

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2012
Spenard Recreation Center

Chairman Jim Bowers brought the meeting to order at 7:00 after a pre-meeting picnic. He made an announcement there will be a meeting regarding the Airport Master Plan at the Coast International on Sept. 19th, 7 p.m. The minutes were approved. The agenda was approved.

The construction of the new fire station on McCrae that serves Spenard has commenced. Neighbors joined with the Municipality to improve the plans to save as many of the existing trees and much of the landscaping as possible.

Brian Shelton-Kelley from NeighborWorks Anchorage (formerly Anchorage Neighborhood Housing) announced they are having their annual dinner on Oct. 5 at the Marriott. The theme is "Welcome Home" and the goal is fundraising for housing homeless veterans.

Chair Bowers was pleased to announce that as of October 5 a section of Taft will be renamed "Thornhill Place" in honor of our treasurer and long time Spenard advocate, Allen Thornhill.

Chris Tuck introduced himself to the council. He is currently serving in the State House in another part of Anchorage but redistricting has placed him in Spenard's boundaries. He is running for House district 22. Phil Isley announced he is also running for State House district 22.

Code Enforcement - Cora Weaver gave an update on the Montessori school's noise problem. Currently they are not meeting their obligations for the landscaping which was required under their plat. They plan to hold a fundraiser to purchase more shrubs. They have been allowed until next year to remedy the problem.

Ms. Weaver also spoke about 2806 Aspen. Officer Kehr of the APD CAP team cleared the house and yard of vagrants. The trespassers were also stealing from nearby neighbors. Ernie Hall and Ira Perman secured dump passes for trash and debris removal by the family. The legal guardian who is also the niece of the now deceased homeowner is trying to have the house boarded up. Questions were raised about the structural integrity of the house and why it hasn't been bulldozed. Bonnie Jack will contact code abatement for the council.

AFF (American Fast Freight) had been illegally storing their trailers on public streets. They are building a new warehouse which displaced their parking sites. They will now be using space at Sourdough Trucking. They will be able to move their trucks onto their own property when the construction is completed in November.

Follow-up to the old Armory site (Spenard and Lakeshore Drive): The site was put up for sale, there were three bidders, one of whom owns the Northern Lights Inn which prompted an objection from a council member because the Northern Lights Inn is in such a bad state of disrepair.

Jason Bergerson brought up the resolution to In and Out Liquor from a previous meeting. Ernie Hall said he could follow up on its progress.

Assembly reports - Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond

Mr. Hall talked about the Assembly meeting to re-certify the April elections on Aug. 21. The Assembly needed to do so after bags containing 141 ballots were found in a closet. Retired judge Dan Hensley will give a third party assessment of the election on Friday, Sept. 27 at 10:00 a.m. in room 155 of City Hall. Barbara Jones has been hired as the new municipal clerk. She spent a year in the ombudsman's office and Mr. Hall was pleased by how Ms. Jones closed 1100 cases within a year. She moved into her new job on July 1. There was also housecleaning at the clerk's office with the dismissal of five of the seven clerks there. Darrell Hess has been hired to replace Ms. Jones at the ombudsman's office.

Mr. Hall also reported committee meetings on Title 21 began a month ago and the Assembly hopes to complete them by the end of September and before the rest of the Assembly in October. The Assembly will also be dealing with the budget and may need a special session for that. He would like the people of Anchorage to think about how they want the budget to go: more cuts or raising the mill rate? The Assembly passed the West Anchorage District Plan with boundary changes and a proposed future library. He added that Spenard Road is not dead and asked for the council's patience.

Ms. Drummond said that West Anchorage is malapportioned because there has been a loss of population and will need to be reapportioned. Reapportioning will do away with many split precincts. The municipal assessor found that the Anchorage Baptist Temple needed to pay \$60,000.00 in back taxes. Prop 1 passed with less than 300 votes. There is a concern about how Municipal information is being distributed so the public can readily find it. A council member told Ms. Drummond that sometimes public comments regarding zoning issues were not recorded after being made online and therefore not included in the commission packets. Also, staff comments are never available to the public online.

Mr. Hall attended a meeting of the Spenard Chamber of Commerce where problems with street inebriates and the homeless were discussed. In and Out Liquor store was represented and they said they are being more aggressive in their dealing with inebriates. The In and Out people suggested that the benches in front of their business which were placed there for the park and bus riders be taken out. Ernie said that is not a solution and not acceptable. Harriet announced she is running for State House, District 16.

TSAIA report - John Johansen reminded the council of the upcoming Airport Master Plan on Sept. 19 at the Coast International. There will be another Part 150 meeting in November. Jason Bergerson said November 7th has been discussed as a possible meeting date which would be the same night the council meets. It was discussed that perhaps the Part 150 meeting could get started at 5:30 and be mostly done by 7:00; attendees other than SCC members may continue with the meeting until its regularly scheduled time of 7:30. Mr. Johansen said a new fence has been put up around the former Kulis Base so it can be used for aviation purposes. Four tanks have been added. New concessions are coming to the airport. There is some cleaning of contaminated sites although he did not specify as to which areas. There is no website for the Master Plan as of yet. Other airport news can be found on www.anchorageairport.com or anch150study.com. The Airport is close to awarding the contract for the removal of six condos on Wendy's Way that were too close to the general aviation runway. The completion date should be in June, 2013 after which there will be some landscaping done. It has already been fenced.

Ellen Krsnak of Catholic Social Services gave an update on the acquisition of 4110 Spenard Road known as the Eagle's Nest for the new Clare House. The transaction was finalized in August. They will be able to keep boys up to the age of 14 now that there will be rooms with doors as opposed to the current situation where the only privacy shields for the families are curtains. They will be able to house senior women who now live at the Brother Francis shelter. Conoco is donating their employees' labor for a cleanup day next week. Clare House hopes to host a community party in May, 2013 to celebrate their 30 year anniversary and the new facility.

La Bodega - Pamela Hapzis, owner of La Bodega; Brian Bautzi, general manager of Middle Way Cafe and Jacob Davis came to talk to the council about their plans for the space next to the Middle Way Cafe, which include a new restaurant called "Pie By Fire". This would be an artisanal cafe with a boutique liquor store in the front. The liquor store hours would match those of the cafe, most likely 5-10 p.m. or 5-11 p.m. The cafe, which would be owned and operated by the same people who own the Middle Way, would have its own beer/wine license while the liquor store would be owned and operated by Ms. Hapzis. Many concerns were expressed by council members because it would be a new full liquor license, plus a new beer and wine license, in an area that already has many of both. The council made the decision to withhold their support until they can come up with language for a resolution placing limitations on the license. This would be similar to the restrictions placed on Milano's liquor license which recently came up before the council.

Janet Colon of Movetoamend.org asked the council to pass a resolution in support of an amendment to the constitution which define personhood to natural persons only. It passed with 6 in favor, 2 against.

Westside Patrol - Gary Talley reported he is using a lot of gas, around \$40.00 per weekend. Chair Bowers said he would line up some gas cards for him using the

council's account.

Motion was made and approved to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.