

**Call to order**

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

**Agenda and Minutes**

Tom McGrath asked to add an item to the agenda under New Business for Nomination of Officers. He also made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Alan Thornhill, motion passed. The December minutes were moved by Tom McGrath, seconded by Bob Auth and also approved without objection.

**Liquor License Transfers/Renewals**

No objections or comments to pending transfers or renewals.

**Legislative Report- Rep. Doogan**

Rep. Doogan reported that things are kind of slow, waiting for the governor to set the tone. A request had come for \$3 million for Fire station #5. A Constituent Meeting is planned for later in the month. Tom McGrath and Sam O'Connor both spoke in support of HB 14 (ID Proof bill) An email from Ed O'Neill also indicated support for this bill.

**Town Square Naming**

Dianne Holmes provided an overview of the efforts to name the Town Square after Ruth Moulton. Ruth didn't seek recognition, but this would mean something to everyone that tries to advance the public interest. *A motion was made by Tom McGrath to name the Town Square Park for Ruth Moulton. The language from Dianne's first sample resolution was used. The motion was seconded.* Sam O'Connor and Matt Claman both made statements supporting the resolution. This is a memorial not for a politician but a regular citizen. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Assembly Report**

Pamela Jennings reported that much of the Assembly's activity is geared toward the April election. The Park Bonds package is \$4.995 million, generally for upgrades and repairs. The Road Bonds total roughly \$35 million and the 48<sup>th</sup> & Van Buren project is on the list. The Public Safety Bond includes about \$900,000 of transit bonds that are matched 10 to 1. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is coming up soon. The Knik Arm bridge may be part of this as an amendment.

*Big Wild Life* – What does everyone think? Only one person expressed approval.

Tom McGrath asked about Dick Traini's ordinance excluding minors from Boards and Commissions. He said that he didn't have a problem with keeping youth on boards as long as they are not of a judicatory or regulatory nature. It has been allowed for the last 15 years. Ms. Jennings said that she tends not to support Traini's proposal. Youth input is very valuable. Sam O'Connor said that he sides with Tom, we need to encourage youth involvement.

*A motion was made by Tom McGrath and seconded that the Spenard Community Council values the youth of Anchorage, we feel they have a role to play on our advising boards in our city, and we realize the for legal reasons they cannot be on regulatory and judicatory boards.* The resolution passed unanimously and Pam was asked to take this message with her.

## **APD Update - Sgt. Stanton**

Next month we should meeting Sgt. Denny Allen, who will be Sgt. Stanton's replacement as liaison to the councils. Cindi will be missed.

## **Code Enforcement – Rich Fern**

A hearing was held last week on 4003 Lois Drive. It's moving along. The Norene property in Spenard will be the next one to go after. Rich introduced the new contact person for Spenard (didn't get the name). Code enforcement is planning to become more proactive in its enforcement efforts. They have been complaint driven, but that has its drawbacks. Rich said there are cases that date back to 1995. The biggest problem has been money. A couple years ago there was no clean up money and only two staff. Now they have more staff and have been promised money from the city to go after some of the clean up efforts.

## **Local Issues**

**CIP list** – *A resolution was offered to establish a committee to address this issue.* The motion came from Tom McGrath, with a second by Jim Bowers. Tom, Sam, Alan and any volunteers will get together before the next meeting and report back.

**Speed Humps** – **Jennifer Satterfield** reported that the speed humps for 47<sup>th</sup> have been put on hold pending completion of the Northwoods Drive construction work. Cleveland Street will be the only location receiving a speed hump this year.

**Airport Construction Update** – **Linda Bustamante and John Johansen** reported on upcoming activities. Some concern has been expressed about trees being removed on the Turnagain side of the Meridian development. Drainage issues around Spenard Lake were also brought up. B Concourse will be closed soon with Northwest moving up with Alaska Airlines. The concourse will be closed for 18 months. There was a question asked about whether distressed travelers will ever get onsite housing. A hotel on the airport property is a possibility at some time in the future.

**Midtown Plan - Tom McGrath** provided an update on the Midtown Plan. The Midtown Plan includes part of Spenard. Midtown never had a development plan, it just kind of happened. The city has contracted with HDR to develop a plan now. Brown bag lunches and charrettes are planned for March. The process is taking awhile, but the goal is to have a good plan. Mary Pignalberi has been hired as the Executive Director of the Midtown Improvement District. Membership is \$1000 for businesses. There are about 50 members so far. It's estimated that a per-property assessment of \$250 will cover ongoing operational costs. The plan area is basically from Fireweed to International (north to south), and Spenard/Minnesota to the Seward Highway (west to east). Tom McGrath is the interim chair of the group and Mike Gordon is the Treasurer and John McManimun is the Vice Chair.

**Boys and Girls Club** - *A resolution was made by Sam and seconded by Jim Bowers to support the Boys and Girls Club.* This is a biannual issue to continue qualifying for financial assistance. Pam Jennings and Sam O'Connor both spoke in favor of the Boys and Girls Club's work. The resolution was unanimously supported.

## **Committee Reports**

Sam O'Connor – Public Safety Committee – The Public Safety Advisory Committee will be offering emergency preparedness training. They will be going to schools and other places putting together the training groups. The Community Patrol is active. Prostitution is down and drug dealing is down.

Peggy Auth – Planning and Zoning Committee –deferred

Jason Bergerson – CLI – The Community Leadership Institute group had a good pot luck and introductory meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Spenard Rec. Center. Sixteen people were involved. Pictures of the event are on the SCC website. We are always looking for more people to get involved. The next get together will be in March for another pot luck and the first class be on March 31.

### **Old Business – Spenard Skate Park**

Helen Kolbeck commented that she is supportive of a skate park, as long as it is somewhere else. An indoor facility would be preferred. Michael Johnson from the Mayor's Office came to tell us that Mayor Begich is listening to the community's concerns. We take this very seriously. We understand that the 48<sup>th</sup> and Van Buren project being put off for a long, long time has added to the neighborhoods problems. The semi truck traffic is definitely a problem and the road design had not been good. We are committed to move forward with a plan for construction of the road project in 2008. The project is on the Road Bond with \$2.5 million of the necessary \$5 million. The Blue Book legislative request is also for \$2.5 million. The Assembly has approved a contract amendment with Dowl amending the scope to allow the fast track design. The main difficulty is some ROW acquisition.

Alan Thornhill stated that Dowl was hired to do this project in 2002. When will Dowl be coming to tell us about their plans? Micheal said they should be here as soon as the new contract is signed.

Brad Dunker went through the history of the skate park issue at Minnesota Park and the planning process to date related to the planned relocation of the skate park to the Spenard Rec. Center. The Minnesota Park Advisory Task Force, that included SCC members, had raised a number of concerns about the use of the park and the skate equipment. The final recommendation of the group included removing the Minnesota Park skate equipment, moving the skate park to the Spenard Rec. Center, creating a safe zone for all park users, and closing the parking areas off at Minnesota Park. Everything has been completed except for the skate equipment relocation. The plan that precedes this relocation is to provide a "supported facility" versus the stand-alone skate park environment that was allowed at Minnesota Park. Security and video surveillance, a fenced site designed to minimize noise and visual impacts, access to the restrooms and a location on the bus route were all important pre-requisites for the relocation effort. The Spenard Rec. Center was the only site on the west side that potentially met these criteria. Members from the skateboarding community have been included in the planning of the new park location and its equipment layout. January to March is the remaining planning period. April is planned for site prep. June is the target month for opening the new skate park.

Brad reviewed the issues that were raised in the December resolution opposing the Skate Park.

a) the traffic issues on 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue – were covered earlier by Michael, b) the hours of operation being restricted to 10 pm or earlier, preferably 9 pm- there will be a gated area and the SPLAT group will be formed to address concerns and operation of the new facilities, c) facility management issues be resolved, d) a security system and plan be presented – security issues have been covered with video tape useable for evidence if necessary, and e) noise issues be addressed – sound dampened equipment has been specified for this application, and relocation of the skating area further back on the property should also help. Revisions of the site plan will also include an 18" grade separation and additional landscaping.

Mary Steinback, Rec. Division Manager, addressed the issues that had been raised regarding management of the Rec. Center. Her role is to be the conduit for residents to problem solve with. The late night issues shouldn't happen anymore. Since January 2006 there have been no after hours or alcohol permits. There had been 20 permits in 2005, 7 with alcohol allowed. They have done there

best to eliminate the problem. Dave Shapiro oversees the facility directly and should be your first point of contact if there is a problem.

Sam O'Connor said that vehicle traffic is an issue. Radio noise and car noise are problems and there needs to be a greater police presence. Helen Kolbeck stated that you have forgotten the neighbors. This was a residential neighborhood originally, and then the Rec. Center, the trucks and the warehouse came. Mary Steinback said we are all part of a team. We are here to solve this problem. Tom McGrath said that the facility closes at 10 pm and the kids move to the parking lot. Gate could be installed closing off the parking lot when staff isn't present. Mary suggested forming an ad hoc group to address the issues. A question was asked if any alternate sites were being considered and if we knew where the park users come from. Michael said that we are all trying to work toward a solution. There isn't really a plan to rethink this at this point. Pam Jennings suggested putting a big berm up between the skate park and the neighbors. Alan Thornhill said the security guards are not around after ball games, etc. Between 9 and 10 at night there is no security presence at all. Sam stated that there will always be some idiot with a boom box. Maybe speed humps in the parking lot would help? Another question was asked about the other city property in the area. Other locations would be too hard to staff. Michael said that we are here to listen. Dave Shapiro said that 80% of the responses he has heard have been positive. Tom McGrath spoke about the redevelopment of the basketball courts at Lake Otis Elementary and how that changed activity in the area. Helen asked why Fairview wasn't being considered for the skate park. Brad Dunker reviewed the plans for landscaping and possible parking lot changes.

### **35<sup>th</sup> and McRae status**

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

### **Nominations Committee**

The following slate has been nominated for officer positions at next month's election...

Jason Bergerson, Chair  
Tom Bishel, Vice Chair  
Sam O'Connor, Secretary  
Alan Thornhill, Treasurer

The slate was accepted and nominations were closed.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9:30 pm.