

Sand Lake Community Council Special Meeting Minutes

July 25th, 2017
Sand Lake Baptist Church
31 in Attendance

Note: Effort was made in these minutes to include the names of speakers that introduced themselves before making a comment or asking a question. Those that did not provide their name before commenting are represented as “SLCC Attendee” within these minutes.

Meeting called to order at 6:38 by SLCC Vice-President Hans Rodvik

Welcome and Overview:

- This is a special meeting to address the situation with the aquifer / overflow issue in Westpark. The committee dealing with this issue has met several times alone and with the board. We met in May to finalize a resolution.
- Resolution read in its entirety.

Discussion:

- SLCC Attendee: She was on the original committee years ago. Have these wells and aquifers still not been mapped?
- Jim Munter: The issue is complicated. We have been studying this over the past several years. There are some knowns and unknowns regarding connectivity. There are risks there and many unresolved concerns. The muni continues to drop stormwater right into the pond.
- Hans Rodvik: The point of the resolution is to tell the muni what we want to see; what our recommendations are.
- Frank Rast: How close is the pond to the nearest well?
 - Jim Munter: Several hundred feet.
 - Frank Rast: Isn't it possible that there could be layers of silt and other substrates that the water can't penetrate?
- SLCC Attendee: What does “capped” mean?
 - Jim Munter: Cap the pipe that leads into the pond. Water would then bypass into Cook Inlet.
- Claire Lewis: The new committee has had several meetings since last July and we are moving forward. At the March SLCC meeting a motion passed to have more

studies done. The committee met on its own then involved the council in May. The committee requested a meeting for all to know what's going on. The Board developed their own resolution and we came up with a shortened version. It was not on the FCC site.

- In March, the muni presented 3 options. We met with the mayor in January. He asked if anyone's health has been effected? We don't know! Their three options offered included 1) fix the problem with an adequate storm drain for over a million dollars, 2) place another holding pond behind the lake, and 3) conduct more studies.
- Frank Rast: I have lived in Anchorage for more than 30 years and in this district for more than 20. I have worked with water quality, treatment, and storm drains for many years. The city found that the pipes in this area were undersized and found money to put in the bypass. What's in the runoff? Dog poop, pesticides, oil, etc. The system takes normal water but when excess water is present it goes into the bypass. 85% of pollutants go to the inlet on the first flush. We don't know if water is contaminated. Why not just ask for water sampling before spending over a million dollars? If I thought public health was a problem I would be the first to say cap the pipe. Pick up the dog poop! Don't use pesticides! The nearest well is over 100 ft away. There is a low probability of contamination going into the pond. Plants use 12 ft of sand, we have several 100. Lets ask the city to do testing and put in barriers. Take pond samples before and after an event.
- SLCC Attendee: We want to test the source and individual homes.
- Allen Thornhill: They never bothered to take samples. The line is too small to take care of problem and isn't it going to be stuck with stuff at some point? I want a line big enough to take care of 300 houses.
- Claire Lewis: Last year in August we met with the muni and asked to stop construction until the problem is solved. We don't want flooding either. Why has owner of property not been asked to fund the fix? Muni wasn't ever supposed to put this in. We had a drainage event August 8, 2016 and the bypass activated. We will never know the pollutants that entered the system at this time.
- Jim Munter: Two days after the flooding event the muni said it was a 1 year storm. It is supposed to be activated on a 50 year storm. We trust the muni to do this stuff right.
- Frank Rast: A 2 year storm is not different from a 50 year storm.
- Allen Thornhill: They are building now. The school property is going to be subdivided. They are going to sell and homes are going to be put in there.
- SLCC Attendee: The pond has turned orange. 16 people filed complaints saying they saw changes to their wells. The color of the water was the same as the pond. The resolution should say that permitting shouldn't happen. We don't want more studies, we want a pipe into the Cook Inlet.

- Hans Rodvik: Lets gather our statements and try not to repeat so that we can get through this.
- SLCC Attendee: I am a 93 year old woman with a well. This issue is important to me but I can't hear with the traffic. Let's take this more seriously and not meet on the street corner. Why is the church closed?
- Hans Rodvik: It was on their calendar. I don't know why we cant get in.
- Frank Rast: I am not going to any more meetings. If I thought public health was a problem I would say so.
- SLCC Attendee: Where it the monitoring? Where is the data?
- Frank Rast: We need a change order to amend the contract for testing and studies.
- Claire Lewis: Why not a simple tracer study to be sure of the connectivity?
- Frank Rast: There is a low probability that water will go through the 100s of feet of sediment.
- Jim Munter: It is not just sand. It is sand and gravel and maybe other things.
- Claire Lewis: Nikki should be here.
- Hans Rodvik: Nikki's son was sick.
- Claire Lewis: We wernt going to have a meeting. Nikki should be here.
- SLCC Attendee: Motion to adjourn until 1st weekend of September.
- SLCC Attendee: Second.
- Jason Grenn: My office can try to find space in the interim.
- Claire Lewis: There should be a muni representative there too.
- SLCC Attendee: You should do mailings. We don't all have internet.
- Mark Butler: Our office can send out mailings as a free service.
- Hans Rodvik: We will work with Mark to get meeting in August indoors with an unlocked door.
- Call for question. Yay – 30 Nay – 1
- Jim Munter: I will have relevant information to present.
- Hans Rodvik: I will make sure we advertise in as many ways as possible.
- Jason: We will do what we can to help advertise.

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