

Spenard Community Council Meeting

August 3rd, 2016

President Jed Smith opened meeting at 7:04 (19:04) with a welcome to all in attendance

Introduction of Officers

Invited attendees to share General Community announcements:

Mark Rawley- Housing Authority, update on new affordable homes project on Spenard Road open to any questions anyone would like to ask him

Bill Marsh- reported on Planning and Zoning Committee meeting regarding the re-zone request by owners of a development proposal on Northwood Drive, the request was denied to the relief of many of the 50+ supporters who were at the meeting.

Steve Himmel- reported on SCC Bike Ride through Spenard area and Fish Creek Trail system last Thursday was a big success with 30+ bicyclists , beautiful sunny evening!

Harriet Drummond- Legislative Report from Juneau, unusually warm and humid during the past 2 months there, not too much going on but process of pursuing switching LIO to the Wells Fargo Bank building on corner of Minnesota Drive and Spenard Road is continuing. Comment about Gov. Walker removing Schulte from Marijuana Commission, several people are not sure what the intent was for removing him, now waiting for announcement of his replacement. Drummond is running for re-election.

George Ashcroft Rep for Chris Tuck- no additional Legislative update but brought up concern in his own neighborhood on issues regarding Lois Drive to initiate a petition for concerns about speeding vehicles and lots of pedestrians; there will be information about traffic calming efforts for Lois Dr later in meeting.

Request for addition to the Agenda for Alaska Humanities report, addition made and motion made to approve agenda, voted on and approved.

June 1st meeting minutes approved.

Mayor's Office- Amy Coffman, July 25th APD received a 2 million dollar 5 year grant, effective August 1st. An ordinance for vacant buildings is being tracked & owner must register that their building is secured or could be fined. Call Mayor's office if have any concerns about a specific property's condition.

Marijuana businesses are in the process of their applications being reviewed, over 30 businesses from growing facilities to retail and social have applied so far.

Homeless issues- Muni going "toe to toe" with ACLU, a note will be posted at any homeless "camps" Brother Francis Shelter is packed with those residents who are evicted from outdoor camp shelters. There are efforts to reduce homelessness and there are some financial supports available for housing vouchers etc working with State and Federal government, hiring a landlord liaison to facilitate this process. Looking for options in vacant buildings that could be used for housing with some modifications. A new organization, Alaska Work Source, is providing work

skill training and addictions therapy support. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Amy at Mayor's office.

Assembly Report-Rep Tim Steele, there was a Homeless issues conference held in Oregon earlier this summer, marijuana business proposal for a grow operations one in Mt View & on Arctic Blvd, Muni has received nearly 40 applications for related businesses. Lots of Committee work to develop new ideas for regulations etc. regarding marijuana. Open to questions. Someone asked who the Assembly representatives are and Tim answered that he and Eric Croft, who is not present tonight, are representing Spenard area residents.

Airport report by John Johanson- monthly update flyer on back table or go to website Anchorageairport.com A new concession is a small theater for viewing documentary type Alaskan theme films in an area that had displays focusing on Alaskan Native culture; viewers can order food and beverages, (including wine etc.) from the various concessions in the airport to be brought to the theater for consumptions, for more details go to website. There is a new concession where Chili's was called Pork and Pickle. Another closure of North/South runway for regular maintenance will be in effect during August, so departures will be over the east portion of midtown during this time, mainly during the typical work day hours, so expect more airplane noise during this time.

It is suggested travelers get to airport early for security screening can take longer than usual due to heavy summer travel. There is a Flight tracker app on airport website that gives updates on aircraft that have transponders, with a 10 min delay from air traffic control.

Jed introduced Vice-President Jay Stange who will give a Land Use report. Jay opened with quote "everyone wants to live in Spenard" Applause! He mentioned some of his favorite reasons why he 'loves living in this area'...great neighbors, appreciates houses built one at a time individually by families, trails, creeks, lakes, railroad tracks, unique art and culture, restaurants, parks and "it's always sunny in Spenard" (laughter:-) Future aspects in this area with proposed projects for bike lanes, safe pedestrian walkways will likely make Spenard an even more attractive area to live, though there have been issues of disagreements over some aspects of development such as roads etc and there has not been a 'specific plan' on what the vision is for Spenard in the next 20-40 years. He mentioned some aspects that have happened since he has become V-P for SCC. For instance met with Bob & Peggy Auth on issues such as the request for a planning & zoning change by the owners of the area referred to as "Northwood Park". Peggy was asked to continue with her report regarding the history of this request. She was privileged to be involved with a "walk around" this proposed area being considered for a re-zone to accommodate a very large residential project that has had several serious concerns from not only local neighbors but also experts in the Municipal Planning and Zoning department from traffic engineers to 'land use planners'. Tim interjected that a "Re-Design is in process for much fewer living units than originally presented for that property. Request for another re-zone has a waiting period for a year Peggy thinks. She suggests staying on top of this effort by the owners who likely will continue asking for a re-zone for their investment property. Jay spoke again about other possibilities for affordable housing projects to accommodate the city's residents such as upgrading old trailer parks to more modern housing options etc. Also mentioned 13.8 million dollars was voted on to complete development of the Spenard Road Corridor project and work is expected to commence in the spring of 2017. A contractor from Colorado is involved in the process to plan the best suited use of this part of town. Traffic calming grants are being looked into for several streets in Spenard that are experiencing 80% speeding vehicles, including Cambridge Way in Windemere Subdivision between Tudor, International Airport Road, Arctic

Boulevard and Minnesota, 30th Ave and others. Another focus is to insure that trails and bike paths are connected. Land Use Committee is encouraging volunteers to get involved, if you are interested check with Jay, Peggy or Bill Marsh at end of meeting. Bill mentioned that when he spoke with owner about other uses of the Northwood property he got a sense that they might be considering a different business option such as a restaurant.

Mark Butler- Exec Director of Federal Community Councils; Facebook page being set up for "100 things you love about Spenard" to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Spenard which is 2016. A new item being added daily. The Fish Creek Festival is Saturday September 10th. There is full funding available to complete the Fish creek trail innovation. La Mex building, including entire parking lot property, cell phone tower on metal building has been purchased by BearTooth, also they have purchased the building where the Rock Gym is located in Midtown and is now renting it to Rock Gym. Municipality has 'promised' they will be taking down the DOT building near Spenard & Benson in October. Also the Brown family that owns the Pho Lena building will be demolishing it in the near future. Several other topics covered: Cook Inlet Housing project, Spenard Farmers Market in it's 7th year, Marie Alfanzis is new Board member if anyone wants a contact person to ask about the SFM. Monthly new activity "Final Friday" is being initiated in the Spenard area (similar to First Friday that was started in Downtown several years ago). The Fish Creek Park Festival will start at 3 pm on Sept 10th, after Farmers Market closes and will be held in several locations in the neighborhood with participation from Eagle Boy Scouts that have taken on several tasks, "Fighting 5th" Fire Station will have a fire truck available to explore, BearTooth Theatre Pub has promised pizza for children and other businesses will be participating in various capacities. Everyone is encouraged to attend to celebrate the Spenard we know and love.

Tim Steele interjected that a two parcel "land swap" for the North end of Spenard Road Upgrade will be on agenda for next Tuesday Assembly meeting.

Paul Wackrow "NeighborWorks" & Alaska Humanities Forum, are in their 3rd year of encouraging community involvement, this year the Step Up Alaska Spenard SolutionFest event will be a day long brainstorming and planning session on Aug 27th at Church of Love on Spenard Rd focusing on 4 or 5 topics to discuss and give input to connect with ongoing projects. A planning meeting will be held on Aug 15th at NeighborWorks office to help prep for event. Any sponsorship is welcome to support this event and a suggestion was made to donate money from Spenard Community Council for supporting this event. Some questions were asked about the planning committee meeting if it is open to the public, yes it is. Peggy gave some history about SCC working with the NeighborWorks in the past and the benefits of this cooperative effort in our neighborhood. Jed suggested SCC offer some sponsorship as requested and entertained a motion in this regard. There was discussion about what exactly the sponsorship should cover and after a few suggestions it was
Tom McGrath made a motion to to give \$250.00 to provide lunch for the event, seconded and passed by members.

New Business:

Jed explained the process of how Community Responsibility Business Plan agreements have been set up. Two were signed by Spenard Community Council in May, "Enlightenment" and "AM"

Alaska Leaf Co 1211 West 36th Avenue- Loren Dreyer Planning both growing and retail establishment, gave presentation of potential business including his background and commitment to running a responsible business and being an involved member in SCC.

Jay asked about parking spaces available for this business, answer approx. 40; Steve Himmel asked about how to protect young children who “have run” of this neighborhood area, concern about this being a cash only business could be a target for crime especially burglary; suggestion to have a security company patrol premises. Various comments from group about these concerns and Loren answered to the best of his knowledge.

88 Double Happiness LLC- Bernie Souphanavong presented his plan of starting small scale “cultivation only” in his 5000 square foot warehouse to grow marijuana plants. Several comments from members of audience.

Aaron Ralph- owner of Alaska Cannabis Exchange at 1805&7 West 47th, planning a cultivation and manufacturing business, answered several questions from audience.

Craig Aglietti and Lily Bosshart- owner of Dankorage at 2812 Spenard Road, former location of original House of Hobbies, left sheet with their bio information and are planning to be active members of Spenard Community Council. Highlighted several aspects of their business plans and are about “97%” complete in the application process. The couple fielded many specific questions from the audience about their location and other details.

Josh Fink- owner of “MoMo” wholesale business to provide marijuana products to dispensaries, and delivery of mainly bakery type items. Answered concerns about packaging being attractive to children and ‘easy to open’ which is addressed in regulations to minimize possibility of children accessing

Meeting Adjourned
at 8:55