

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 2nd, 2016

Jed Smith SCC President opened meeting 7:06

Welcomed all members and attendees, self introduction from attendees new to this council.

Introduction of officers, IP-G, Jay Stenge V-P, Peggy Auth, treasurer, Tom McGrath Auditor.

Opened floor to brief neighborhood related announcements:

“Dancorage”, new marijuana business. Arctic Opiate & Yarducopia neighborhood gardening project by Executive Director Michelle. Mike Gordon introduced himself.

No one from Mayor’s Office present to give an update.

Agenda for this meeting and minutes from September meeting were approved.

Airport report- given by John Johanson, public comments on Master Plan continue through January 16th 2017. Alaska Airlines building new hangar in area east of airport near 56th Ave. Meeting information on website ‘Anchorageairport.com’. Another update can be presented to the SCC if desired at the November 2nd meeting. The proposed design project will be presented on Dec 12th before Planning and Zoning committee.

Spenard Corridor Development presentation- given by 2 employees from the Municipality of Anchorage regarding AMATS Transit Oriented Development. There is a 12 member Advisory Board from Spenard business owners and community council representatives. They anticipate Assembly will review and “hopefully” approve plan in mid 2017. Some aspects of project were shown via a Map of the “character of Spenard area”, Fish Creek Greenbelt, Bike and Pedestrian pathways, Transit Hubs, Enhanced Street Crossings for safety, Potential Festival Street, dual use for traffic on weekdays and farmers markets etc on weekends. Public Involvement Activities that happened this past summer include the Bike Tour with Steve Himmel and Jay Stenge leading the group of 60 bicyclists; the weekly Spenard Farmers Market; various Special Festivals with excellent local musicians performing. Also a public workshop was held in July and a postcard activity asking everyone in attendance to write ‘to the future’ in 20 years about what they envision the Spenard Corridor will be like then. An Open House event is tentatively set for early April 2017.

Spenardcorridorplan.com Facebook: [spenardcorridorplan](https://www.facebook.com/spenardcorridorplan)

Question from Peggy Auth about how Public Lands Use plan for the entire Anchorage area is interfacing with this plan and how the public can see what is going on. Bill Marsh asked about Mix Use designations and how it could impact his home which is in R-1 & 2 zoned residence area within a quarter mile off Spenard Road.

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities- report given by Kristen Keifer Project engineer, handouts available at back table. Tom McGrath asked about the most “notorious” intersection in Spenard Minnesota and Spenard, rates a “D” grade for various reasons. Bill Marsh asked if there is another drainage for area south of Spenard along Minnesota. A member asked about an experimental substance of asphalt and rubber mixed together, Kristen answered that it is not being used on this project. Jed asked about the width of sidewalks along Minnesota being changed as there is no space between lane and the curb therefore too dangerous for bike traffic. Future plans for this road section are slated for 2017. Peggy commented about concern that there is minimal interface between DOT and the public at large on issues, especially safety for pedestrians in areas that are considered dangerous to foot traffic. Jay Stenge commented on the way Minnesota By-Pass is a “river of traffic” separating the east and west part of the Spenard neighborhood, feels a need to lower speed limits in general. Kristen acknowledged concerns and gave some examples of intervention strategies in other communities created for safety improvements. Tom McGrath commented also.

Assembly Report- by Eric Croft, the current focus is working on the budget which will include increased public safety by having more officers on the police force, which likely will mean cut in some other areas. The Assembly is continuing to consider approval for marijuana businesses that have their proposals in order. Housing, especially “affordable” options are a focus of discussion also. Commented on a Marijuana business that is in news this week that allegedly “gave away” samples of marijuana on business premises prior to be a licensed facility.

School Board report- by Elisa Snelling School Board member who gives reports to Community Councils works to Westside & Downtown area councils. Mentioned the “Dashboard” system is up and running which provides up to date data regarding student progress etc that the School Board wants to know about as they consider decisions for the future ADN newspaper published the Anchorage School District enrollment as of September 1st as 48,036, an additional count will be available later in November; next topic will be Bond measures and then budget discussions to finish out year.

Elijah Goodfarm, who is in a partnership with others gave a proposal overview of a potential new marijuana business in Spenard area.

At about 8:30 Jay led an activity for attendees to work in small groups to determine top 3 roads that need traffic calming focus in Spenard neighborhoods. Suggestions were recorded and Jay will take them to the committee for Traffic Calming that he is working on.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42