

# SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting: February 5, 2003, 7:00 P.M. at the Spenard Recreation Center

## AGENDA



1. Minutes & Agenda Action
2. Assembly Report
3. Legislative Report
4. Railroad and Airport Report
5. Anchor House, Doran Vaughan, 274-7391
6. Vacate West 20' of Willow Street
7. Fish Creek, Dan Billman of HDR Engineering and Steve Gillette of Project Management, MOA, 343-8173
8. Spenard Neighbor's of Fish Creek, Julius Rockwell, Sheila Wyne
9. Community Council Elections
6. New/Old business

## Spenard Community Council Newsletter

1. **Mapleridge Rezoning/Vagabond Trailer Court**—This issue has been postponed indefinitely by the Planning & Zoning Commission at the request of the petitioner.
2. **Fish Creek** is remaining the issue of many discussions. Steve Gillette has advised that he and Dan Billman are ready to give a complete report on the work to be done on Fish Creek this year. They also now have a computer model of Fish Creek that shows what happens as different projects are accomplished in or adjacent to each part of Fish Creek from water storage by the wetlands at Lake Otis and Tudor to day lighting Fish Creek in the Cuddy Midtown Park, etc. They will present the Design Study Report to the council and a list of funders for additional projects in or adjacent to Fish Creek. The current objective is get the base flow of water back into Fish Creek. The long term goals of Spenard Neighbor's of Fish Creek is to find grants to visually enhance Fish Creek and it's tributaries.
3. **VEHICLE INSURANCE** has taken on new meaning as of the first of the year. House Bill 4 has been signed by the Governor and the corresponding ordinances have been passed by the Anchorage Assembly. This is a very important bill dealing with alcohol abuse. These laws allow confiscation of vehicles from people who are caught driving without a license, insurance or proper registration.. Confiscation for an invalid license or no license has been in effect for several months. Confiscation for no insurance went into effect on January 1, 2003. The Anchorage Assembly has yet to deal with the question of confiscation for improper or no registration. These laws are a long time coming and an issue to which the Spenard Community Council has been speaking to for many years. We will win this fight and make the streets a safe place to drive and walk. For those that do not have insurance, a driver's license or proper registration, Anchorage's bus service continues to get better with very comfortable busses.
4. **NORTHWOOD DRIVE AREA.** The Northwood Drive upgrade is on track for 2004. A citizens advisory committee has been formed but if you have input please contact Bob Auth at 248-0258. The Harding Drive work will take place next year and is a big part of traffic calming in the area. In the mean time, if you have a concern about truck traffic call Mike Jones, the General Manager of American Fast Freight, 5025 Van Buren Street at 248-5548. There isn't a lot Mike can do until Harding is built but he says he is interested in working with the community, where possible, to have less impact on the residential neighborhood. The land he is using is zoned Industrial and his company is a legal use of the land. We were told last month that traffic calming will be addressed for the areas adjacent to Northwood when it is upgraded in 2004. If you have ideas, concerns or issues please make them known to the Citizens advisory committee. This area is surrounded by industrial and business land but is also home to many Spenard citizens. Let us take this opportunity to make the area better.
5. **Midtown Park Update**—The Spenard Community Council has been pushing for participatory venues in the Midtown Park. Assembly Persons Von Gemmingen and Sullivan asked for \$150,000.00 for a skateboard park in the CIP. The Park Bond was presented to the Anchorage Assembly on January 28, 2003 but I do not know as of this time whether this item made the cut. We need to make sure the Anchorage Assembly knows

or desires. Brenda Smart has been in contact with the Skate Boarders and now is the time to put the pressure on so that we can finally get this venue built.

6. **Chugach Way**-- Problems and resolutions are being discussed with assurances that something will be done to improve the area. A new light has been installed at Wilson. One potential solution is a complete rebuild of streets in the area from 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue south to Tudor, Artic to Minnesota. This would take a petition to start the process. The city, through bonds, would pay for 90% and the area land owners would pay for 10% over 20 years. The cost is added to tax bills. For a fairly small amount of money the streets in this area could all be brought up to municipal standards. This is something for the Council to work toward if the area land owners wish. A vote of 50% plus one percent of the land owners have to approve.
7. **Zoning**—There is still a lot of outside storage south of the Mid Town Walmart store. If they would follow the example of Lowes and Home Depot the Midtown area would benefit. Also the Frontier Building continues to use land south of their building for parking even though the land has not been improved as a parking lot and landscaping has not been accomplished. The Bear Tooth Theater also has yet to pave and landscape but kudos for the site work they did at the Moose's Tooth last year.
8. **Community Council Boundaries**—A letter was sent to the Anchorage Assembly restating or desires for Spenard Community Council Boundaries. We still do not know when this may become before the Anchorage Assembly but we must state our case at that time to make sure they know our desires.
9. **Thanks for the Opportunity**—I am both happy and sad that my two years as the Chair Person of the Spenard Community Council is coming to an end. I enjoyed working with a great number of residents, businesses and land owners in the Spenard area. We have had a lot more successes in the last two years than failures. I am really happy of the way we came together on the Northwood Land issue and came out of a bad situation with a win-win result. The new Motessori School is special. I love the bright colors. Harding Drive will be built this year, just 24 years since it was platted. And the water will be returning to Fish Creek, just 28 short years since it was put in culvert. The block party on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue got people talking to each other and they are still talking. We are down to three really objectionable massage parlors since five closed down last year. Plans for the rebuilding of Spenard Road from Fireweed to 36<sup>th</sup> are on track. A few things that need to be done are closing the XXX Bookstore on Spenard Road because I believe it is contributing to the deterioration of the neighborhood. Land use changes need to follow zoning requirements and we need to start the plan for a town center at Minnesota and Northern Lights. We need to bring some residential streets up to Municipal Standards. I am still excited that Community Councils give citizens a method for self determination in their part of town. Thanks for all the help from Bob and Margaret Auth, Brenda Smart, and Allen Thornhill, the officers of the Council. Thanks to all the people of Spenard that have served on committees to make various parts of Spenard better. A special thanks to all the Assembly Persons, State Legislative Persons and our Washington delegation who have been good to Spenard when called upon.
10. If there are other matters that need to be brought before the council do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank You

Tom McGrath, Chairperson

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