

Sand Lake Community Council Minutes

11/06/2017:

Minutes

Welcome and Comments

Approval of Agenda

Called to order, 6:38pm by Nikki Rose, SLCC President

Thanked everyone for being here, encouraged everyone to voice their opinions and be involved.

Claire Lewis – brought up discrepancy from October Minutes, she feels Robin Ward, real estate developer, working for Heritage Land bank. Edited Claire Ross to Claire Lewis from previous minutes.

Hans made motion to approve meeting minutes, Senator Costello second. Motion carries.

Patriotism Moment – Nikki Rose

Presidents Report - Nikki Rose

Nikki Introduced Sara Rasmussen as Sand Lake Community Council Secretary

Nikki appointed Homelessness Committee with FCC, she has been participating in tours and meeting some of the 1200 homeless residents of Anchorage. Discussed cold weather shelter, including some of the churches in our community.

Some of the issues for infrastructure downtown include a need for more lighting, fencing, limited space available.

Nikki is doing a homeless clothing drive for professional clothing, shoes, jackets, dresses, skirts, to be delivered on December 4th.

Nikki and Assemblyman Croft met and discussed zoning for ADU. Cost of living in Anchorage increasing, discussed current guidelines versus proposed guidelines. Nikki is happy to meet with anyone regarding ADU questions.

Update from Assemblyman Tim Steele:

Focus has been on the budget. Second reading of the budget last Tuesday. Assembly to take action on budget after public hearing.

City is working on acquiring property near Lousac Library near Lowes and Home Depot. Planning on developing mixed use, some residential, some residential support Robin Ward is working on and Per Mr. Steeles understanding she is phasing out of the Heritage Land Bank.

Liquor tax of 2% on all alcohol to be voted on, will take a 50% vote of the people and cannot be raised more than 2% per year.

Discussed the different budgets that are up for vote. Assembly meeting is tomorrow at 5:00pm.

Nikki Rose - noted that the utility companies are discussing increasing the residential water/sewer costs

Meeting will be the third Thursday of the month at 11:00, downtown at City Hall, meeting upstairs in Mayors conference room on the 8th floor.

Tim Steele suspects close to moving back down to room 155.

Liz Vasquez brought up a \$62- \$65 million bond to pay off retirement instead of installments. Tim Steele is not aware of that. He mentioned the land on Denali that the city is working to acquire is a bond issue of about \$6 million.

Hans asked how much the budget will go up this year, if we are going to set another record on spending. Property taxes increasing.

Tim Steele stated that the state is pulling back, airport is not cooperating so costs are increasing.

Allen Thornhill asked why the city never stays within the budget, expressed frustration with increased spending.

Claire Ross asked what the best medium to reach Assembly representative. Tim Steele recommended in writing.

Legislative Update from Senator Costello:

House is on the floor currently, debating SB 54, makes changes to the crime bill SB91. Senate is not currently in Juneau, SB54 passed in April. Waiting to see what amendments the House is passing. After House passes that bill, Senate will go down to Juneau. Senate only has an up or down vote on House version. Senate cannot make amendments on the floor since the Senate originated the bill. Conference committee formed if the Senate does not pass the bill. Senator Costello booked flight to head back to Juneau tomorrow.

She is currently visiting schools, first Mondays with Mia, encouraged constituents to receive emails. She also offered to meet one on one for Coffee with any questions.

Liz Vasquez – asked what is happening with Income tax or Payroll Tax

Senator Costello mentioned Governors Payroll tax, caps at \$2200. She is hearing that this version is not well liked by the House, because it is not progressive enough.

She has voted for a spending cap, managing the PFD like an endowment. Over time you grow PFD based on compound interest, mentioned the number 1.25% on \$60 billion dollars, which is a large amount. She was hopeful the governor would put that on this call. Governor Walker must introduce his budget by December 15, Legislators back in Juneau in January to work on it.

Discussed budget process, committee meetings, very thorough process.

Senator Costello serves on commerce committee, discussed Uber and Lyft bill that she worked on. Happy about the bill passing.

Liz Vasquez – asked what the total state budget this year \$10 billion with federal funds. She asked what the budget was last year.

Senator Costello stated they have been decreasing the operating budget over time. She believes a spending cap is very important. Income tax would have over capitalized our budget. Spending cap had some exemptions, then listed several, she offered to get Liz the list.

Liz Vasquez – concerned that there is a squeeze on the capital budget, while operating budget is not going down. Listed example from state funding for Medicaid \$651 Million, 2017 \$1.3 billion. She hasn't fine-tuned other programs, and feels it is getting out of control. Called it a time bomb. Including federal funding \$2.3 billion for one program. Have there been any steps in consolidating? Consolidating School districts with less than 120 students? Talking about inefficiencies.

Senator Costello asked how many have seen graph that breaks down spending for each department. Discussed budget with fully funded dividend, education, Medicaid. Departments cut significantly. Senator Costello has a bill to remove Department of Commerce and bring it into other Departments. Next session to look at healthcare costs/education.

Liz Vasquez discussed consolidating school districts, 54 school districts, ASD biggest school district. Discussed additional administrative costs that are inefficient. Spend money in classroom. Not getting our money's worth.

Donna Folger discussed small villages with several school districts, why not combine?

Senator Costello stated she is happy that there is support for this, she taught at a Juneau school.

Donna Folger reiterated consolidating instead of taking taxes. She also asked why during AFN AGO signed off on paperwork that corporations were sov nations. Will that save state money?

Senator Costello stated they are working with Department of Law to find out what impact that will have.

Nikki Rose offered to get some speakers to come discuss with our council.

Donna Folger asked if this goes to the tribes it will save the state money and the villages will go get their own grant money.

Amanda stated there is a compact agreement, some villages will work on OCS, and the state will still send the money to the tribe, may send money on things like travel. One OCS field office oversees 55 communities, someone in the community can do that.

Tim Steele reiterated there is no free lunch. Someone pays for it. State has given some funding, but they are not paying all. Mentioned school districts, snow plowing, police/law enforcement between Girdwood and South Anchorage. State cuts back, city will be raising taxes.

Senator Costello stated they are interested in schools and healthcare costs. Fully fund BSA.

Tim Steele disagreed with blindly cutting, for creating inefficiencies.

Senator Costello notes protecting and growing the PFD is important.

Steele is disappointed that the state didn't take a revenue source other than the PFD, waste away savings.

Donna Folger – asked if they take PFD they won't have a PFD anymore by 2020.

Senator Costello recommended reviewing SB 26, discussed bill. Other states in same situation have no other place to turn. We can manage fund in a way that we don't have to deplete savings account.

Liz Vasquez – asked about \$16 billion in reserves. What is the issue?

Senator Costello appreciates Liz emailing her and giving her input.

Barbara – asked about payroll tax bill, house not thinking it is progressive enough?

Senator Costello states she does not want to speak on behalf of house, but those in favor of tax that is progressive. Stated Matt and Jason can't call in tonight because they are on the floor discussing SB54.

Nikki Rose passing out Representative Clayman update.

Update from Jason Grenn via Ryan Johnston:

Rep Grenn appointed to Oil and Gas working group, Senate and House working group with members from both bodies. Discussed their meetings and the groups purpose. Community safety meeting weeks ago, discussed crime prevention.

Neighborhood meeting on Nov 28 at 6:00pm at Chinook Library, hoping to have it at APD facility. Any questions please contact office.

Representative Grenn has Jewel Lake advisory group, on committee, has contact info for Parks and Rec if you want to join committee.

Rep Grenn would like to hear from community about SB 54. Makes fixes for SB91, calls SB54 "Fix it Bill". Discussed important changes.

Liz Vasquez asked why Rep Grenn doesn't support SB91?

Ryan : They feel there are good things in 91, don't believe in a total repeal. Not all of SB91 have gone into effect until January. Feel it is a loss of investment.

Liz states that sentences have gone down for every crime under SB91

Ryan disagreed and discussed offenses that are not all reduced sentences.

Liz disagreed and discussed issues in the bill. Cart before the horse, she notes that she voted against bill. She thinks legislature needs to admit it was a mistake and call it back

Ryan discussed why Representative Grenn is in favor and steps he has taken to become educated on Crime.

Donna Argued that he is not doing what the constituents want him to do. She feels he contradicted himself.

Barbara quoted Rep Grenn he "I Sort of voted" possibly from October minutes.

Ryan cannot answer.

Nikki Rose stated that the Mayor would like to repeal.

Donna feels that it is tying law enforcements hand, and that the legislators aren't experts on crime

Dan (manager of Carrs) discussed the cost of dealing with criminals and most of the time it is not worth it. We need to try to find something that besides putting them in jail makes it unsavory/unprofitable to commit crimes. Personally had his truck stolen, and criminal had

Allen Thornhill – discussed oil and gas tax, spending money on safety, cutting prosecutors, no money, but keep putting in billion dollar offices for nothing. No market for gas. Spending billions on the market.

Ryan will take recommendation to Rep Grenn.

Nikki Rose asked how to get in contact with Ryan.

Ryan offered his contact info.

Legislative update from Lizzie Kubitz for Rep Clayman:

Two key items on call revenue bill discussed House finance committee has met once. Focus recently has been on SB 54. Offered to send changes in House Judiciary committee which Rep Clayman is a committee member. Gov Walker recently announced public safety action plan, new prosecutors, new officers. She is happy to answer any questions or bring back any questions to Rep Clayman.

Donna noted that she is frustrated that Representative Clayman is not in favor of SB91 repeal. Watched on Gavel to Gavel when they were taking public testimony.

Lizzie noted there were 3 hours and some additional hours from calls about SB91. Some were expressing concerns about the repeal. She cannot speak fully for Rep Clayman, most reform packages it is not a silver platter, so SB55 and SB54 are making necessary changes.

Donna says that the State Troopers shouldn't be mentioned because they are not even here.

Lizzie defended her statement on bringing up Troopers.

Lizzie gave contact information on community council update at the bottom.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Report from Teri Lindseth, Planning Manager:

Update of new things, she has a sheet of updates available for review. If flying after going through screening new artwork/display. Friendly reminder North South runway will be under reconstruction. Next summer will be partially closed. Fully closed in summer 2019. Airport manager officially retired after 19 years, gave a kind tribute to him, they are working on replacing him.

Nikki Rose noted that he was asked to leave by the Governors Office.

Teri gave contact info for interim manager. No other positions changing.

Nikki Rose asked if any increase in security after passenger was able to board plane with a handgun made national news.

Teri noted airport always maintains high security level.

Nikki asked how many travelers should be expected during holidays.

Teri does not know, but numbers are always increased.

Donna asked a question about traveling with Alaska Airlines with some hand made Tlingit artwork and the wedding planners who were “White” had propellers. TSA told her she could not take them on the plane. Didn’t think that was fair.

Teri noted she will pass it on to TSA, and doesn’t agree that is right.

David Nees asked if they have gone over Aircraft proposal, public meeting is coming up in Mid November. Discussed Governors proposal for anyone with a private aircraft. State registration fee.

Teri stated she doesn’t have the details and asked for Davids email, Nikki will coordinate. Airport is being cooperative with Municipality for snow removal. Discussing negotiations.

Donna states that is what negotiation is.

Ryan Yelle Marijuana Update:

Lead contact for Marijuana issues within the Municipality of Anchorage. Discussed facility issues. The consumption is not legal at Muni or State level at this point. Marijuana makes money, brought in almost \$1 billion dollars to the state.

Discussed different licensing types for a facility. Special land use permit and a marijuana license. Reviewed process for obtaining city approval. No denials to date.

Currently there are 107 facilities in the MOA, 31 are in Campbell/Taku. Bar chart in hand out.

David Nees asked how the revenue is distributed.

Ryan cannot speak to how revenues are distributed. 35 facilities are approved to operate. Gave breakdown of four different license types.

Nikki Rose asked about testing.

Ryan noted what items are being tested. What you are buying is what the label reads. Illegal to fly or transport in US waters.

Nikki Rose asked if Beluga Billards is being considered.

Ryan stated it is all based on what is allowed by zoning. If there are any protective land uses in the area, listed some of the 15 protective land uses.

Allen Thornhill asked if his liquor license comes for renewal it has to come to SLCC. Marijuana issues will have to go nowhere?

Nikki stated that they will come to SLCC. Prior to applying, have to approve meeting.

Nikki noted that any comments must be done by June of that year.

Ryan noted that city passed legislation that first renewal has to be a public hearing.

Nikki asked if Ryan can tell us a little about the control board where he works.

Ryan discussed Marijuana control board and relationship with Municipality of Anchorage.

Nikki asked how to contact Ryan.

Ryan stated that his contact info is available at the end of the presentation that he printed off.

Nikki thanked Ryan for being here.

Bylaws vote tonight Nikki Rose will lead.

Hans made a motion to move to adopt the bylaws as changed by the highlighted.

Sara second the motion.

Discussion occurred as to the wording in the by laws changes.

Allen asked about the motion he mentioned last month. Discussion on eligibility for office.

Vote 17 – Yay 0 – Opposed.

Nikki discussed the impact of the vote from this evening.

Overflow Bypass System Committee Update from Claire Lewis:

Meeting on the 26th asked if any community members live in Westpark or on well near Westpark. Discussed Aquaphor and Bypass storm drain system put in place. Two incidents that Bypass was activated recently. Excessive storm water ran into Aquaphor, pollutants into runoff. Met with Assemblyman Eric Croft and concerns of water pollution into drinking water. 51 voted in August and people supported removing the bypass to properly build infrastructure in Westpark. Now we have to get the Assembly to approve our \$1.4 million request to fix the infrastructure in Westpark.

Nikki discussed some of the options that have been discussed.

Claire stated that those who have been following want action, and don't need to be a study.

We are asking for this on the ballot in 2018.

Nikki discussed what steps have been taken to get the \$1.4 million on the ballot in April 2018. Asked SLCC members to send letters to Assembly. She has a copy of the letter on the website. We need at least 6 Assemblyman. She is confident we can get this accomplished.

Christy asked if the funding for the new drainage system will relate to the new storm water utility.

Nikki believes this comes behind and the funding is in addition.

Nikki thanked Claire for working hard on this.

Claire asked how to get the list.

Nikki noted that there was a break in at the FCC and list was put on the back burner.

Park Projects Committee by Nikki Rose

Parks and Rec has suggested that Jewel Lake has a committee. Look and evaluate every park. Create committee with rotating term, meet regularly, try to get funding for parks, work committee, fix it committee. Jewel Lake park will be renovated in Summer 2018.

David Nees noted that some of the other CC have had issues with some of the Park Lands that are dedicated, and are not registered as parks. Not registered means it is not protected.

Nikki is going to follow up with Taylor Keegan with Parks and Rec.

Allen Thornhill commented that there is dedicated land for a School and Park and it is just a grassy hill.

Discussed gravel pit on East side of Sand Lake.

Ryan stated they have a PDF File available with all the years of Sand Lake Gravel Pit.

Skipping over Safety update this evening until we hear the results of the SB 54 vote on the House Floor.

Kristen Collins from the Alaska Center discussing Development setbacks:

Advocacy organization that works to protect clean water and Salmon habitat. Anchorage working to pass set back requirements. Presenting on the steam setback ordinance. Passed out a draft for review and discussed draft. Making sure Community Councils are aware and have time to review. Noted some of the reasons why the ordinance benefits Anchorage. Two different district zones in the new setback. Ordinance only affects new construction, and lot sizes under 10,000 sf. Discussed timeline.

Allen Thornhill motion to table the discussion until next month.

David Nees second the motion.

Good of the Order

David Nees states that ASD is asking for \$54.2 million dollars for school bonds.

Nikki reviewed upcoming events.

David Nees makes a motion to adjourn meeting.

Hans second.