

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2012

Spenard Recreation Center

The Chairman, Jim Bowers, opened the meeting at 7:05 and asked for the minutes from November's meeting to be read. Moved to approve by Tom and seconded by Bob A. Changes were made to the agenda with Tom motioning to approve and seconded by Allen.

Announcements: Vic Patel, Anchorage Parks Foundation- Working on projects to improve area parks. Contact him at 274-1003.

Tom McGrath announced that the lights are now up at the speed skating oval in the Midtown park and will be maintained by volunteers. He reminded the council that the SCC was very involved with the creation of the park.

Legislative reports - Noah Hanson for Berta Gardner was in attendance. Felix was representing Chris Tuck who is in D.C for a conference.

Assembly reports - Ernie Hall

On Dec. 18, the version "B" budget was passed with changes. There will be no police layoffs and the fire department was fully funded. The Mayor and Assembly are dealing with the \$30 million deficit by employee attrition and not filling positions. Harriet Drummond's position will be vacant as she leaves to take up her new elected position in Juneau. The position was noticed 12/4/12. The Assembly will go through resumes and will not allow any public testimony. It will be a 90 day term until the April elections. Chris Birch introduced a bill to make 11 single member districts and school board seats. The new assembly seats would be three year terms as opposed to the current two. All changes would have to be approved by a vote of the people as it would alter the municipal charter. ML&P has asked the RCA for a rate increase of 9.72%. Dick Traini pulled his fireworks ordinance last night.

Harriet Drummond - The school bond package was approved for \$55 million. \$44 million will be for capital improvements and \$11 million to extend the life of the schools. The school in Girdwood has been too small for years. The bond includes work on JBER and at Bartlett.

The recent votes on reapportionment was brought up. Ernie was asked what he thought of single member districts. He said there are two petitions that will be asking for single member districts. He had discussed with Chris Birch about friendly amendments, that putting in a single member system by 2014 was too aggressive; something by 2016 seems more appropriate. Ernie prefers smaller districts because he believes it allows him to keep in better contact with his constituents. He also thinks it will better serve Spenard because we would be more likely to have someone who actually lives in our district.

Council members remarked that the process was flawed by having it come up so soon after the maps were released to the public and that the public testimony did not even

begin until 10:00 p.m. The council member who spoke on behalf of the council at the meeting said there was very little discussion on the part of the Assembly even though the majority of testimony was against it.

Clare House - Ellen Krsnak

There was a pre-renovation tour in November. They hope to begin moving in tenants who need emergency housing in January. It will house approximately 100 people. Transitional housing clients will move in later.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport - John Parrot

The next Part 150 input committee meeting will be in February with a public meeting after that. There will be a working group meeting 12/11 from 5-7 p.m.. The escalators are still not operating and they hope to have them up and working mid-January. The airplane protection zone work that was begun earlier with homes being removed on Wendy's Way continues with the tree removal. The houses will be moved by the contractor to other sites. There is still an opening for an airport maintenance operator.

Code Enforcement - Cora Weaver for Jack Frost

Jack Frost put in a request to Jerry Weaver in Planning and Sharon Walsh to discuss the Northern Lights Inn and has not heard back from them. Carol Lee at Alaska Demolition said the Green property on Spenard and Aspen has been secured and will be demolished. They are going through contract negotiations and are 60-90 days from signing a contract.

A council member asked Cora if Jack Frost told her if there was a discussion with American Fast Freight (AFF) and the Project Manager (PM) on the Taft St project. He was supposed to update the council on that this month. Cora said she gave a Certificate Of Occupancy to AFF so they can now demolish the old building. Allen said he would make a citizen's arrest since nothing is being done about the illegal traffic going down Van Buren, 48th and Northwood. A suggestion was made to contact the permitting section of the Department of Transportation and make a complaint.

The owner of Grizzly Trailer Park on 4220 Spenard Road heard we had been talking about his property and wanted to tell his side of the story. He has owned the property since 2006 and done improvements. He has been working to get some of the trailers and their owners out and some have gone, but some have left their trailers behind. He has had to go to court to have some of the trailers removed. They have plans to develop the property although it is a split zoned property, so it will be hard to develop. Please feel free to contact him at 748-3255.

Municipal Ombudsman - Darrell Hess

As a former Fairview Community Council chair, he understands the feelings of the SCC and neighborhood to the proposed change of use of the Long House from a hotel to housing for severely mentally ill people. The property is zoned so that the plans by the Alaska Mental Health Trust are legal and a by-right use of the facility. He would like to see an open dialogue between the Trust and the community. When the Trust came to the community earlier in the year with their desires to buy this property, the community

had a "big stick" in that they could ask for conditions as long as the Trust was using public monies. Now the Trust is using private funding and doesn't need our support. There is a lawsuit that has been filed by the Northern Justice Project and if it is successful, it will mean any Mom and Pop hotel that wants to sell to the mental health providers can do so regardless of the feelings of the community.

Questions were asked as to how many rooms or people will be housed there. The Trust is not forthcoming with their plans with either Mr. Hess or the community, so the guess is around 48 clients with 2 staff members. This is going on the basis of their plans presented to the council earlier in the year. A member asked if there is a need for a conditional use. No. It is zoned as R-O which is residential/office. The Mental Health Trust representative refused to come to the TCC meeting and will only meet with Darrell Hess and a couple of members of the community. Jim Bowers asked that members of the public email him with questions or concerns he can bring up at the meeting with the Mental Health Trust people.

Mr. Hess also addressed the sale of the HLB/Armory site on Spenard. It was done legally and notice was sent to the council chair. He said that the councils should hold their chairs responsible for letting issues like this to be addressed. Even though they are volunteers, this is important business that the council should have been made aware of.

Minnesota Billiards wants a special events liquor license which means they can have a "special" event at any time. There have been a lot of problems in the past with this business. We will be putting forth a resolution to go to the Assembly and ABC, but it is important for individuals to make comments as well on the website.

Jim was asked if he could ask Jack Frost to return to the council to give an update on his meeting with AFF and the PM. Cora was thanked for her update and asked her to let Jack know we want him back for the next meeting. No FCC report from Jason. Jim said Lindsey Holmes, our state representative, has asked the council to forward requests to her for legislative spending.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58.