

**Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes****Spenard Recreation Center****October 3, 2012**

Chairman Jim Bowers brought the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After welcoming new people to the council, he asked that the minutes be approved. Tom McGrath moved to approve, Allen Thornhill seconded. The agenda was approved. Tom McGrath moved to approve the minutes, Jason seconded. The minutes were approved.

**Announcements:** Suzy Baird, who has been acting as the sole committee member of the alcohol licensing committee, is leaving the area and we need a new person to work that committee. Please step up to volunteer.

Last month emails were sent out to schools in the area in order to foster a closer relationship with the community council as it had been in the past. Brian Bearss from Willowcrest is present. Chair Bowers said maybe we can get some volunteers to reach out to these schools and help with their needs. Jason said the council can help with letters of support for discretionary funds, such as classroom supplies, when the funds are being appropriated. Chair Bowers has also met with the principal of the Montessori school.

Cheryl Childers said that people can help with special events especially if there is a fair or if the person wanting to volunteer has a special talent that can be useful. The schools can let the SCC know what kinds of needs they have for those events or when they are calling out for technical help from the community. She also thanked the Willowcrest principal for attending.

The elections are coming up and the councils on the West side have sponsored a candidates forum in the past and hope to do so again in the next month. Redistricting as made it more difficult for setting things up with TCC, Taku/Campbell, North Star and they are waiting to talk to Midtown Community Council. The tentative date is Oct. 24, but please check your emails for further developments.

Chris Tuck, running for House in District 22 and now serving in District 29, introduced himself and said he has served 2 terms and wants people to have faith in government again. He has a regular meeting, "Tuesdays with Chris" to sit with constituents and discuss what they need to talk about. He said the Department of Education did not get a cost of living allowance and every other department in the state did.

Jason said the key to a good forum is good questions, so think up some you want answered and send them to Chairman Bowers before the forum.

**Anchorage Assembly - Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond:**

Mr. Hall: Third party review passed where a certified engineer can review the plans for a developer, but the final inspection is by the Municipality. Part of the sidewalk ordinance keeping people from "occupying" too much of the sidewalk has been repealed. Mayor Sullivan vetoed that. The liquor store at the Tesoro on A Street is part of the battle over every new liquor store because of the street inebriates. He had met with Rick Goodfellow of Anchorage Ghost Tours who said it was really unpleasant to walk downtown after dark because of public drunkenness. The Spenard Chamber of Commerce's entire agenda was devoted to homelessness and street inebriates last month. We can put conditions on licenses. Licenses can be protested. There was

supposed to be a meeting with the Midtown Community Council with Ernie, Harriet and Elvi Gray-Jackson attending. Ms. Drummond said North Star was not notified and had stopped a store before. The SCC has supported Midtown's resolution.

Tom McGrath said the SCC has already passed two resolutions opposing In and Out's liquor license and the Assembly hasn't responded. Ernie Hall responded by saying he and Harriet met with all the community council chairs last night trying to work on this issue. He further stated that the public needs to make a point to report these problems to the police and if they tell you to not bother them anymore as they had to Rene Haag when she called to make a complaint about street inebriates, be sure to call or contact him or Harriet.

Mr. Hall: He is "amazed" by the report the media has given on the continuation budget ("A"); he said the mayor supports the plan "B" budget. The mayor is proposing going to the cap, a 3% rise in mill rate. They knew 2013 was going to be rough. Schools returned \$7.5 million to the municipality because the State changed their education funding.

Ms. Drummond: Asked of Ernie when the disaster declaration would be coming from the Mayor after the damage from the high wind storms. If he doesn't make a declaration, then MLP and Chugach rate payers are going to have to pay otherwise. The Municipality purchased 30 Tasers. She also restated Mr. Hall's report about the exempted residential plan reviews that was passed at the 9/25 Assembly meeting. The John Thomas building is being disposed of by the Muni. It now serves many nonprofits that couldn't afford more expensive space. Although the Muni wants \$1.6 million, of that they would have to return \$1.3 million to CDBG, so the profit would be negligible. Perhaps it could be sold to the nonprofits? There will be a work session on the budget next Tuesday, from 10:00-2:00.

Harriet also pointed out there is no good way to enforce conditional uses on a liquor license: Tesoro was selling all kinds of liquors they were prohibited from selling. Tom McGrath brought up that the SCC had asked in their resolution that an establishment doing that could be shut down automatically for not living up to the conditions. The Assembly needs to have a public hearing and set the conditional uses. Cheryl Childers said that groups come before the Council to talk about how they want to bring a new license into the area and we need help making an informed decision, we need a map of where all the current liquor licenses are. Even when people are good business people and we think they would be a good operator, we might have to take the stand that we have too many in that area and maybe this location may not be right for them.

Chair Bowers asked Ernie Hall about the new plan review, is this the default mode? Mr. Hall said it is not expensive and would sunset in 2015. Ms. Gray-Jackson tried to put an audit in after two years to see how successful it is, but that measure failed. It may come up again.

Legislative Reports- Lindsey Holmes and Chris Tuck: Ms. Holmes said the deadline to file to vote is Sunday, Oct. 9. The deadline for absentee voting is Oct. 22. She is now in House District 19. A discussion followed on how and why redistricting happened. Ms. Holmes said that the census found changes in population of just over 17,000 people. You can see it on the Division of Elections website. Fire station 5 is being rebuilt. She is working with the mayor's office to get information out to the public after the wind storms. Chris Tuck: Disaster preparedness is a discussion ongoing with Chugach, GCI and ACS. There is a need for improvement in response time and the ability of people to report outages. Chugach

wants to show where there are outages but not so much information that it makes the people living in the area susceptible to robberies. There will be more fiscal policy meetings after the election.

Contact numbers for Chris Tuck: work: 269-0240, home: 563-4584, cell: 223-6474. Lindsey Holmes: work: 269-0130, cell: 317-3697.

TSAIA - John Johansen for John Parrott: The Part 150 Noise Study has begun. There will be public meeting on the noise study on the first Wednesday of November, which would make it right before the SCC meeting, from 5:30-7:00. The Master Plan is now online at [anemasterplan.com](http://anemasterplan.com). An airport study shows modest growth at 1.4% for the next 30 years. Three escalators from the parking garage are closed down for replacement, hopefully they will be up and running by 11/15. The elevators will be working. Four new fuel storage tanks have been added to bring the total to nine. There was a need for new storage because delivery of fuel from Flint Hills has been erratic. Northern Air Cargo is operating for Shell on the Discovery wells. Lake Hood's new manager is Tim Coons.

Tom McGrath asked if the airport has any control on what the concessionaires charge? Mr. Johansen was uncertain. Tom McGrath said that they are price gouging the public, especially for water. Mr. Johansen said he would check into that.

Jim Bowers made the Airport committee report for Bob Auth: There is a need for an alternate to the master plan committee. It would be good to have a few more people involved.

Code Enforcement - Cora Weaver: She left a message for Linda Johnson about 4608 Aspen. Jim Bowers had called to let Cora know the back door was left open. He also called the police. Barry said it's over a year and we still have this problem. Chair Bowers said we need to invite Code Abatement to our next meeting. Cheryl Childers said there is new graffiti at the Ceramic Palace; it is a dangerous site. A discussion about other problem properties in Spenard: The trailer park on Barbara across from the Harley shop on Spenard is really bad. Tom McGrath pointed out there was picketing years ago because of the problems in that area. It's been 20 years and nothing has been done to the site. Allen Thornhill brought up the Northern Lights Inn being an eyesore and not contributing property taxes like it should; there are also street people living there. Peggy Auth said the council needs to have building officials come to our meeting and tell the council why they won't act on 2608 Aspen.

Ernie Hall said he'd have someone at the next meeting. Jason said the owners of the Northern Lights Inn are just as bad as Justin Green. We need to make a case with photos and documentation.

Anchorage Citizen's Coalition - John Weddleton:

Have we changed our minds since Anchorage 2020 was adopted 10 years ago? There were five drafts that came to the P&Z Commission in 2007. By 2010 the plan had been provisionally adopted as the new Title XXI by the Assembly. The new mayor (Sullivan) said he wanted to look at the plan and make some minor changes. He gave the plan to Dan Coffey who had been a part of the Assembly that previously adopted the plan. The new Planning and Zoning Commission who had many new commissioners who had been appointed by Mayor Sullivan decided they did not want to look at just the 20 items the mayor had flagged, they decided to go over the entire plan. The changes they have made are radically different than the original plan and this will be

coming before the Assembly on Nov. 29. Ernie Hall disagreed and said it won't be done in time and probably will be rescheduled. Tom McGrath said, "We need to see Debbie Ossiander's version." He did not elaborate as to the differences in the versions. Ernie Hall said there would be another work session on Oct. 19, but that may change.

**FCC - Jason Bergerson:** He missed the last meeting as he was out of town. He had no report.

**Planning and Zoning Issues - Peggy Auth:**

Troubled by the fact that the sale of the old Armory site was not noticed to the public as is legal for the HLB to do so. Chair Bowers said that since he had discussed it with Tammy Oswald and she had come to the community council meeting in June, he felt satisfied that everything was current up to now, but there were still questions about the past handling of the notice. Peggy Auth said the SCC has been involved with planning all along Spenard Road for years and this is not what was intended in the Spenard Commercial District Development Strategy. She said that she would be willing to contact the Municipal Ombudsman to ask why the council was not included in the notice?

Jason Bergerson moved that Peggy Auth contact the Municipal Ombudsman on behalf of the council and ask that he open a case and investigate how TDX bought the property and if it was done properly. Tom McGrath seconded. John Weddleton said that actually TDX has a good plan and the council shouldn't dismiss it outright before they see what the plan is. Jason removed the mention of TDX from the resolution and Tom agreed to second the change.

**Phase II of the Van Buren project is going out to bid.**

**The council meeting was adjourned past 9:00.**