

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2013

The Chair announced that the agenda had changed since it was posted online. The agenda was approved. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Jim Bowers welcomed representatives of Northwood and Willowcrest grade schools. Loussac Library will be hosting a public meeting regarding their master plan on March 18 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.. There will be a West Anchorage candidates forum at Spenard Recreational Center on March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Assembly reports - Bonnie Jack, assistant to Cheryl Frasca, gave the report for her because all the Assembly members are at a hearing regarding AO2013-87, the ordinance making changes to the way the Municipality deals with its union members. The Assembly passed Title XXI last week.

TSAIA - John Parrot: The Airport Communications Committee will be meeting April 25, noon to 1:00, at the FCC offices. The Master Plan is moving ahead. There will be a jobs fair on Saturday, March 23, 10:00-3:00 at the North Terminal.

Airport Committee - Bob Auth: The Airport Communications Committee is trying to come up with ways in which the Airport could communicate better with the community about plans for the airport. The Part 150 meeting was last month and another meeting is scheduled for May. Now that the noise impact has been quantified, the committee will be some working on how the airport noise affects neighborhoods. Jim Bowers said he and Peggy Auth gave a tour along with Turnagain and Sand Lake representatives to the airport planners. The event which was hosted by the Airport was an opportunity to show how the neighborhoods are affected by airport noise and traffic and to show those areas of the council's concern, such as maintaining the beach access at Spenard Lake.

Minnesota Billiards - Fred Odsen for the owners: How has MB complied with ABC directives regarding proximity to schools being close to these licenses? Mr. Odsen: MB has complied with the ABC memorandum regarding school property. Erica McConnell from the Municipal planning department will be filling in for Francis McLaughlin to explain to the council the Municipality's position. Shirley Cote, the executive director of the ABC, said that the policy for recreational site licenses was set by the board two years ago. The board of directors asked an assistant attorney general to craft some language that they could use as a policy rather than a regulation. The board may pursue a regulation rather than a policy if they find the current situation is not working. She received a call from a senator's office today who felt that the language was way too broad for the intent of the state statute. The senator's staff did research and her interpretation was that the recreational license was supposed to be for events that would not conflict with population based licenses. The assistant attorney general came up with two scenarios of the recreational liquor license: One was event based, such as baseball and football games and the other was activity based which included things that had the characteristics which were similar to baseball and football games, running,

skiing and so forth. The list included billiards. The efforts of the Board were directed to how to accommodate people that want to have licenses to enhance their activity and alcohol draws people to these events.

What was also written into this policy was that a recreational site license could not be issued if it was within 200' of the property line of any public or private school. She read the definition of a school grounds since ASD has a testing facility nearby. There were questions as to what is meant by property lines. She said the closest entrance of the business could be no closer than 200' to the property line of schools. She said in this case the entrance would be door to door. Jim said there was a playground at Crystal Child Development Center. There was confusion as to whether it was a preschool or child care facility. Ms. Cote said that regardless of whether it is within those boundaries and whether it is a preschool, daycare or school, the council has a right to object to it not being in the best interest of the public. There was a question about Peter's Sushi. Ms. Cote said that because they were there first they may stay and they may transfer the license to someone else at the same location, but that nobody new may come into that location.

There was a question about how to object even if they do not meet the strict standards of the definitions of distance and the types of facilities for the liquor license to be denied. Ms. Cote said that some people are very literal and are going only by one kind of measure, but the another measure can be people like those here can testify before the Board about the license not being in the best public interest and we have fears of its effects on children.

There was another question about the season of the recreational site license because there is no season for billiards, ping pong or chess and that was a concern that we raised in our resolution. We are not against MB, but the way the regulations are being applied in these instances. How is the Board appointed? By the governor and a small group of legislators. Another comment was that the policy is an end run around the regulations because there are so many other licenses in Spenard. A liquor license is \$250,000.00 and a recreational license is \$800.00. It is unfair to those who are trying to buy a license because they are limited in number and there are no licenses available to purchase. Ms. Cote said that she would be going back to the Board with these comments.

Mr. Odsen said there is a difference between a package store and a recreational site license in terms of value. There is also a question of parity since another business was given the license. Ms Cote said it was in different locations in town. Because of Mr. Odsen's statements, a member said it concerned her that it will become a "by-right" because other places will feel like they have the right as another sport, such as paintball. There may be a court challenge. Ms. Cote said that licenses are not a right but a privilege. Question: Did Beluga Billiards go through the same process? Ms. Cote assured her they did.

Question asked Mr. Odsen if they talked to their neighbors. No. Tom asked if MB

would be willing to not serve alcohol until the preschool is out at 6:00? MB: Yes. Would they willing to submit to a six month review if there are problems? Mr. Odsen said that he has never seen that done before, the ABC and Municipality can revoke if it's a problem. Ms. Cote said they have to be in compliance all the time. Erika McConnell said there is a procedure where it can be included as a part of a conditional use. Tom made a motion that a committee work on conditions. Discussion: Cheryl said that the volunteers in our council are already stretched too far and that MB should craft it considering the concerns which were expressed tonight. The motion was tabled 12-2 in favor.

Park Foundation is putting up \$40,000.00 to leverage \$240,000.00 from the Legislature.

Kelly Peterson is working on a grant for Roosevelt St. Park. Back in the 2003 the Municipality took out the swingsets and never replaced them. She is working to restore them and her son's Boy Scout troop would be willing to help. She is asking for the council's support. It passed 9-0 in favor.

Anchorage Tomorrow - Erika Jensen: Explained the bonds coming up on the April ballot and please vote yes on all.

Alaska Tennis Association - Ed Hendrickson is trying to raise money for a new tennis facility to teach tennis to young people and provide a facility for high school and grade school teams to practice and compete. There is only one other place to go in town and it is prohibitively expensive for many families. They will be asking the Legislature for \$7.2 million. The motion passed 6-3 in support.

Children's Meal Mission - Don Burrell: It is now past time to ask for council support for the request he brought before the council last month. He did want to tell the council that they have signed a Memorandum of Agreement to serve meals to the children at Spenard Rec and Fairview Rec centers. They will be serving M-F, noon-1:00 p.m. throughout the summer.

Alcohol Committee: Jim reported that In and Out Liquor has come up as an item at the Assembly Public Safety committee. An invitation was personally delivered to the managers at both locations and they chose not to come appear before the committee. Assemblyman Honneman also called and was unable to talk to them.

Long House: Tom McGrath - John Sperbeck with Anchorage Community Mental Health Services is here. There was a meeting in February with many stakeholders. It was very informative and answered many questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10.