

# SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting: January 8, 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. Mapleridge Rezoning—Maggie 333-7333 ext 3
6. Community Council Boundaries
6. New/Old business

**RECEIVED**  
Date: 12-30-02

## Spenard Community Council Newsletter

1. **Mapleridge Rezoning/Vagabond Trailer Court**—This issue is going to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a rezoning request only. At this time it sounds like a speculative rezone rather than a plan for a proposed development. This ten plus acre area is currently zoned for multiple residential units with a maximum of approximately 180. The area adjacent to Gwennies Restaurant is zoned B-3. Currently the residential area is to be served by Spenard Road as well Northwood Drive. The proposal is to serve the area only from Northwood Drive. This development can have a large impact on the area with impacts on traffic, trails and parks, schools, and safety infrastructure.
2. **Fish Creek** is remaining the issue of many discussions. Steve Gillette has advised that he is prepared to give us an update at the February meeting.
3. **VEHICLE INSURANCE** will take on new meaning 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 is already in effect. Confiscation for no insurance goes 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 know 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. They did not identify the location for the Skateboard Park. Representative Kevin Meyer put \$200,000.00 in the State budget for a Skate Board Park. We passed a resolution, as part of our CIP plan, that the skateboard park should be placed in the Midtown Park in the middle of a speed skating oval. The Skate Board Park can be used in the summer and the speed skating oval in the winter. The Midtown Park is centrally located and after skating the youth using the facility could check out a

book at the Library adjacent to the park. Jim Posey, the person in charge of Parks and Recreation, thinks the skateboard park should go in the already crowded Sullivan Arena area. If that site is already over crowded why would we compound the problem? The Midtown Park Skating Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis.

6. **Chugach Way**--Three hundred people from the Chugach Way area have signed a petition asking for the Municipality to block the street at Wilson Street and put more emphasis on crime and safety in the area. A walking tour of the area was accomplished in late November. The Municipal Manager, Harry Kieling led the group assisted by Heather Handyside, a representative from the Police Department, a representative from Traffic Engineering, Sam O'Conner from the Community Patrol and two property owners from Chugach Way. Problems and resolutions were discussed with assurances that something will be done to improve the area..
7. **Capitol Improvement Plan**—The 2003-2008 General Government Capitol Improvement Program was finally to be voted on at the November 26, 2002 assembly meeting. The program calls for 66 million on General Obligation bonds in 2003 with 108 million in total expenditure. This does not include school bonds. The parks and recreation bonds did not pass this year because people may have felt the total amount was too high. The amount for 2003 will be in excess of 8 million dollars. This will be a hard sell but with no bond passage in 2002 the average is less than average. Hopefully our Assembly members will provide us a list of what these amounts actually represent for our area.
8. **Zoning**--We are having problems with land zoned one way and used another way changing principal uses. Specifically the lots from Cleveland to Lois on Spenard which used to be used as residences but are now used for business. Because the zoning has not changed the owners feel they have grandfather rights and don't have to landscape, etc. When use changes on a lot landscaping buffering and fencing may be required but generally nothing is done unless we hold the owners feet to the fire. We also need to do an inventory to provide a list to zoning enforcement so that they can start appropriate action. We will talk further about this at the council meeting.
9. **Community Council Boundaries**--The planning and zoning commission has decided to form a new community council known as the Mid-town council bounded by International, Arctic, Fireweed and The New Seward Highway. The Northstar Community Council is trying to take the mid-town area, renaming their council (without any permission) the Mid-town (Northstar) Community Council I would imagine the Northstar Council is lobbying the Anchorage Assembly to give the Mid-Town area to them rather than forming a new council or leaving the Mid-Town area in Spenard. This presumptuous action by the Northstar Council needs to be countered by an action by the Spenard Community Council. The next step is the Anchorage Assembly after the first of the year.
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 250-4302