open to the public. You do not need to be a member of Cook Inlet Regional Corporation or a Native person. This is not the same as the State's program which also provided funding to make homes more energy efficient. One qualifies by going through a documentation process and showing proof of income.

Anchorage School District - Ed Graff talked about the school bonds. They are asking for \$59 million this time for four main areas:

- 1) CTE (Career Technical Education): Frequently called shop or Voc-Ed, monies will be used for developing or enhancing CTE in 13 middle and high schools and \$14.6 million to be spent constructing a new CTE building on the Romig- West High campus;
- 2) Service High: \$9.1 million needs to be raised in order to receive a \$21 million State grant;
- 3) Building life extension projects: this funding will allow the school district to go beyond the \$22 million set aside every year for regular maintenance. This money is used for roof repairs, fire alarm systems and upgrades that will make the buildings last longer.
- 4) Girdwood elementary school: Design work for a new structure, the old building is too small to serve the community.

Cook Inlet Housing - Tyler Robinson is asking for support in the form of a resolution from the council for a grant of \$1.9 million from the State to purchase property on Spenard Road. Currently the site of Alpina, it is contaminated and the contamination is seeping into the ground water nearby. CIHA has done mixed price range of affordable and "market" range housing before. They are looking to improve the area while providing housing. Motion to approve the resolution passed.

One Anchorage - Julie Vollick came back for a second month to ask for a resolution in support of Prop 5 and explain what the initiative was about - it is that a person cannot discriminate by firing or denying housing to someone who is gay or presumed to be gay; it cannot force people to keep bad tenants or employees. It will not affect small apartment buildings or homeowners who rent out rooms in their homes. Allen Thornhill suggested tabling the resolution and was seconded by Tom McGrath. A motion to table the resolution passed on a 7-3 vote.

Long House Hotel/Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority: housing the mentally ill and victims of domestic violence- Before Jerry Jenkins from AMHTA spoke, Chair Haag announced that Sen. Hollis French had told Assemblyman Ernie Hall he will support the desires of the community. Jillanne Inglis from MOA Planning Dept. was in attendance.

Jerry Jenkins said they want to house adults and their families with children. They want to house the mentally ill in a way that makes them feel safe and better able to work their way back into the community. This idea originated in Oct. 2011 with Nancy Burke. The Long House is a hotel consisting of three separate buildings. One of the buildings would house victims of domestic abuse and their children. They would screen the people they would place there; it would be housing and not an institution. There would be a fence around the buildings.

There were many people to talk about the project, so Chair Haag asked that questions and comments be limited to Spenard area residents since Turnagain residents had a chance to speak at their council meeting. Fears were expressed about the location being so close to a childcare facility and that the mentally ill will be close to those already experiencing trauma from their abuse. Residents also asked how the community will be affected if the domestic abuse victims have their perpetrators looking for them and if this will bring a violent element into the neighborhood. Mr. Jenkins said the residents will be expected to pay rent. The idea is to transition them out. An email from Sen. French stated he would strenuously object to the proposal because the community is not ready for something like this.

After much discussion, a motion was made to table the proposal. It was approved.

There was no time for committee reports because the meeting went past 9:00 p.m. which is the closing time for the rec center.