

Spenard Community Council Minutes

May 7, 2008 7:00 PM, Spenard Recreation Center

The meeting started at 7:10 PM.

1. Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Agenda Additions or Deletions: Announcements c. and d. (below) were added to the agenda. Revised agenda was approved.

Minutes: No objections, Moved & Approved with no changes.

2. Announcements

- a) Bike to Work Day is Thursday May 15th, www.muni.org/biketowork for more info.
- b) Citywide clean up is in progress, www.anchoragechamber.org for more info. Trash bags available at the AT&T warehouse (?)
- c) Open house at the AFD fire Training Center (1140 Airport Heights) May 31st, 10:00AM – 4:00PM
- d) City Stars Skate Contest on May 17th, 1-6:00 PM
- e) The Community Center will be closed for floor maintenance May 19 – June 1.

3. Legislative Report Senator French and Representative Doogan:

Sen. French: Before really getting into the Legislative Report, Senator French presented a Legislative Citation from both the House and Senate to Jason Bergerson, recognition for past years of involvement in the community.

Hollis reviewed the recently finished legislative session, commenting that it was the shortest session in forty years, put more money away into savings than any previous legislature and summarized bills passed and programs funded.

Rep. Doogan: Representative Doogan cautioned that bills and funding still await the governor's signature or veto. Local projects include gates for the Rec. Center parking lot and funding for Spenard Fire Station.

Mike also talked about the special session, scheduled for June 3, to address the AGIA TransCanada natural gas pipeline proposal.

Questions/Discussion: Relative merits of bonding for capital projects vs. paying with cash, capacity of local contractors to handle the amount of work being funded, potential of outside contractors winning the contracts; natural gas pipeline project requirements (take-off points for providing gas to the Alaska market), legal aspects of the development of oil and natural gas & royalty payments, land status.

Vehicle window tinting bill didn't make it this session; Hollis is hopeful for next time.

4. Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond: Assemblywoman Drummond reported on the last two Assembly meetings. On April 29th the Assembly appropriated funds for all the bonds that passed on April 1st. The first quarter budget is up ~ \$3.5 million; fuel costs account for ~ \$2.25 million of that. Ms Drummond and Matt Claman requested funding for the West

Anchorage Development Plan, required by Title 21, and a study of the supply and demand of industrial land. Road construction advisory available online:

www.anchorageroads.org

The May 6th meeting: Players House of Rock is seeking a full service restaurant license, but the owner didn't appear before the Assembly. The owners have not contacted the community council about their intentions. (Discussion followed as to the particulars)

The Assembly is considering recycling/composting/garbage collection services/providers/fees. Evergreen (in south Anchorage) is taking over the composting. Postponed until August are proposals to increase tipping fees to pay for recycling.

Discussion of the recycling/garbage collection took up so much time that the Assembly didn't get to further the Title 21 process. Chapter 4 is being worked on now.

Discussion: Does Title 21 do anything to address loss of residential zoned land?

None of Title 21 goes into effect until all chapters are completed. The Midtown Improvement District assessment vote failed; future direction uncertain.

5. Local Projects & Discussion

a. Phil Steyer and Peter Poray of Chugach Electric gave a briefing of plans to construct a new power plant south of International Airport Road – basically where the existing plant is. Three new turbines (2 gas & 1 steam) are planned. Design and permitting scheduled for 2008, 2009; construction to start 2010, operational in 2012. Partners include Anchorage Light & Power and Homer Electric.

A lengthy discussion followed debating the market, environmental, gas availability and deliverability concerns, transmission efficiencies, governmental approval.

b. Linda Bustamante from the Anchorage International Airport gave an update on the Master Plan renewal, its identified need for a new north-south runway and introduced Eric Miyashiro (WH Pacific) and Rich Wilson (ANC). Eric gave a brief presentation outlining the growth in air traffic, especially cargo flights. He presented four alternatives being considered, differing in the cost, length of the proposed runway, its distance west from the existing runway, whether or not it necessitates placing fill in the inlet, the impacts on the coastal trail, noise and air pollution and how well they meet the projected needs of the airport. A discussion about the relative merits, or lack thereof, ensued.

c. Jeff Marcum (HDR) and Jeff Coleman (AWWU) gave a presentation of the need, scope and schedule of an upcoming project to repair or replace the existing sewer line under Minnesota Drive between Benson and Northern Lights. Construction requiring lane closures during two weekends is anticipated in mid to late August.

d. Russ Oswald (MOA project manager) gave an update on the Northwood Drive and Taft/Van Buren projects:

Northwood Drive construction should resume next week. Walls will be finished, retro-fitted to make them “skate board resistant”. Pavement lighting at the raised intersection pedestrian crosswalk will be adjusted in an attempt to make it functional. In addition, the overhead flashing light will be wired in with the crossing button. The raised intersection at 48th will be modified to make it more functional. Drainage issues at 45th will be addressed, moving a catch basin to drain water away from a residential driveway. This work should be done by July. The scope of the project will be expanded and the contractor will be hired to widen the curve at Tudor/Harding. Concerns were raised that this work at the curve was an example of accommodating commercial truck traffic to the

detriment of the neighborhood. Russ assured that was not the case and that the Taft/Van Buren work would also be done. Questions were raised about flooding this spring at 47th/Haru Lane. Russ acknowledged the condition is worse since the project; he is looking into cause and possible solutions. Questions were raised about damage to the landscaping this winter. Russ said that it would be fixed or finished.

Taft/Van Buren will be a two phase project. Phase 1 is moving forward this year: the curve at 48th and Harding will be widened, new access extending Taft to American Fast Freight and the Anchorage School District will be constructed, a choker intersection constructed at Van Buren. The plans are being changed in response to public input. There will be no diverters at Taft/48th; stop signs will be installed instead. This will encourage traffic to skirt the neighborhood. Phase 2, involving a land swap with American Fast Freight to reorient the soccer field, construct new parking and reconfigure Van Buren south of 48th has to wait until next year, pending approval of the voters at the next election.

Questions/Discussion: When will the project go to construction? Russ said the plans are 95% complete, he hopes to advertise in a couple of weeks and go to construction in August. One troubling development is that in his conversations with AFF he was just recently told that all correspondence should go through AFF's lawyer. Russ will be meeting with them soon to see what the situation/problem is. Council members expressed continuing frustration at any hint of the Muni, American Fast Freight or the ASD backtracking on commitments. Jason reported that they had met a year ago in the mayor's office and they had a handshake deal to proceed with the project. Russ stated that he would meet with AFF, address legitimate concerns and proceed with the project. The discussion brought to light that AFF had bought all the land between MicroTel Motel and the Montessori and Northwood Schools. A question was raised about pedestrian improvements at the Tudor/Harding curve. Russ said that the Railroad would not permit a pedestrian crossing there. At present the bike path just dies at the railroad right of way. Its not that Russ and the Muni don't want to do something, but the Railroad refuses without an expensive advance warning system.

e. Dwayne Adams (Land Design North) and Paul Schilling gave a presentation of the proposed Faith Christian Community Church Arctic Blvd. Development would be east of Arctic and would be a mix of 240 "independent living" residential units (five story), two commercial buildings and two 100 room extended stay hotels (three story). The planned phasing of the project is to develop the residential at the same time as the hotels.

Discussion/questions: Concerns were expressed over the height of the buildings blocking views, the relative high density of the development, the amount of traffic generated. Russ announced that the development goes before Planning and Zoning on June 2nd. This came as a surprise to several concerned neighbors; they have not received any prior notice.

This, in turn, surprised Dwayne; he stated that it was supposed to be automatic that P&Z notify any property owners within 500 feet. He will contact P&Z tomorrow.

6. Committee Reports

a. Planning & Zoning Committee

Peggy Auth had nothing to report about previous issues, but did ask whether the Council wanted to take a position on the Faith Christian Community Church Development, especially given the lack of public notice and the timing of the P&Z hearing. Dwayne and

Paul offered to meet with the homeowners or a committee. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Jason and the homeowners association would take up the matter directly with the owners/designers apart from the Council. All present, both the council members and Dwayne, were in agreement of the importance of the residential development and that if/when the land is sold this commitment be honored by the future developer.

Cora Weaver (MOA) gave an update on the Ersun Aygun property: No vehicles are to be stored on the property until MOA approved grading plans and paving is completed. Large chokecherry trees are to be replaced.

Cora's update on the tree replacement downslope from the coffee stand west of Gwennie's: the trees will be replaced by rose bushes. Enforcement felt that rose bushes rather than trees would discourage illegal activity from returning.

b. Public Safety Committee

Sam O'Connor was not present. Matt Burkholder announced crime information is available on the Muni web page on "city beat" and a crime map.

c. Membership Committee

Matt Burkholder expressed the desire to reach out to the business community. Also, does anyone have an issue to draw people in?

d. FCC Delegate Report

Jason Bergerson was re-elected as President of the FCC. The Federation offices are being relocated to the old United Way building on Fireweed, just off Spenard. The new location is more centrally located and is much cheaper to rent. Jason is traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the Neighborhood USA national conference. Jason is lobbying to have the conference held in Anchorage in 2011.

e. CIP Committee

Due to copier problems, there was only one copy of the Capital Project Needs Ranking Survey to pass around. Jason and Jim Bowers explained that basically the committee had maintained priorities from last year: #1 priority remains the Taft/Van Buren/Harding project and opposition remains to interchanges on International Airport. There was a motion to submit the ranking as prepared by the committee, but was tabled when objections were raised that there was not enough time to consider it. There was also a discussion about prioritizing parks and trails projects, with explanations from Jeff Mathis.

7. New & Old Business

a. No progress to report on a SCC banner.

b. Jeff Mathis, at Brad Dunker's request, reported on the Fish Creek Trail project: DOWL is under contract for environmental study and reports, due this December. Easements and right of ways have been acquired. There is still \$40,000 available for signage for the trail. Are there volunteers for a committee to determine location and design of signs? Bill Evans had been a supporter of this, but is away for the fishing season.

c. Summer meeting schedule: Meet in June, take the summer off, meet again in September. We'll have a small picnic at the next meeting.

Adjourned at 9:45