

**Spenard Community Council**  
 Spenard Recreation Center  
 2020 W 48th Ave  
 Anchorage, AK 99517  
 Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 7:00pm-8:30pm



# Agenda

	Topic
7:05pm	<p><b>1. Welcome/Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 11/01/2023, Agenda for current meeting); Peggy Auth moved; Irene Persson-Gamble seconded.</li> </ul>
7:05pm	<p><b>2. Brief reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Airport Report, John Johansen: No airport update this month. Staffing issues. Christmas music in the airport terminal starting next Monday, will be posted on the website. Performing holiday music. Request for proposals for food and beverage vendors in the C Concourse, information at the airport website. Easy to Google website. Airport Master Plan is on-going, trying to meet the forecast of demand for the airport. Bob Auth is our community representative on the committee. No meetings scheduled for December at this time, ancnpq.com is the website for those meetings.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No questions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Legislative Update, Sen. Matt Claman: SCC Model Community Council, we only invite one legislator per meeting. Big topic is Muni plowing roads for the State in November. There has been a long-standing contract between the State and the Muni regarding plowing of roads. It is still being worked out. There are issues about payment and logistics of plowing. Capital Project Submission and Information System (CAPSIS) is open for people to enter capital projects.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Question – Peggy Auth – traffic on Spenard Road due to project (construction truck traffic) at the Airport. Sand Lake CC got to have input, but Spenard CC did not.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ John Johansen answered.</li> <li>■ Sen. Claman said this was also a concern of Turnagain CC due to traffic on W. Northern Lights from delivery trucks for Fed Ex and UPS. Delivery trucks are legal, larger load trucks are not.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Question – Bob Auth – snowplowing is more than just snow. It is ice. Trails, side streets, sidewalks need to be grated for ice not just</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

plowed. Hopefully the plan with the State involves plans for equipment to deal with the ice because so far nothing has been done about that.

- Sen. Claman answered that they should be directed towards the Mayor's Office and the Assembly. Agreement that there needs to be planning for equipment and for changes in needed equipment.
- Question – Persson-Gamble – comparing of Anchorage to other northern cities/countries for dealing with snow and ice removal. Sen. Claman – patterns of snow have changed and so the contractors say the challenges are different and new. Snow less frequent, but comes in larger dumps of snow. Irene – shouldn't the oil companies pay for new equipment since they are the big polluters?
  - Sen. Claman – going to take on having the Muni take on more responsibility of plowing and the State pays the Muni for this service so that the Muni can have the needed equipment on hand.
- School Board – Dave Donley : Friday the School Board meets with the Assembly, anyone is welcome. The biggest change is the High School Academies, he has brought literature about it. Academies focus on a particular interest/vocation, that becomes a part of their graduation requirements/experience. ASD partnering with local businesses. Very successful in Lower 48. Increased attendance and graduation rates. More students ready to be citizen when the finish high school. All kinds of positive potential for students. ASD has massive deficit being faced for the next year. Over 150 vacant teaching and teaching assistant positions. Possible round of school closures, possibly ten schools. Next three or four months will rough for the School Board.
  - Question – Peggy Auth – Chronic Absenteeism – what is it like in Anchorage?
    - Donley – answer – that compared to other large districts in Anchorage is pretty okay. It is a problem everywhere.
  - Comment – Mielke – definition of chronic absenteeism – 2 days a month and how that compares to leave.
    - Donley – Alaska has one of the fewest number of days of required schooling in a year for students. Meanwhile the correlation between attendance and success in school is one of the strongest correlations there is.
- Assembly Report-Anna Brawley-The budget, overrode the Mayor's vetoes on the budget that they had passed at the previous meeting. There will be first quarter budget revisions on the budget in the spring. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness invited folks from the Houston, TX model

to come and share their success – 60% reduction in homelessness in Houston. Assembly still working hard on these issues. Houston uses mostly Federal funding, while we use other funding sources such as the alcohol tax. Great inter-city collaboration. Housing policy and zoning changes are also being looked at. Working on housing strategic plan and on specific ordinances. Short-term rental regulation – requiring registration and small license fee. Meeting on this postponed until 1/23/24. New version next month. Meeting 12/19 – ordinance to make it easier to build 3 and 4 plexes as housing models or to add units on to existing property. Public Restroom bonds, in January will have proposal for the ballot as a bond issue. Minnesota Blvd. fence – brought to Transportation Committee Co-Chairs, Zalatel and Volland, they have questions to find out from the State. Possible look at an Assembly Resolution to go to DOT to address the fence. SCC can be included into this process.

- Question – Bob Auth – Large homeless camp on Fish Creek Trail on private property near Northwood Drive. Had huge fire, with fireball on Sunday. Four fire trucks responded. Why are the camps still there? There is no objection from the property owner. Been there 1-1/2 years and nothing is being done. No one seems to be able or willing to do anything.
  - Brawley – doesn’t have an immediate answer but will speak to the APD and the coalition to end homelessness, will try to find out more.
- Comment– Peggy Auth – This went to the Ombudsman and Code Enforcement said that all that can be done is being done.
- Question – Peggy – Concerned about the 3-4-plex idea in light of work that was done on 2020 Plan, 2040 Plan, West Anchorage District Plan. This issue was worked on for years and she feels it’s being undone in an Assembly vote and not honoring the process that has been done or the legal process of Muni Code with Planning and Zoning. With snow events and climate change, having this additional multiplex units will lead to a parking problem. Why are we not dealing with empty lots and tear down buildings that are not being dealt with?
  - Brawley – we need to look at the costs of building and the age of the comprehensive and land use plans. Problem with Title 21 is that it is very prescriptive but not what it should do. There are so many rules that it makes it too expensive and impossible to build.

7:55pm

**3. Info Topic:** Cook Inlet Housing Authority Community Update-Devin Kelly: Built over 115 new housing units since 2015, mainly in the 36<sup>th</sup> and Spenard area. Vast are

	<p>income restricted. Also some smaller projects in other parts of Spenard. The big project at 36<sup>th</sup> and Spenard is building the second phase of the project which will have 38 years, with 2 or 3 bedroom units for families. The first phase has 48 units that have been built and are currently occupied. New park – Oosh Park – Dena’ina word for snowshoe. Very exciting to have these plans coming to completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Question – JerrySparkman – issue of crime area on Chugach Way and APD presence stopping traffic flow. How will the development will help with this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kelly – wasn’t really sure what the question meant or how to deal with it but would be interested in working with the community to find solutions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Question – Peggy Auth – what about the property that was being looked at by J. J. Brooks who is now giving his attention to the property on N. Lights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kelly– there are federal regulations to the projects that CIHA can work on.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:10pm	<p><b>4. Info topic:</b> Notice of 2024 Elections: Mielke – February 2024 will be annual elections for Executive Board, Meg is term limited from running for President again. Executive Board meeting is December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Nave – an open meeting and anyone can attend.</p>
8:10pm	<p><b>5. Info Topic: Update on Clean Slate:</b> Margaret McDonagh-not much to share</p>
8:15pm	<p><b>5. Info Topic: Spenard Second Saturday; Artist Talk &amp; Fish Creek Walk with Sheila Wyne (12/9, 4pm-6pm @ Writer’s Block.),</b> Mielke: Artist Talk and Walk with Sheila Wyne on 12/9 starting from Writer’s Block to the Fish Creek mural. Also a fundraiser at Organic Oasis with a silent auction and music. Funds will support future Spenard 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. Anchorage International Film Festival at the Bear Tooth. December 16<sup>th</sup> a holiday market at the Nave.</p>
8:20pm	<p><b>6. Treasurer’s Report,</b> Peggy Auth: 40 donation, \$24, 294. 94 is the balance now. Expenditures coming up in January – payment for Trick or Treat on Fish Creek and also postcards for that. We are on track with our proposed budget.</p>
8:25pm	<p><b>6. Community Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Phil Isley: 12/18 – Guided Hypnotic Meditation on Meditation – at the Adams Center, cost is a donation. First Saturday in January is World Hypnosis Day from noon-5pm. There will be many people who can answer questions regarding hypnosis. Good for health and happiness.</li> <li>● Karen Button: –Friends of Fish Creek are co-hosts of Spenard 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. In spring at Cuddy Pond there will be an interpretative art installation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Laura Oden: wants to revive in 2024 the art installation in the airport of the moose living within the installation which was not part of the original proposal. Was an issue that came about right before the pandemic. The moose needs to be moved. It interrupts an art commission that used public dollars. Maybe for the February meeting. Wants to put together community support for this.</li></ul>
8:30pm	<p><b>7. Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Peggy Auth moved and Persson-Gamble seconded.</li><li>● Next Meeting: January 3 at 7pm; Spenard rec.</li></ul>