

Sand Lake Community Council Meeting Minute Notes

September 11th, 2017

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 6:42 by SLCC President Nikki Rose

Welcome and Comments

Approval of Agenda

***Clint Campion can't be here. Motion to strike him from agenda and seconded.

***Motion to strike bylaw discussion in absence of Michael Rose. Seconded.

***Motion to strike Betty Davis from the agenda as unable to attend. Seconded.

Approval of Minutes from May Meeting

***Motion to approve May minutes. Seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes from July Meeting

*** Motion to approve July minutes. Seconded and passed.

Approval of Minutes from August Meeting

*** Motion to approve August minutes. Seconded and passed.

Patriotism Moment

Note that today is September 11th. Nikki Rose put a rose and candle under the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

President's Report

Jewell Lake Park cleanup. Thanks to all that came. We picked up several bags of trash and prepared the park for events.

Sand Lake Community Picnic. Thanks so much to all of the contributors and sponsors. Lots of help from senators and representatives too!

Traffic project on 88th in front of Dimond High School. They did an excellent job.

We had a resolution for Jewell Lake Park and they worked on that. Also a resolution for Kinkaid Park. We had Fix It Day recently and parks and rec did an excellent job.

Here is the resolution passed at last meeting regarding the Westpark aquifer and wells. Unanimous vote at last meeting, 51 – 0.

Been working hard at FCC meetings. FCC rep Josh Walton also attends. The school board divvies up where they go. Our person is Betty Davis so hopefully she will attend our meetings soon.

Kyle Stevens is the new President at the FCC. They had elections.

Nikki Rose is now on the homelessness committee. Been working with FCC and Assemblyman Felix Rivera. Has been doing tours and has a garage full of contributions that will be going to charities all over Anchorage. Her garage is now thoroughly full. Thank you for that. If you want to talk more with me about homelessness and ideas you have, please talk to me afterward.

Local Municipal Assembly and Anchorage School Board Report

Eric Croft – Spoke to John Norris about rezoning for U-Haul at the Dimond and Jewell Lake lot. I encourage everyone seeking rezoning to come to the community council. We then know it has met with your approval. We are redoing the 2020 plan into a 2040 plan. It helps us understand if rezoning makes sense. If rezoning fits the plan we have, like moving toward more commercial or residential, it provides a structure for us.

SLCC Attendee – what type of business?

John Norris – 2.5 acres near Taco Bell for Uhaul and storage.

Tim Steele – Are they moving the coffee cart?

Norris – There is nothing on that lot currently.

Eric Croft – Transportation plan. My hometown has not been good at planning all of its existence. When you have a land use plan it should work with the transportation plan. It should say we are going to have density here and we need to move people from here.

SLCC Attendee – The corner of Jewell Lake and Dimond was supposed to be a town center.

Eric Croft – Yes, it still is. The city grew slower than expected. Where do we put densities that make sense. Anchorage bowl is finite and running out of room. Now where do we want that density?

SLCC Attendee – Does it talk about schools? The physical building.

Tim Steele – Schools have to figure things out before other institutions because of their size. That's

why we have school sites near the gravel pit.

SLCC Attendee – for the 2020 plan I showed them where growth would be. They told me we can't buy property until houses are up.

Tim Steele – We have two sites. A middle school and an elementary school.

Eric Croft- Most people thought we would grow faster. We are growing into that. You're right to want to know where that will be for the next phase.

I am also the chair of the public safety committee. Opium addiction has skyrocketed. We are now up to triple the national average. We think that is a lot of the lower level crime you are seeing. Break-ins are unlikely to be big organized crime. Maybe a little bit of the homeless camps but more likely to be someone that needs to sell quickly for a fix. We are working on how to catch these folks. Twenty-eight officers coming in soon.

Nikki Rose mentioned I am here for these meetings. We got your resolution. We will fight for that 1.4 million in drainage. You gave us the marching orders. I've been working with Jason Grenn and others to look at testing. Sounds simple to dump dye in but more complicated than that. One of the problems pushing forward is the UAF study that said no linkage. Munter poked holes in that conclusion. I agree but it still sits out there when we need to make a case.

SLCC Attendee – That's where your density is going in over there. We need to get that reservoir under control.

Tim Steele – You are doing the right thing. Meeting, talking and trying to convince powers that be. Solution is to take runoff to Cook Inlet.

SLCC Attendee – Or get everyone on city water.

Tim Steele – People on wells like their wells.

SLCC Attendee – In the minutes we didn't address when filters were given to Betty Davis. After that the water cleaned up. They agreed that water was a problem because they gave them the filters. When they did that they acknowledged it was tied to the well.

Tim Steele – There are other causes it could be.

Eric Croft – I agree with evidence for more direct link but it's a problem.

Allen Thornhill– As owner and a member of the Westpark Association, if something happens to the pump you won't have another choice. The pump pushes to inlet and is already undersize. Therefore we are going to have flooding in Big Bend. Not just a spit in the bucket; there's a lot of money there. They pay a lot of taxes. Whoever did the inspection in planning and zoning approved it. Poor job.

Eric Croft – They sent a letter to the developer. I see a presentation on the back about this.

Tim Steele – We have a [assembly] meeting tomorrow night. Our agenda has a lot of funny things on it. Not big huge items in money. There is a lot of money from the state for these projects. AWWU upgrade projects. Lots of small things. Chester Creek flooding issue in my neck of woods. Happy to do study but wish we had solved it many years ago.

SLCC Attendee – Do we need to bring this water issue up tomorrow evening?

Eric Croft – Absolutely. Public comment period. Couldn't see how it would hurt.

Tim Steele – lots of small things on agenda. Fish Creek Trail is another agenda item. It was supposed to be started this year but we didn't get the money.

We are following the lead of the school board to have a student representative on there as a rotating position to get them to learn about civics. It will be discussed tomorrow.

SLCC Attendee- 78th avenue is a dirt road. Why?

Tim Steele – They want it like that.

Alaska State Legislative Report

Senator Costello Staffer – Sorry she couldn't be here. Sorry we don't really have a report. We are preparing for new special session though a letter from Governor hasn't been sent yet.

Representative Matt Claman Staffer– Constituents have been talking a lot about crime. Oct 19 we will have a meeting about that for residents to dialogue.

SLCC Attendee – School tax reintroduction. Is it a multi-tier approach?

Representative Matt Claman Staffer – written as a minimum of \$100 and goes up. Maximum capped at \$8000.

Rep Jason Jason Grenn – It is nice to be here in person and I thank you for the few minutes to speak. My big goal before special session is to connect with people through meetings, coffee etc. If you want to chat please call, email, facebook. We want to connect with people the best we can, in person or not. Jewell Lake widening and lots of issues people bring up. I rode along with APD last week and got some insights. Talked with officers and detectives regarding uptick in crime, SB91 etc. I am cohosting Claman meeting Oct 19 at Kinkaid elementary 5:30-7:30PM. Will have representatives from task forces etc. We are going to talk about neighborhood watch start-ups. More info to come in the mail etc. Please share the meeting date and time with people.

Lots of us are gearing up for special session to start unofficially Oct 24 about revenue. We heard lots of pros and cons last session. When we get more info on the Governor's bills we will get it to you. We want to get you on same page we are so we can talk with the same set of facts. We want to hear your opinions on what is introduced. Another coffee meeting at Kaladi coming soon, the first Thursday of October. Keep an eye on our Facebook.

SLCC Attendee (Walt)– Will you be doing the balance the budget game for the community?

Jason Grenn – A lot of people like that visual to see what’s going on. Sometimes it is hard to wrap your head around billions of dollars.

SLCC Attendee (Walt) – Any plan to put it on TV and publicize?

Jason Grenn – Probably not. It is really just for our district. We invite those from outside but my resources and voice only go so far.

SLCC Attendee – Can you use Facebook live?

Jason Grenn – Yea I’ve done it before. It is an easy and cheap tool. Great idea.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Report

Teri Lindseth (Planning Manager)- An update is available on the table. There is nothing to really update in September. Summer construction is wrapping up. There are no runway closures that they have made me aware of. Traffic should be normal. The Lake Hood Seaplane Base committee will be meeting sometime soon. The MatSu transit fair is DOT and will be Sept. 28 in Wasilla. Great to learn about roads, trails, and rails. I’m here to answer any questions.

Nikki Rose – We met with the committee on resurfacing of runway. When does it start?

Teri Lindseth- Next summer. The North South runway will be shut down for almost the entire summer season, as well as a portion of summer 2019. Environmental assessment and the public meeting was in May. It will be primarily to Spenard community and those east of airport. For you guys it will be great. When it comes back online in 2020 you will feel it because you forgot with the quiet. We will be doing a lot of outreach. It will be an impact to everyone. When it shuts down, operations will be 24/7 on the two parallels. We try to switch at night but we won’t be able to.

SLCC Attendee – Has some space been transferred to airport?

Teri Lindseth- It has. The airport did three different development plans a while back. With master plan, blueprint selected one of three options for Coolis area. Southern portion was going to be design for non- aeronautic activities. Northern portion of Coolis was designated aeronautical. The airport is continuing to entertain tenants.

SLCC Attendee- Can you look into lower level pickup LED lights? It’s dark in there with cars and people mixing.

Teri Lindseth- The airport is looking at resurfacing the top of that ramp. If you look up it looks dismal. So perhaps part could be to look into lights. I will pass that on.

SLCC Attendee – lots of places are doing it. It costs more at first but lasts forever and they are brighter.

Municipality of Anchorage

Jason Bockenstedt– You guys selected the transport under Dimond option for the stormwater drainage in Westpark. They are going to look at getting this on the bond. I will say in the interim we are working with the developer to make some minor changes to how it works when activated during major rain event. Happy to answer any questions folks have.

Jason Grenn – Could you explain a little more about the fixes?

Jason Bockenstedt – Watershed and private development have gone out there. There has been some erosion. We are going to fix that. Some incline will be lessened. Those are some of the minor things. I will let Jeff Urbanis talk more about adding this location to the monitoring in 2018.

Jeff Urbanis– I am hydrogeologist for public works. I havnt been at SLCC in a longtime. Twelve years ago I was involved in the studies in area. I was a principal investigator. I would be happy to get into the weeds later about some of the things the city feels about relative risks. We met with Jason Grenn last week and we had met with the Board and talked about monitoring and challenges. Gathering from the presentation... Tracer studies are excruciatingly expensive. Scope and money said it wasn't going to happen. The report says that. All stormwater in the city goes to surface and eventually Turnagain Arm and Knik. We have a permit with the EPA and it stipulates what muni has to do throughout the city to keep the quality of water high. We do a lot across the city. Speaks to monitoring, enforcement, inspection etc.

We have a monitoring program. We do dry weather monitoring and a wet weather monitoring. The wet in 2018 we are going to try to figure out a way to incorporate the Westpark site. The challenge is that it doesn't flow every time it rains. Type of monitoring – pH, hydrocarbons, fecal coliform. I can send documentation. There are twenty sites that are targeted toward dirtier parts of town. There have been a lot of concerns here but in terms of our understanding in the city... This is newer, residential, larger lots, not a lot of cars... We have focused a lot on Chester Creek etc. We just don't see the concentrations of pollutants here. We can stay after and take specific questions.

Steve Gervel – What was reasoning to permit this stormwater overflow into exposed aquifer?

Jeff Urbanis – Great question. Lots of reasons. System in Westpark is undersized for larger storm events. There is enough capacity under west Dimond but there is a bottleneck. In 2009 there was freezing and flooding. This wasn't something... It was to mitigate a flooding concern.

Steve Gervel –Water will flood people's homes. The system was designed for the entire area but was undersized then problems later.

Jeff Urbanis – Why undersized? There was a rewrite of the engineering criteria so it is more conserve. In 2002-2004, prior you had to size for certain size rain event and it changed. Right now there is a document going to the assembly you will see shortly. It will update rainfall for Anchorage and the criteria. Essentially most existing infrastructure won't meet new standard.

Steve Gervel- Our resolution addressed people with wells and that we don't want urban runoff into the exposed aquifer because it affects health and welfare.

Jeff Urbanis- I understand. I encourage you to read the UAF report.

Steve Gervel – It is outdated.

Jeff Urbanis- The UAF report does not say this aquifer is not connected. It disagrees with concerns about relative risk compared to other things. It says a lot of other things take place in that watershed and are equally important.

Steve Gervel- The new facts show those reports are outdated.

Jeff Urbanis – Grant money went through my office. There is no final document. A point worth making is that Sand Lake also has storm outfall into it. This is a conversation I hoped we could have later.

SLCC Attendee – Will the muni go after the developer to fix this?

Jason Bockenstedt – No, it's not his fault because we changed the design criteria.

Nikki Rose – At the last meeting didn't Eric Croft say you sent letter to the developer?

Eric Croft- They did say that it didn't function as you said it would. In rare events you design subdivision to do most of the things and on rare events you can do overflow. There is an idea this is unique in town, it's not. But the letter said it would be rare and happening much more frequently.

Nikki Rose – What was the letter?

Jason – Addressing emergency overflow and how it is or isn't working.

Eric Croft – It is activating too freq.

Jason Bockenstedt – On one it should have and one it shouldn't. Was well over 100 year event and didn't activate and one big one it didn't and should have.

Allen Thornhill– The big problem with the city allowing all this construction over there is that it will be all tied in knowing we have an undersized pipe.

Steve Gervel – Mirrorwood Park had a different design and put it into this and it exacerbated problem.

Allen Thornhill – It is undersized and you know that and then tied in and compounded the problem.

Jason Bockenstedt – That why we put it into emergency.

Jeff Urbanis – I live in Eagle River and it's not uncommon around here.

Steve Gervel – Are you ready to drink urban runoff?

Jason Bockenstedt – School will be required to come up with plan.

Jeff Urbanis – These are half stories. When Mirrorwood... The original plan to deal with flooding... We have concerns here and there. The original proposal was to put Mirrorwood in Lucy pit and it was rejected by the community. Mirrorwood failed. Another muni visionary plan that was going to fail. It puts the onus on the taxpayer. We have to come up with money to fix problems after you make a decision to approve undersized things.

Eric Croft – One problem is that it does happen all over the city. I'm here to help fix it but whenever other assemblymen say it's happening in their district too... It was appropriate at one time. All across town people say "that happens in my neighborhood." As long as it is rare... This wasn't in this case. Hard to get 1.4 million on the assembly.

Walt – The muni went in and told the developer to get that gravel for the airport. They caused the problem.

Eric Croft – It was appropriate then to do it for rare events. In our campaign (Steel and I) we will say this is a different type of pond with different hydrogeology. We are asking for something that lots of people want.

Walt – We have Jewell Lake etc. with mud bottoms. This is a gravel pit out here. There is nothing down there to contain the contaminants.

Eric Croft- Yes, we don't have the filters. This doesn't work well as a filter.

Steve Gervel- The muni started this when the muni gave a permit to dig into the aquifer. They are responsible and need to fix it.

Tim Steele- The community is going to continue to grow. We need to fix the problems. It's a timing issue as to when infrastructure is put in. You can't design for 2000 years down the road then pay for it.

Steve Gervel- We are going to pay to fix it. We want visionaries that fix problems.

Tim Steele- You want them to be like you.

Nikki Rose – Let's redirect up here.

Walt – One other thought. Hultquist did a favor by not going to the density muni wanted him to. Instead of 4-plexes the muni wanted 6 and 8 plexes. They didn't put in a roundabout for nothing. Its not for the existing community it's for new development. You watch. That's 42 acres and that's going to be your next boon in Anchorage.

Jason Bockenstedt – Those are going to be big homes. Big lots. 16 in the entire area.

Walt – When they were designed they did it for the big density but came in lower at decision of

builder. We could have had a bigger problem.

Allen Thornhill- As president of the Westpark Association what will the city do when floods? Will you do something if it floods?

Jeff Urbanis – We don't think it will. We are never going to make everyone happy. That bypass happened because it was clear that system would backup to an elevation that the storm drain lids would have water coming through them. One of the things we are trying to figure out in the letter is where and how they set elevations. Did they set it too low? In the manhole it is bypassing before water can get out of lids. That all is there so Westpark won't flood. Originally we wanted an inundation map and we were talking about allowing some road flooding. We don't want that.

Allen Thornhill- It's getting to the point that property values will go down.

Jeff Urbanis- Some near Grand Teton have high groundwater.

Jason Bockenstedt - We are happy to come to the Westpark meeting. You didn't have quorum last time.

Jeff Urbanis- When I heard the Westpark resolution was to plug it now...

Allen Thornhill- No. We want this fixed. One guy has two pumps going on and if it is not fixed he is going to be flooded. Not just him but all of Big Bend and Teton.

Jeff Urbanis – Teton floods. Changing criteria... The muni uses rainfall records from the airport. They use 10 year running averages. Those numbers change for two reasons 1) it rains a lot harder than it used to and 2) the airport has a longer period of record. That is why criteria changes.

Municipality of Anchorage Vote by Mail

Nikki Rose- I toured the facility a couple weeks ago. It is very large like a gym. I wanted Amanda to come tonight to talk about it. They actually have ballot boxes on massive concrete slabs. Amanda is on the transition team.

Amanda Moser – Deputy Clerk. Been there since 2010 and in current position since 2012. When I talk about local elections, the spring assembly, mayor, props, school board. In 2013 Assemblyman Ernie Hall was chair of the ethics and elections committee. They had 3 concerns – low voter turnout. Less than 20% participate. A fraction of folks have their voice heard. 2. Inefficient use of community resources. There are 120 precincts in Anchorage. 3 Recruiting and maintaining election workers. Anchorage needs over 650. We are thankful but there are lots of challenges finding new folks. Lots of retiring or people leaving Alaska in April. Very hard. Workers are typically there from 6AM through 10PM. In this conversation we identified that the election equipment is outdated and there is an increased level of breakdowns. 10% failure rate of machines. This was a 4th challenge.

So we looked at alternative methods. We looked at other states on the west coast. Many do vote by mail. This would help solve some of these challenges. We identified that vote by mail is something

we should continue to explore. We wanted to build a stakeholder group so put one together in 2015. It started with 12 residents and ballooned and now there are over 50 members. We explored alternatives and identified that vote by mail is the direction we should go. We have put ordinances before the assembly and now we are moving forward. We thought we would be live in 2017 but it took more time than thought but will be ready for April 3, 2018, the next muni election.

Instead of a ballot booth you will be mailed a ballot 21 days ahead of election day. You will be able to sit at your kitchen table and look at the resources available to you. You'll return the ballot either through the mail, dropping at secure boxes (12 across city) or the vote centers. If there are any issues or you need assistance you can use an accessible vote center. I provided our transition report for you. I also brought our trifold that explains how easy this is.

If you know of another group that I should speak at please let me know. If you are interested in our stakeholder group let me know. We also need election workers at our center.

David Nees- I am a fan of vote by mail but that said, how do I know my vote got received?

Amanda Moser- When you return your ballot you can call our hotline to see if it was received. We confirm that signature against the one in database. A worker confirms the signature. So you can call and get that info. In the future we hope to be able to allow checking online.

David Nees- If they say it's not the correct signature, how do you know it was rejected?

Amanda Moser- A super cool machine pulls up a snapshot of the envelope and voter records. Signatures change over time so we captured several over time. All of those signatures in the system are used so we can confirm. But if it doesn't match you do get notified. As soon as we confirm it doesn't match you are sent a letter and you have the opportunity to correct it all until they certify.

David Nees- There are 8 senate districts, 12 boxes. Four will get double boxes.

Amanda Moser- We thought in terms of assembly districts. There are two in each assembly district.

Tim Steele – Amanda is being conservative in terms of accepting credit. She has worked her behind off and she deserves all of the credit this system will get.

Amanda Moser- We identified that Anchorage had an opportunity to move forward and to get past the old problem. We needed to centralize the election processes. I was there in 2012 when we ran out of ballots at 50% of locations...

Tim Steele – How do we know the cant hack the system?

Amanda Moser- Please come tour the election center. We can do a private tour or open house Sept 21 from 4:30-5:30. We have multiple systems to confirm and tabulate. No internet. It is a big open warehouse. You can see which computers have internet and everything else is air gap. We were thinking about it in the beginning and we wanted to be prepared for after 2016 elections.

Steve Gervel- Are you thinking the state should do the same and then maybe go national?

Amanda Moser- No, I'm just here on behalf of Anchorage. I think vote by mail is happening on the west coast first because of geographic diversity. It made sense for us too. I can't propose what makes sense for the rest of the country. It might make sense in rest of Alaska too but that's not the hat I'm wearing. Our machines were from 1998. Who has electronics from then?

David Nees- I'm hoping this flies great but sometimes they don't. If 10% turnout... How will you measure success?

Amanda Moser- First and foremost we want increased participation. There was 24.7% participation in the most recent election. Salt Lake City went to this and in the first election doubled participation to 40%. We will continue to work to engage voters and to do outreach. The more we talk about local elections the more we see engagement. My goal since then has been direct outreach.

Nikki Rose- How soon do you need to register for April?

Amanda Moser- To be qualified you have to register 30 days before. We mail the ballot 21 days before so we will capture you but easier if you do it sooner.

One thing is that we are hoping to alleviate voter concerns that wanted to go to poll locations but they weren't registered at. 90% of questioned ballots were from those voting at the wrong place.

To be a registered voter you have to have a physical address. We will mail ballots to the address on file.

Steve Gervel- Will we still have satellite voting for people that can't mail.

Amanda Moser- If you didn't receive or something you can get a ballot up to a week before election day at the election center. And there is a voter hotline so you can call and we will send one.

Steve Gervel – Will there be a savings?

Amanda Moser- Over time we anticipate cost per vote to go down. But the significant cost to startup is big. The cost to mail is significant too. We won't see a direct cost savings for about 5-10 years.

Updates to Bylaws

Other Business

John Norris – I started the company in 1983. We didn't have U-Haul except those that drifted up. I started when I was 19 and had three boys raised here. I brought along some info on plans for our new property at Jewell and Dimond. It is a vacant lot right now, 2.5 acres. We are proposing a three story building similar to the one we built on Boniface and Glenn. 28k tons of dirt and metal to clean it up. So a three story building in that area. The new building will have retail in the front. We have

the trucks and the storage. It seems to fit with plans for expansion of homes in the area. We will be over winter looking at rezoning. I have a pamphlet about U-Haul at the front. I just wanted to introduce myself and say hello.

Steve Gervel- In planning of the muni in that area it is considered a town center there for business and residential. Have you talked to the muni about your plans and how it would dovetail on their 20 year development plans?

Norris- Yes. We talked a lot about how this fits into community. That is part of what we are doing.

Allen Thornhill- How will one get in and out off of Dimond?

Norris- We are working right now with the state to develop that and to get permits. Two curb cuts are existing that probably retain off Dimond. We also have info on traffic at existing stores. Roughly 35-40 people on a weekday visit our stores. This will be across from the Police Training Center.

Storage units are interior. At this facility... it is a three story with elevators, climate controlled, secure elect monitoring, 5x5 locker style up to 10x10 and some 10x20. They are 8 ft tall. Winter is close when you look at termination dust. Having the dirtwork and groundwork in time to lay foundation next spring would be nice. Please call with questions and concerns.

Upcoming Events

Good of the Order

The next meeting will be October 2 here in the library. Then November 6 and December 4.

David Nees- Motion to adjourn. Steve Gervel – Second.
Motion carries.