

University Area Community Council - Minutes, October 1, 2003

The first item on the agenda was a presentation on dog safety and dog rules by Robin Baizel. Robin is a dog trainer and demonstrated dog obedience, recognizing dog behavior, and what makes a happy dog or possibly a dangerous dog. She also gave tips on how to approach an unknown dog and how to discourage a dog from jumping on you.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of the U-Med Master Plan. There was discussion that Planning and Zoning Commission had approved the plan without the possible extensions of Wright and Piper Street included. As the Plan moved towards approval by the Assembly, Planning and Zoning [delete P&Z, add MOA Planning and Development Department] requested that these streets be included as in the final [May 2003] draft of the Study.

There was lengthy discussion on the amount of traffic going through the residential area, especially on E. 42nd Ave., and the concern that something needs to be done about it sooner than later.

Rep. Sharon Cissna invited community members to participate in the U-Med workshop on Saturday October 4. She explained the need for citizen input for planning in our area. Tim Neale made a suggestion that the EAST study and the Anchorage 20/20 study all be looked at during this workshop so we are not re-inventing the wheel for the U-Med area.

Doug Van Etten gave his assembly report. The major topic presented was regarding the site condos and the public testimony regarding them. He said there were a number of problems with site condos including access by the Fire Department and tax and address issues. The new ordinance that is before the assembly is more aggressive than the old ordinance and deals with a density formula and size of outside and inside roadways. Doug also discussed the Mother-in-law apartment ordinance. He informed our council that it is not allowed in a R1/A zone (single family homes). Lot size also plays a roll into the size of the dwelling. There was a question by a community member on what was going to be done to the old Mother-in-law apartments that were built to the old code. Doug answered that there was not anything that was going to be done to the house the ordinance cannot be retroactive. The Begich Administration is presenting the budget to the Assembly by the end of the week and there are to be work sessions on it soon.

Brian Whittle informed the council that there was going to be a work session on October 6 from 12 noon - 1:30 pm regarding the U-Med Plan that is being presented before the Assembly on October 7. Discussion went back to the safety of E. 42nd Ave. and it was suggested that we ask the Municipality to do a traffic count on McInnes Rd which got an upgrade this year. Brian agreed that the E. 42nd Ave. neighborhood is a walking neighborhood and that the city is committed to traffic calming measures when upgrades are done to existing roads. There was discussion on the possible extension of Piper and Wright in the U-Med plan and if E. 42nd Ave would have to become a collector street. There was disagreement to E. 42nd Ave. becoming a collector street because it was felt that the city brought the increased traffic to this area when they made it a cut-through for Tudor Rd, Providence and the University, and the neighborhood should not have to pay for it. Brian was asked the status of the McKay Building. He answered that the funding was approved for four floors and more money is needed for the rest of the building. The city should know the status in a few months.

Craig Valentine informed the council of the grant money that is available for Chester Creek rehabilitation from the US Department of Agriculture. He has the applications available. Chester Creek is one of the few streams in the United States that individual people own from their property to the middle of the stream. A question was raised regarding the culvert problem on Mallard Lane and if that would qualify for one of the grants. Craig responded that the USDA was aware of the problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Submitted by Kelly Brown, co-Secretary-Treasurer