

Spenard Community Council Minutes

April 2, 2008 7:00 PM, Spenard Recreation Center

The meeting started at 7:05 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Agenda Additions or Deletions: None

Minute Corrections: None

No objections, Moved & Approved with no changes.

2. Announcements

An e-mail account has been established for the community council:

Spenardcc@gmail.com to contact Pres. Matt Burkholder.

3. Legislative Report - report came before items 1 and 2 on the agenda.

Sen. French: Two major items to report: The capital budget passed the Senate and on to the House. Also, the Senate came out in favor of considering an All Alaska “gas for Alaskans” gas line during the special session this summer.

Questions for Sen. French:

-Jim Bowers asked about the status of SB 78 (automobile window tinting) - The bill is in the House Finance committee; Hollis is concerned that it may not make it out of that committee, or may be seriously weakened. In response to Peggy Auth, Sen. French encouraged people that short e-mails in support of the bill would be appropriate.

-Tom McGrath asked about the mandatory car insurance bill. – The bill is stuck in the Senate Finance Committee and Sen. French is not optimistic of its passage; he will keep trying to advance it.

-Assemblyman Matt Claman asked Sen. French for the Legislature to recognize and match \$2 million in Municipal bonds for school swimming pool maintenance. Sen. French responded that the budget is now in the House; Rep. Meyer should be contacted ASAP.

In closing Sen. French welcomes calls to the Toll Free # 866-465-3892.

Reps. Doogan and Holmes: Not in attendance.

4. Assembly Report

Matt Claman: After yesterday’s elections, thanked Dan Sullivan (in absentia) for years of service, congratulated Harriet Drummond (in absentia) for her victory. Matt gave a summary of curbside recycling plans. Peggy Auth and Tom McGrath expressed frustration with the manner that the assembly has conducted meetings the past few years, lack of progress with Title 21 and Long Range Plans and hoped that the new assembly would engage in a more civil and productive process.

5. Local Projects and Issues

a. Kristi Stuller from DOWL gave an overview of the Taft/Van Buren Project.

Construction is anticipated for both this summer and next. A public hearing is scheduled for April 17th, 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Northwood Elementary. Several people, including John

Crews, Alan Thornhill, and Sam O'Connor expressed concerns that the truck by-pass and the diverter at 48th and Taft will shift traffic from Taft onto Harding. They prefer the alternative of a truck by pass following the railroad.

a.1. Sherwood Schuyler from DOWL gave a presentation on plans to extend 40th Ave. between Arctic Blvd. and Centrepont Drive. Several people, including Peggy Auth, Jason Bergerson, Tom McGrath and Sam O'Connor questioned aspects of the proposed plan and its context in future plans, coordination with hotel construction, impact on what residences remain in mid-town etc. A public meeting is scheduled to be held at DOWL 4041 B St. on April 22nd from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The timing is to make it convenient for business people to attend. It was requested that a meeting be held in the evening when it would be convenient for private citizens, too.

b. Robin Reich from HDR gave an overview of a proposed project that would extend AIA Runway 7 Right 1900 feet to the west. Related work would include access road realignment, fence relocation, approach lights relocation, obstruction clearing, taxiway improvements and extensions. HDR is involved with environmental assessment and public comment for the project. Comments are desired by May 15th, but will be accepted afterwards. Draft EA is due in August; final EA at the end of the year. Construction is scheduled for next year. A public scoping meeting is scheduled for April 29th at the Kinkaidd Park chalet from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. There is also a brown bag lunch meeting for stakeholders during the week of April 21st.

-Sara Ellen Hutchison commented that the April 29th meeting conflicts with the Assembly meeting. Questions were also raised about noise impacts resulting from the project and safety concerns resulting from higher speed taxiways and lower approaches relative to the road and trail.

c. SaraEllen Hutchison from the Alaska Center for the Environment spoke in favor of curbside recycling programs, environmentally sensitive waste management practices and encouraged public participation in the process. A brief discussion of the economics followed.

6. Committee Reports

a. Planning & Zoning Committee

Peggy Auth first spoke in support of replacing the banners along Spenard Road. She also announced that there is a Planning and Zoning Commission hearing about the Ersin Aygun property on April 14th; she urged members to send comments to the Commission. Case # 2008-054. Matt Burkholder made reference to a letter written by Bob Auth and signed by Jason B. that is attached to the agenda. Ron Eagley (Gwennie's Restaurant) spoke against the elevated level of Mr. Aygun's property, alleging a safety issue. Also, he questioned grades and slopes on the latest site plan. Cora Weaver stated that if the latest site plan were approved, Mr. Aygun could again park cars on the lot.

b. Public Safety Committee

Sam O'Connor: The West Side Community Patrol has received \$4000, is still collecting receipts to account for another \$1800. Since the Police Department no longer sends a liaison officer to Councils, Sam gave a brief reading of "City Beat", a Muni website summary of arrests etc. Sam stated that he has noticed an increase in drug dealing an

prostitution along Spenard Rd. Ron Eagley stated that he believes there is illegal activity (drug dealing) taking place in his parking lot. He has been throwing folks off his property. It seems there is more crime and less police presence in Spenard. Jason Bergerson said that Captain Nelson gave a presentation at last month's Federation of Community Councils meeting; the Police Dept. wants businesses or councils to make a formal request about a specific issue before they will send an officer to meetings. Tom McGrath said he believed the Royal Suites Lodge to be the site of criminal activity and wondered why the Police didn't do something about it. A discussion about the methamphetamine problem followed.

Jason made a **motion; that upon the submittal by the Community Patrol of receipts in the approximate amount of \$1800 to the President for review. If they are in accordance with the grant, authorization for payment will be made by the council and forwarded to the Federation for reimbursement.** The motion was seconded by Tom McGrath, passed without opposition.

Formatted: Font: Bold

7 Old and New Business

a. The Capital Improvement Project Committee of last year (Jason Bergerson, Bob and Peggy Auth and Jim Bowers) with new member Matt will continue this year. First meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 5th, 11:00 AM at Coffee Land. All interested welcome to discuss ranking of projects (list attached to agenda)

b. Membership Committee: We currently have 21 paid members of the Council but we want to have more members, more people involved. Sam suggested sponsoring some kind of an event to draw interest, something to replace the Doo Dah Parade that we used to have. Matt said that we also need to increase face to face contact, reach out to the business community. Also, perhaps tie the event in with a Clean Up project. Do we have time to put something together this year? (Probably not) A committee was formed: Sam O'Connor, Matt Burkholder, Peggy Auth, Jason Bergerson, Alan Thornhill members. Tom Bischell volunteered to supply a list of business owners to contact.

c. Council Banner: It was generally agreed that the Council should have some type of banner to display events. Sam suggested school kids designing one. Ron Eagley informed us that Alaska Distributors has a banner making machine, thinks that they would be happy to make us one. Peggy will look into a design.

d. Spring/fall project/event. Deferred until next year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM ~