

Spenard Community Council
Minutes 3-3-04

Introductory Comments and introduction of new officer slate.

I Legislative Teleconference

Report from Senator Hollis French: The legislature is approaching its halfway point. There are lots of bills up for consideration in the Senate. The Senate President is "clearing the deck" to make room for POMV discussion slated for the week of March 16th. Senator French asked the SCC the same four questions that were posed to the Conference of Alaskans last month in Fairbanks. Although not a scientific sampling, the majority supported adoption of the POMV concept, use of a portion of fund income for essential services, and maintenance of a minimum balance in the CBR. None of the members of the council favored constitutionalizing the dividend. Sen. French continued by explaining the process for putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot. A lot of debate is expected on the dividend-in-the-constitution question. Feedback indicates that many folks distrust the legislative appropriation process and citizens are concerned they will lose their dividends in favor of higher state spending. A question was taken from the audience with regard to why POMV needs a constitutional amendment.

Reps Croft and Berkowitz were not available for teleconference due to a late floor session in the House.

II Minutes and Agenda Action

The meetings was called to order at 7:15 pm. Minutes from the last meeting were approved as submitted and the proposed agenda was also adopted.

Announcements:

Jennifer Payne from the Airport stated a Career Fair is scheduled for March 6 at X time. Also, the Airport is re-establishing communication with the surrounding community. The Community Stakeholder committee will begin regular meetings and Bob Auth will be SCC representative. A new Technical Advisory Committee is also set to meet 6 times over the next 18 months. This group will be comprised of staff, FAA, administration and community representatives – Will Walker has volunteered to attend for SCC).

Concerns were expressed by numerous citizens about fumes (fuel smells) in the areas surrounding the airport. The Sand Lake area, Windemere and Northwoods areas were all mentioned as affected areas. Ms. Payne provided contact numbers to us and said the concerns will be brought back to the environmental staff at the Airport.

Anchorage Water & Waste is planning its Spring Cleanup Day for May 15th.

Spenard is a pilot site for curbside paper collection. Waste Management can be contacted at

563-3717 for signup. \$5/month gets you a receptacle for paper and biweekly pickup.

UAA's Community Technical College has announced the planned closing of the adult learning center (on Minnesota) July 1, 2004.

III Assembly Reports

Dan Sullivan provided the Assembly Report; there have been 2 meeting since the last SCC meeting. The Assembly passed a resolution telling the Legislature to "stay out of" the Hotel Bed Tax issue. The Mayor has begun soliciting proposals for a new convention center. Proposals are due at the end of March. The challenge issued to the development community is to provide a complete package plan incorporating the existing facilities and a financing plan. The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation has just hired former AIDEA director Bob Poe as its new director. Mr. Sullivan provided some background information to the SCC about other development corporations in similar cities. Anchorage is only providing support at about 1/4 of the rate that other transportation hub communities. Four assembly members and two staffers are on their way to a national conference in Washington DC. The new Midtown Community Council was approved by the Assembly. Note: SCC will need to amend its by-laws to address the boundary changes. The Anchorage School District budget hearings are scheduled to begin on March 16. The Assembly approved the bond slate for the April Election. Included are 3 Propositions for school bonds totaling \$160 million and City bonds of roughly \$77.5 million.

Q&A of Mr. Sullivan

Q: Does good information come back with the Assembly members that attend out of state conference like the one 4 members are now attending?

A: No, organization newsletters provide just as good information without the travel cost.

Q: What businesses is the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation looking to attract?

A: Global logistic business mostly; also a focus on business retention program.

Q: The HUD grant program; how does SCC get its share?

A: I sponsored an amendment that includes Spenard in the same group as Mountain View, Fairview and Downtown, containing old historic structures. The Renaissance areas are the focus of the grant.

Q: What is the sense of the Assembly with respect to Faye Von Gemmigen attending this conference when she will be out of office soon?

A: Consensus was that there wasn't a problem sending her.

Q: What is the story with ASD having funds available to cover a private liability issue?

A: ASD has certain funds that are set aside, litigation reserve, for dealing with unforeseen legal issues.

Q: Are trip reports for the Assembly members available to the public?

A: Yes, they are public documents and copies can be attained through the Assembly Office.

IV Introduction of Assembly Candidates

All five of the candidates for Faye's Assembly seat were given a few minutes to introduce themselves and answer questions. The candidates include: Sherri Jackson, Dave Werdal, Woody Sanders, Pamela Jennings and Joe Del Donno.

V Bear Tooth Parking Lot Application

A conditional use proposal has been submitted by the owners of the Bear Tooth. They propose to consolidate 3 lots to the west of their location into a single conditional use parking lot with appropriate landscaping and access to W 27th. The proposal will add 133 parking space with 4 handicap accessible spaces. On street parking should also improve along with pedestrian walkways on the sidewalks.

Motion to support the development proposal was made with a second and approved by the SCC unanimously.

VI School Bond Presentation

George Vakalis and Tim Steele presented an overview of the three propositions on the April ballot. Prop 4 includes \$36.4 million in area-wide major maintenance projects. Prop 5 includes new schools and school renovation projects. The largest item is a \$52 million middle school in Muldoon. The total amount of Prop 5 bonds is \$95.8 million. Finally, Prop 6 is a new proposal to consolidate school district administrative facilities in the former Kmart building in the Mountainview area. \$30 million is proposed for this project.

VII Committee Reports

Peggy Auth provided the Zoning Committee Report. March 8th at 6:30 pm, Loussac Library, is set for P&Z to hear the Maple Ridge rezone issue. The owners want relief from special limitations. This has been a long standing issue. The primary concerns of the SCC revolve around maintain access to Spenard, not restricting egress to Northwood alone. Flood plain issues and 45th overuse are also concerns.

The Green Property hearing is set for March 11.

The Pink Hotel demolition may be of interest to the National Guard. Other issues of concern with this property include not wanting to allow the current owner to get out of bearing the cost of the demo, and any other financial obligation associated with the derelict structure.