

Spenard Community Council
Spenard Recreation Center
2020 W 48th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99517
Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 7:00-8:45 pm
6:30 pm meet and greet



Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to Order

- **Meeting called to order at 7:02 by Meg Mielke**
 - Ms. Mielke introduced the executive board.
 - Ms. Mielke reminded attendees to sign in, as this is how we keep track of who is eligible to vote at future meetings.
- **Karen Button moved to approve the consent agenda; Peggy Auth seconded.**
 - **No objection, consent agenda passed.**

2. Decision Topic: Good Neighbor Policy Memorandum of Understanding between CSS' Clare House and the Spenard Community Council

- Kjersti Langnes of Catholic Social Services gave a brief overview of the MOU.
- Tahnee Seccarecia mentioned that dead trees on the property were coming down in windstorms.
- **Sarah Preskitt moved to approve the MOU between CSS' Clare House and the Spenard Community Council; Peggy Auth seconded.**
 - **23 approve, 0 oppose.**
 - **MOU passes.**

3. Decision Topic: CIP Priorities

- Sarah Preskitt presented the list of Capital Improvement Program priorities as determined by the survey that went out in April.
- **Matt Duncan moved to approve, Tahnee Seccarecia seconded.**
 - Over the course of discussion, attendees requested clarity on the difference between item 3 (Spenard Rd Rehabilitation - Benson Blvd to Minnesota Dr) and item 5 (Spenard Rd Reconstruction Phase III - 30th Ave to Northwood Dr). Ms. Preskitt said she would investigate and report back.
- **Matt Duncan moved to table the CIP Priorities list to the next meeting; Tahnee Seccarecia seconded.**
 - **20 approve, 0 oppose.**
 - **CIP Priorities tabled to the meeting of June 7, 2023.**

4. Information Topic: Spenard Road Design Letter

- DOWL, MOA, and DOT representatives presented an update on the Spenard Road Design process.
 - A speed study has been completed; plans have redrafted the center lane to reduce to 12 feet to allow for larger right of way, not for bike lanes
 - Daniel McKenna-Foster pointed out that the highway plan was from 2014 and

the Spenard Corridor plan was approved in 2021, and this current plan is not in line with the SCP.

- Brian Coy (MOA) said they're still working on it and the center lane may get to 11 feet and the speed limit may get to 25 mph.

5. Information Topic: Spenard's place in the plan for homeless services

Anchorage Assembly members Felix Rivera, Daniel Volland, and Chris Constant

Representatives from the Anchorage Affordable Housing & Land Trust John Weddleton and Jason Bockenstedt

- Assembly Member Rivera shared an update from the Housing and Homelessness Committee; information is available on the Anchorage Assembly's [Focus on Homelessness website](#).
 - Former Barrett Hotel and Lakeshore Inn have been converted to housing.
 - There will be several public meetings taking place as part of the clean slate strategy as part of the process for the community to determine the best place for a low barrier shelter or shelters.
 - Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness is having meetings about shelter in our community; walking through best practices of shelter in the community. Two more: May 8 at 12pm-1pm and May 15 at 5pm-6pm. [More information is available on their website](#).
 - A series of town halls will follow community engagements about shelter licensing, criteria for shelter
 - In June, the Assembly's Housing and Homelessness Committee will temporarily add community representatives consisting of a representative from a community council in each Assembly district, a representative from the Anchorage Board of Realtors, a representative from the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and a representative from the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. The committee will hash out initial criteria for shelter.
 - The committee will go through the list of options to see what still stands by July, then run that list through a second series of town halls in July and August.
 - Committee meetings will be published on the website

Representatives from the Anchorage Affordable Housing & Land Trust John Weddleton and Jason Bockenstedt

- Jason Bockenstedt reported that the former Lakeshore inn has been moving people in for about six weeks. There are about 15 people there now, and the Trust will move in another 6 or 7.
- The Barratt is currently being renovated - replacing the roof, working on permits for interior electrical. A smaller detached building is expected to be finished first, eight weeks later for the next one. They will go floor by floor for renovation. The look and feel will be closer to the Guest House - case workers, tenant support, permanent supportive housing. The Trust is working on a contract for tenant support services.
- Mr. Bockenstedt encouraged residents to look into improvements at the Barratt to see how it will work.
- John Weddleton explained that these facilities are turning hotels into housing. Tenants have to pay rent and follow tenant rules. These are not shelters.
- Mr. Bockenstedt reported that the website is not up yet, hoping to have one up

and running in the next few weeks.

- Opened up for Q&A:
 - Melissa Sullivan asked how a delegate will be chosen to represent Spenard/West Anchorage on the Housing and Homelessness Committee. Mielke answered that Spenard will move Matt's name forward in response to an email chain among West Anchorage councils. Ms. Sullivan suggested a task force for transparent communication.
 - Ryan Quigley thanked assembly members for opening the process.
 - Rosemary Borchardt said that there is no way to fit a low barrier shelter into a neighborhood. Asked Mr. Bockenstedt about cost and timeline.
 - Peggy Auth asked about the hotel just north of the Barratt that caught fire - are there any plans to acquire? She commented about the dangerous intersection at Spenard and Wisconsin and requested some traffic additions.
 - Assembly Member Constant reported that the Municipality cannot alone afford to provide mental health and substance use services. The federal HUD formula puts Alaska at a disadvantage. He said a resolution will be before the Assembly soon.
 - Mr. Quigley asked for examples of low barrier shelters that have been run successfully; Mr. Weddleton gave examples: Pine Street Inn in Boston with 600 people; Omaha has two campuses with cots and rooms, grocery store to learn to work and shop. Alex Hotel in Anchorage, Vets domicile; Haven for Hope in San Antonio.

6. Treasurer's report

- Julie Leonard reported that she performed an audit. Nothing to report, and she offered to let anyone look at the books.

7. Community Announcements

- Matt Sanders: Northlink Aviation has private development happening and is not following public procedures. Will have glycol spray with no spill response. Project is on 120 acres over a public water source. Public meeting is May 30 at 6pm.

8. Adjourn

- **Peggy Auth moved to adjourn the meeting; Margaret McDonagh seconded.**
 - **Meeting adjourned at 9pm.**
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 7, 2023

To add agenda items to future meetings, email SpenardCC@gmail.com