

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 it would be a short report this month. We had a Constituent Pizza Party last weekend (March 31) including myself, Rep. Doogan and Rep. Holmes. The legislature's focus right now is on AGIA. It was introduced by the Governor early this session and will be before my committee (Senate Judiciary) after the Easter break. The Easter break will be next week. We are trying hard to wrap everything up during the regular session this year. The window-tinting and ignition interlock bills are on hold for now.

There was trouble with the teleconference equipment and the report from Juneau ended early.

Agenda and Minutes

Tom McGrath moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Bowers, motion passed. Approval of the March minutes was moved by Tom McGrath, seconded by Bob Auth and approved without objection.

Assembly Report

Pam Jennings provided the Assembly Report. Pam apologized for being gone the last few meetings. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer and was undergoing treatment. Matt Claman was elected to fill Pamela's seat on the Assembly at yesterday's election. Pamela thanked everyone for supporting the school and parks bonds this year. Pamela said that she would miss the education that she received every week while serving on the Assembly.

Tom McGrath and others in audience thanked Pamela for her service. Alan Thornhill asked about the Clark Middle School bond and the status of the school at this time. He wondered how the school got to be in such bad shape. Pamela mentioned that the school district tries to maintain all of its facilities, but Clark had issues with asbestos, flooring, the roof and many others. It was determined that it would be cheaper to start over than to attempt to renovate the existing Clark Middle School.

Finally, the Lake Otis and Tudor Project should come up for discussion with the Assembly next week.

Local Projects

Peggy Auth – The Capital Projects committee met several times and reviewed our CIP list and other ideas for projects in Spenard. The Fish Creek Trail has been high on our list for a long time, but seems to drop off the list that goes to the Legislature. We received a cost estimate from the muni recently of \$1 million to build the trail. We included this as our top priority on the legislative funding request. The rest of the projects include funding for gates at the Rec. Center, support for the Westside Patrol and the Boys and Girls Club, in addition to the other projects that we submitted to the municipality last June. The Fish Creek project would include design work, but not easements at this point. Tom McGrath moved to adopt the request at submitted to the legislature. Tom B. seconded the motion, and it was approved without objection.

A committee was formed by unanimous consent to work on setting up neighborhood picnics this summer. Committee members include Alan Thornhill, Susan Elkins and Jim Bowers. Anyone that is interested in helping can contact one of them for more information.

Committee Reports

Sam O'Connor – Public Safety Committee – Sam was not available this month for a report.

Peggy Auth – Planning and Zoning Committee –The candidates didn't know much about the Anchorage 20/20 plan last month. We need to refresh their memories. The 20/20 Plan is the backbone for our neighborhood vision. The Urban Design Commission is the issue that coming up next for renewal. 4003 Lois Status – a hearing is set with Building Safety this month and I will be able to report their decision at the next meeting. P&Z just cleaned up a big mess next to the Players House of Rock (33rd & Spenard). Mr. Norene's property is up for sale. The fence is still an issue. The property is zoned B-3. Ersun Aygun's property next to Gwennie's also has problems. There are drainage issues and there have been no improvements as promised. The deadline is in January 2008 to comply.

Bob Auth – Airport report. Bob is a representative of the Spenard stakeholders on the committee. Other members include Mike Sexton, Jeff Lowenfels, Bill Tobin, Rick Mystrom and a few others. Concourse B will be closing for 2 years while renovations continue. The Airport Master Plan update is coming up and will possibly include an additional north-slope runway.

Midtown Plan – John MacPherson, John Spring provided a very comprehensive update on the Midtown Plan. The Midtown Plan website is up: <http://www.midtownplan.com>. The Powerpoint presentation was very detailed and informative. Notes from the charrettes are available at the following site: http://www.midtownplan.com/Documents_files/AnchorageMidtownCharretteSketchbook.pdf.

Old Business – Spenard Skate Park

Brad Dunker provided an update on the Skate Parking project. The SPLAT group met last Wednesday, March 28. A meeting was also held with the Mayor on March 14th. The planning process is moving ahead. Soil samples were taken but the results aren't available yet.

35th and McRae status

Michael Johnson reported that the 35th & McRae group is reviewing the last response from the Mayor and PM&E. Michael thanked the neighbors for their efforts. Bob Curtis-Johnson reported that the neighbors are still in the negotiation stage but hope to have something soon.

APD Update – Sgt. Denny Allen

Sgt. Allen provided a map that showed the areas of greatest crime in the Spenard area. The APD website also has maps available online that show crime patterns city-wide. Sgt. Allen mentioned that the Hansen system that code enforcement uses is being modified for use by APD also. Trouble spots currently are the Benson and Northern Lights area and a drug house at 402 W. 36th. The Nuisance Ordinance was discussed as a possible means of addressing these problem properties.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 9:00 pm.