

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes  
May 2, 2012  
Spenard Recreation Center

The meeting was commenced at 7:10 by Chair Jim Bowers. The meeting agenda was approved. The April meeting minutes were approved.

Legislative Report - Senator Hollis French: We will be getting a newsletter from him detailing his take on the special session. The Senate did not go along with Gov. Parnell's desire to reduce taxes on all producers because the producers were unwilling to promise to do more investing in exploration and hiring. The governor then pulled his bill. Sen. French was disappointed that also meant there would be no tax reductions for new fields. There was a legal question on who controls a bill once it is introduced in the Legislature. There were too many questions about the in-state gas line and how much that would benefit the people in Southcentral. The Senate was unwilling to approve it. The new law to stop in-state sex trafficking passed in the special session. The capital budget was reduced by the legislators this year from last in the hopes that less line item vetoing would happen under Gov. Parnell. The chances were much better it would pass as is without many reductions by the Governor.

There was a question from the audience about closing forums during elections for people other than the popular candidates in HB 333. It seemed unfair to to a council member because only certain views would be part of the discussion. Sometimes less popular views need to be a part of the discussion. The council did not agree and the topic was closed for discussion.

Sen. French presented a Legislative commendation to Allen Thornhill for his many years of service to the Spenard Community Council and greater Anchorage community. Allen has been the treasurer of the community council for many years as well as performing a host of other roles such as being a founding member of the Community Patrol.

Assembly Reports: Bonnie Jack, speaking for Harriet Drummond who is out of town, had a prepared report from Ms. Drummond. The municipal clerk had stamped in as of 4:00 today a challenge to the municipal election. Ten people paying \$100.00 per precinct for 15 precincts asked for a recount. Ms. Drummond also wants people to note she now has a new email address. It is now: DrummondHA@muni.org. In the interest of presenting Harriet's report to the council which was not read in its entirety by Ms. Jack, the following is entered in part for the record: **There was an Assembly meeting on April 10 that addressed restoring the firewall between local transportation projects and the Knik Arm Bridge in the the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Harriet attempted a resolution which would have called for an independent special counsel be hired to advise the Election Commission and the Assembly before the election was certified, but it failed. There was a work session on April 13 so the Assembly could hear from two members of the Election Commission, the Municipal Clerk and the Deputy Clerk about the election. There are still many unanswered questions. The \$2300.00 which Ms. Drummond had requested would have paid for Anchorage to be a member in NOISE (which SCC supported) was voted down by the Assembly. Both Ms. Drummond and Mr. Hall will be seeking other ways to fund this issue. The Assembly made revisions to the First Quarter Budget by using a \$6.2 million surplus to reduce property taxes. Harriet would like members of the public to contact her regarding an ordinance being introduced that would allow smoking in private clubs like fraternal organizations.**

Chair announcements AWWU has been added to the agenda. He made calls to the Heritage

Land Bank about the former Armory site on Spenard and Aviation which is up for sale. The HLB is required to keep the councils apprised of any sales of HLB property within the affected council's boundaries. The hearing scheduled for May 8 has been postponed? Please, people are requested to call the HLB to follow up. There was a short discussion about the property. Although the woman at the HLB said it is in line with the WADP for commercial development on both sides of Spenard, the SCC is feeling left out of the process.

Chair: Some people have erroneously become members of SCC who do not live or have businesses within the council boundaries, therefore they are not qualified to be members. There will be refunds to the two parties who do not meet the requirements. A map of the council will be kept near the sign-up sheet at the meetings so they can see if they are within the council boundaries. Hopefully this will avert any confusion and prevent it from happening again.

Airport Report - Bob Auth: The next airport communications meeting is May 10. There is no Spenard representative for the Part 150 study which just got started and which also has a meeting scheduled for May 10. John Johansen from TSAIA who was sitting in the audience said something was sent to the past chair about appointing a person. Bob was asked to be a part of that committee and accepted.

Liquor Committee Report: Suzy Baird sent in a report: No new problems with liquor licenses. Suzy spoke with the ABC: The In and Out situation is really an enforcement problem; she isn't very hopeful for the resolution/license avenue otherwise.

Cora Weaver from the MOA Code Enforcement brought in the owner of 2806 Aspen, Sonia Fairbanks, and her niece, Linda Johnson, to discuss the problems the council has been having with that particular piece of property which have worsened since last summer. The house has been without heat for some time and has a lot of problems with it, but the family intends to remove all the garbage and stored junk materials soon and are waiting for the MOA to give them vouchers for free dump runs. The owner plans to move back in once they clean things up and restore it to habitable conditions. There have been problems with that place for a long time and many members of the public have been making complaints for years, including one council member made a complaint four years ago but the MOA didn't take any action. Ms. Weaver said it was a slow process since the person who owned the home went to a care facility and no one was assigned legal guardianship for a long time. The council has been monitoring this property for some time and will continue to do so.

Peggy Auth gave a report regarding the WADP. She noted that the hearing for the Plan is coming up and council members should look at it and make sure they are aware of what is planned for the future of Spenard and surrounding area and contribute their own thoughts to it.

FCC Report - Jason Bergerson said there will be a NUSA conference in Indianapolis in two weeks. There was a recognition at the FCC for School Superintendent Carole Comeau who is retiring at the end of the school year.

There was a discussion about the community council boundaries. Will there be changes anytime soon? Bonnie Jack said there has been some talk about it and it would be tied to the redistricting that is currently going on, but nothing will happen until reapportionment and precinct boundaries happen.

TSAIA Report - John Johansen gave the report for John Parrot. The EPA signed off on the new de-icing rule on 4/25/12. It doesn't address the current airports, only new ones and there

will probably be new guidelines for glycol in the near future. There is a Part 150 meeting May 10 with another in June TBA. The Part 150 study can be looked at online at [ANC150study.com](http://ANC150study.com). The next Airport communications committee meeting is also May 10.

Jasper Hill of the Westside Patrol came and talked to the council about how he got involved, what he does as a part of the patrol, how he and others are trying to build the ranks of the patrol and how to get involved now. His contact number is 248-3309 (home) and 350-6854 (cell). He would take interested parties for a ride along so they can see him in action and get a feeling for what goes on in a typical shift. Please feel free to call him with any questions.

Barbara Smart of Alaska Leather announced the formation of the Spenard Chamber of Commerce. They will be sponsoring the "Dash for Trash" in conjunction with the Spenard Farmers Market which begins May 19. You can bring bags of trash between 2-4 p.m. to the market. They are asking help from anyone who can provide a pickup as the MOA is no longer picking up trash during the entire Anchorage cleanup week as they have done in the past.

Mark Butler, Laura and Jae Shin did a presentation about the Spenard Farmers Market. Last year they had 40 vendors. They want to thank Chilkoot Charlie's, Northrim Bank, the State of Alaska, Tap Root, Rene Haag, Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond. The market kicks off this year on May 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will end Sept. 29th.

AWWU - Mark Queen: There will be work done at the intersection of Minnesota and 36th as they upgrade the storm drains. There will be 2-3 months of design and it will be late this construction season if at all. There will be 1-2 lane closures for some of the time as necessary.

Jed Smith - Public transit advisory board: They need feedback from the community on public transportation issues. There was a question about public safety as far as people waiting for the bus. Also a comment about the need to move the transit stop on the westside of Spenard on the deadman's curve near 36th Avenue.

Old and New business - In and Out Liquors

Tom McGrath: There have not been conditional use restrictions placed on these this business although it is within the purview of the ABC and the Assembly to do so. Both of the In and Out stores (at 36th and Arctic and Benson and Spenard) are selling liquor that appeals to alcoholics. Mt. Vernon Common Condos have spent a lot of money protecting themselves from the street inebriates. Springer Park on Arctic Blvd. is also a real problem area due to the proximity to the In and Out store. There were two resolutions regarding the two stores so that they could be voted on separately.

The vote on the resolution regarding 1100 West Benson Blvd. was moved and seconded. The vote was 13-0 for approval.

The resolution regarding 3601 Arctic Blvd. was moved, seconded and voted. The vote was 13-0 for approval.

A member of the audience asked that the term "street inebriate" be changed to "publicly intoxicated". The council agreed to the change.

Tom Atkinson talked about noise from the Montessori school on Northwood. One neighbor has sold his house due to the noise and another neighbor is getting ready to sell. The chair will be meeting with the officials from the school and MOA to see if there is anything the council can do.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25.