

Call to order

The Spenard Community Council began its meeting shortly after 7:00 pm.

Legislative Report- Sen. French and Rep. Doogan

Sen. French said that things are very quiet and moving about $\frac{3}{4}$ speed. There are 2 ethics bill; one addresses the Renkes Loophole (interest in an investment), and the other addresses the Ben Stevens Loophole (hours of work and work product). More bills are coming, but he wants to keep the bills in his committee to a single topic or focus, unlike the House that is dealing with a single omnibus bill for ethics reform. The Window Tinting bill has moved on from his committee. Peggy Auth and Sam O'Connor both testified in favor of the bill. Another bill that addresses uninsured motorists and car insurance verification is in the works. The ignition interlock bill is also coming up soon. A Constituent Meeting is planned for March 31 at the Spenard Rec Center from 1-3 pm.

Rep. Doogan reported that they will start having hearings on the Governor's AGIA (gas line) bill next week. The operating budget closeouts are starting and he reminded that council to get its capital projects request in as soon as possible. Although the level of funding is unclear for the capital budget, the sooner the list is in better. Town hall meetings on the gas line bill also begin next week.

Lynn Boots asked about context sensitive design and wanted to check on the status of a bill that Bob Buch may have introduced. Peggy Auth thanked Sen. French for the chance to testify and mentioned that tinted windows may have a place in warmer climates, but not here.

Agenda and Minutes

Alan Thornhill moved to approve the agenda, seconded by multiple members, motion passed.

Approval of the February minutes was moved by Sam O'Connor, seconded by Bob Auth and approved without objection.

Announcements

John Powell from the Airport provided handouts about airport safety and the Lake Hood Community Watch. Dee Hanson, Executive Director of the Alaska Airman's Assoc., described the partnership they have in the community watch with the airport. The Hotline number to call if you see a problem is 266-2411.

APD Update – Sgt. Denny Allen

Sgt. Allen introduced himself as Sgt. Stanton's replacement. He described problems that he is aware of in the area; pan handling, homelessness, tinted windows and uninsured drivers. An audience member asked Sgt. Allen to describe what happens when a suspicious vehicle complaint is called in. Basically, an officer takes a report and if there isn't complete information or some kind of lead, nothing may happen. Other questions involved the status of the break-in that occurred at the Boys and Girls Club, and whether insurance can be tied to a license plate (like in Canada). Finally, a request was made regarding putting calls for service statistics on the APD website. It will be looked into, but may not be available because of manpower issues.

School Bonds – Kitte Miller and Mike Price

Proposition #4 qualifies for 60% reimbursement by the State - \$65 million for Clark Middle School.

Proposition #5 qualifies for 70% reimbursement by the State - \$20 million for major maintenance.

Several questions/statements were asked: It's unrealistic and outrageous to ask for \$65 million for one school. Is this going to be another Taj Mahal? Why not year round schooling? What about Chester Valley and Sand Lake Elementary Schools? The Begich Middle School cost \$40 million, and Clark is 5% larger. Someone also asked when Northwood Elementary will see a renovation.

Assembly Report

Dan Sullivan provided the Assembly Report. There was no meeting yesterday (March 6). The Assembly will meet again next week. The key item is the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and an amendment including the Knik Arm Bridge. The next big topic will be the School District Budget sometime around March 27. Then, we will have the municipal election on April 3, 2007. Dan spoke in favor of the Parks bonds.

Questions from the audience included why did the Assembly support putting Prop 4 and 5 on the ballot, where do you stand on KABATA, and is rail transport part of the Knik Arm Bridge plan?

Committee Reports

Sam O'Connor – Public Safety Committee – Another Citizens' Academy is planned for next month.

Peggy Auth – Planning and Zoning Committee –deferred

Midtown Plan – Jason Bergerson (for Tom McGrath) provided an update on the Midtown Plan. The Midtown Plan website is up. Meetings will be held the everyday the week of March 12. There will be an opening session at Romig on the 12th and planning charrettes the 13th and 14th. A wrap-up meeting will be held at Romig the night of March 15.

Old Business – Spenard Skate Park

Brad Dunker provided an update on the Skate Parking project. They are working on each of the issues that the residents have brought up; parking, noise, traffic, rec. center management, etc. Rec. Center staff has specifically been notified of the neighbor's concerns. Mary Steinback, Rec. Superintendent, and Dave Shapiro, Rec. Ctr. Manager were also in attendance. Concerns were raised about the lack of garbage cans at the park next to the Rec. Ctr.

Additional Propositions on the Ballot:

Dave Shapiro spoke about Prop. #2 – Parks bonds. The package is approximately \$5 million and will leverage other funding sources 10 to 1. It will provide for trails, playgrounds and maintenance at almost every park. The Fish Creek Trail is not on the bond. Brochures that describe the details can be downloaded from the Anchorage Parks Foundation website.

Heather Ireland spoke about Prop #9 – Jacobson Park land swap. This issue has since been resolved. Although the question will be on the ballot, the developer has withdrawn the request for the land swap.

Dan Rogers spoke about Prop #8 – Long term lease of the Equestrian Park. The Rainbow Connection therapeutic riding program and the Anchorage Horse Council are working together to pursue and larger development at the Anchorage Equestrian Park. The present rules preclude a long term lease. The proposition would allow for a long term lease and offer more options for long term development.

35th and McRae status

Michael Johnson reported that city staff is reviewing the proposal by the 35th and McRae neighbors. A meeting is planned in the near future with the Mayor and city staff.

Election of Officers

The following slate was nominated for officer positions last month's meeting. Jason Bergerson, Chair; Tom Bischel, Vice Chair; Sam O'Connor, Secretary; Alan Thornhill, Treasurer

The slate was accepted and nominations were closed. Sam O'Connor withdrew from consideration and Matt Burkholder replaced him as the candidate for Secretary. Sam made the motion to accept the slate as amended. Jim Bowers seconded the motion. The slate was elected by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by Sam and seconded by Bill Evans to authorize the purchase of a digital recorder, up to \$150 in value. The purpose is to assist the new Secretary and provide additional backup for note taking during the meetings. This was also adopted unanimously.

Candidate Forum

3 of the 4 candidates for the West Anchorage Assembly seat were available. Jim Bailey is a former educator, Matt Claman is a lawyer and Heritage Land Bank commissioner, and Zareena Clendaniel is a Vietnamese immigrant who grew up in Anchorage and is running for the first time. Shari Jackson did not attend. Candidates were asked a series of questions... Answers/positions are summarized below:

Support Anchorage 20/20 plan?

Jim – Yes with changes Matt – Yes Zareena – Yes

Do you support the current sign ordinance?

Jim – Yes with changes Matt – Yes, but not partial repeal Zareena – Yes

KABATA in the LRTP?

Jim – Yes Matt – No Zareena – No

Spenard – residential neighborhood maintenance?

Jim – Yes generally Matt – Yes Zareena – Yes

Spenard Road plan?

Jim – No, doesn't support changes; Matt – supports community, its federal money with strings

Zareena – No, doesn't support project

Who will you represent?

Jim – agrees with Matt, need to look at how we get input; Matt – People who contact me, however they do it; Zareena – Community councils and other constituents

How many Community Council meetings did you attend before becoming a candidate?

Jim – 2 Matt – 2 or 3 Zareena – none

Will you stand up for community council positions on an issue?

Jim – Yes Matt – Yes, based on community input Zareena – Yes

How will you handle gang violence without involving the police?

Jim – work with kids at younger ages; Matt – invest in education; Zareena – start with youth mentors

Do you support repealing the smoking ban?

Jim – Yes Matt – Yes Zareena – No

Dan Sullivan was asked how good a barometer community councils are with respect to the general public position on an issue. Dan said that the councils are usually about 70% right on. Councils provide good feedback that an Assembly member should pay attention to.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9:45 pm.