

Spenard Community Council
Spenard Recreation Center
2020 W 48th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 7:00-8:15 pm



Minutes

Welcome/Call to Order 7:03pm

- President Meg Mielke called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 12/06/2023, Agenda for current meeting)
 - **Irene Persson-Gamble moved, seconded by Margaret McDonagh. No objection, consent agenda passed.**
- Mielke introduced the Executive Board

Brief reports (10 mins each)

APD report: no officer or representative present; no report given.

Assembly Report: Christopher Constant gave a report on the Anchorage Assembly.

- Assembly members are seeking to increase snow hauling budget by \$2 million; several appointments to boards and commissions are on the next Assembly agenda, including several returning board members. Current AMATS projects include climate action planning and a regional household survey. Possible veto override on ordinance Assembly passed regarding the Assembly maintaining responsibility of the Assembly premises and meetings that Mayor Bronson recently vetoed. Seeking authorization to provide temporary snow storage that will be time limited for one year. Bonds will be introduced at meeting of 1/9,, will be voted on at the next meeting. Special meeting to take place likely on January 16 to ensure enough time to get ballot settled. Naming of Port of Alaska will be on agenda on 1/9 - will ask for postponement to February. Will be asking for support on the Anchorage Goes project. Some zoning re: 3 and 4 plexes as residential, not commercial, property. Also on the agenda for ballot placement is Assembly approval of the Chief Medical Officer. Also seeking municipal code clarification on subpoena powers and to fund an upgrade to SAP
- **Assembly Member Felix Rivera had an additional report:** seeking to use \$1.5 million alcohol funds for Next Step pilot program - housing first approach targeting folks in Alex Hotel by April. More info at ACEH website. Need about 2500 beds. Cold weather system is running well, but maxed out. Has about 574 beds. Administration has not explored a warming center. Housing and homelessness will also be focusing on transition out of cold weather housing.
 - Questions: Jerry Sparkman: what happened to Fairview warming? How do we address warming in pallet shelters as requested by Houston, TX (not a winter city)
 - Member Constant: Fairview didn't agree with system presented, operators didn't have insurance, plan wasn't put together enough. Member Rivera: other cold weather cities have been successful implementing pallet shelter systems.
 - Community Council Member: bathrooms - how will these be used, who are they for? How will they be maintained?

- Member Constant: Portland, OR is an example - hoseable, lighting doesn't allow for vein finding, able to see someone is in the loo but still offers privacy. Flexible but expensive. Re: maintenance, the Municipality needs to come up with robust solution to current unsustainable Port a Potty situation. Current facilities are getting destroyed.

School Board Report: Dave Donley not present at time of agenda item; unofficially moved to end of agenda following his arrival later in the meeting.

Info topic: Palm Tree Update

- President Mielke reported that the Spenard Community Council had done a GoFundMe to get the neon palm tree that was once outside the Paradise Inn back. Mielke reported that the funding to reinstall the tree had evaporated, and Vice President Matt Duncan explained that the money evaporated because the GoFundMe effort did not raise enough pledges. Cindy Berger reported via email that the tree is ready to be reinstalled, but the business location has a tenant that isn't very active and suggested a more vibrant business or pocket park. Mielke reported that funding to reinstall "evaporated". Irene suggested that Frozen Flamingo be asked if they could install the tree. Kelly asked where the tree is, Meg will investigate. Helena said Spenard SEcond Saturday would be interested in supporting a fundraiser.

Info topic: Update on Minnesota Wall

- President Mielke reported that the Turnagain Community Council also passed a resolution against the wall that runs down Minnesota between Benson and Northern Lights. Assembly Member Anna Brawley is putting a policy resolution together requesting the State Department of Transportation to work with the Municipality of Anchorage to get the word pit pm future projects and to work with residents.

Info topic: Notice of Elections, February 7 at 7pm

- President Mielke announced that there will be an election for Executive Board positions at the next regular community council meeting on February 7, 2024. Those interested are welcome and invited to attend the Executive Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 7pm at the Nave Green Room, 3502 Spenard Road. All Executive Board positions are on the ballot.

Legislative Report: State Representative Alyse Galvin gave a report:

- Please let Representative Galvin know if you would like to receive her detailed newsletters. The legislative session will start in mid-January and run through about mid-April. Representative Galvin anticipates less getting done since it's an election year; less "political courage". Goals include education, public employee benefits, fiscal certainty (long term fiscal planning) so we're not concerned with the price of oil every year. Also hopes to see movement on energy. Went to the Anchorage School District luncheon; the District is about \$96 million in the hole. ASD has new program going into high schools similar to career academies. Needs to be funded, but students will have the opportunity to get a certificate. Other school districts running this type of program report higher attendance, achievement, and graduation rates.
- Question from Council Member: how is this different from King Career Center?
- King Tech digs into a lot of different careers - this won't do that. The basic tenants of history, math, science, LA, will stay in neighborhood schools.
- Representative Galvin also announced that signatures to put campaign contribution limits on the ballot are due on January 16.

Community Announcements

- Irene Persson-Gamble: works with organization that hosts ASSE exchange students; looking for host families.
- Phil Isley: Saturday is world hypnosis day at the Adams Center, 6000 C Street. Celebrated the first weekend in January, 12pm-5pm. 6-7 hypnotists will be there. Free to attend
- Bob Auth: Airport Master Plan meeting is on February 6 at Coast Inn, 3450 Aviation Ave, from 5:30pm-7:30pm.
- Helena: coordinator of Spenard 2nd Saturday. Next event is January 13 - sales and events include about 15 businesses. SpenArt Crawl is also on January 13 from 6pm-10pm at the Nave with 20 local vendors and artists, 2 bands, and silent auction. SCC will also host a table.
- Laura Oden: Trying to get the moose moved out from under Sheila Wynne art piece at the South Terminal at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport; she hopes to have a resolution at the next meeting.
- Bill Popp: Introduced self as a candidate for mayor and is visiting community councils.

School Board Report: School Board Representative Dave Donely arrived at the meeting and gave the following update.

- Representative Donnelly reported that there is not enough money to keep schools running next year. They may have some funds left over from the labor budget they could not spend out because they could not hire enough teachers. The Board needs to ask state for more money, but personally also wants to offer more. He reported that he is excited about the career academies coming up.
- He also explained that there has not been a significant change in the base student allocation since 2017. Approval of one-time funding has kept them afloat, but all the money has run out at once. Seeking reevaluation of cost differential in legislative funding.

Adjourn

Duncan moved to adjourn the meeting; McDonough seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

- Next Meeting: February 7, 7pm Spenard rec

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