

SACC Minutes Draft South Addition Community Council Minutes, June 15, 2017

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Jeff Manfull, SACC Vice President. The agenda was revised to include Robin Figueroa (utility undergrounding issue) in New Business.

Minutes of the May 18, 2017 meeting were approved.

Reports:

Vice President's Report –

Jeff reported there is a public meeting regarding new air traffic patterns for the Anchorage International Airport. The meeting will be June 22, at 5-7 pm, at Coast Inn.

Treasurer's Report –

Jeff reported for our Treasurer (who was unable to attend the meeting) that our bank balance was \$3,452 and voluntary dues of \$5 are accepted.

Police/ Fire Department Reports – no reports

Assemblyman Constant's Report – included in Old Business to accommodate Chris Constant's schedule.

Legislative Reports –No reports from Representative Gara or Senator Begich.

Federation of Community Councils Report – No meeting.

Old Business:

Neighborhood Plan Update

Hans Thompson reported to the group and answered questions regarding the Neighborhood Plan. The development of our plan is taking longer than had been expected. The Municipality's Planning Department is assisting us in the development of the Plan. Hans mentioned SACC would benefit from grant funds that could be used to retain professional services to develop the plan and asked constituents for any leads to such funding.

Homeless camps in South Addition

Nancy Burke, MOA Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator and Nora from the Mayor's Office led a discussion regarding homeless camps and efforts underway to address the issue. Ms. Burke explained this is a complex, multi-faceted problem which has been studied extensively over the years. The Berkowitz Administration's primary focus is on finding affordable housing and applicable social services programs for eligible homeless individuals. The Administration has implemented GSI technology to help map the homeless population,

which information is on line via the MOA web site. The Administration has added a Social Services Coordinator who works with the Anchorage Police at the point of initial contact with homeless individuals in order to guide them into the social services network. The Administration has developed a 'data dash board' in order to improve the matching of available services with homeless individuals. In response to specific questions Ms. Burke offered this information:

1. The homeless individuals are categorized by medical needs, mental health issues and substance abuse, as applicable.
2. The Mayor's goal in tackling the homelessness issue was to successfully place 300 homeless individuals into housing.
3. There is a 10 person crew dedicated to cleaning up homeless camps and this works has just begun. The crew is trained and covered by MOA insurance.
4. The Mayor's Office is reaching out to hub communities in the State regarding the homeless issue.
5. Ms. Burke's staff has attempted to profile the homeless population in order to develop strategies to help them gain housing.
6. Generic signs reading 'no camping' in public parks are not sufficient notice in relation to the notice requirements for shutting down a homeless camp.
7. Nora, from the Mayor's Office, indicated more policemen/women have been hired which hopefully can mitigate the concerns regarding community safety.
8. The notice requirements (regarding time and distance) which are followed when closing a homeless camp originate from a Court Settlement.
9. The original 'one day' count of homeless individuals was 905. The most recent 'one day' count was 840.
10. Ms. Burke's educated opinion was that 10% of the homeless population wants to live this lifestyle.
11. Nationally, 80% of homeless individuals remain in housing after 2 years of being placed. Preliminary statistics for Anchorage indicate the local percentage is 90%.

Assemblyman Chris Constant added his observations. He feels Mayor Berkowitz' approach is working and cited 'numbers are down'. He wants service providers out of downtown. He stressed that housing is the answer to this problem and that a permanent funding mechanism is needed for individuals placed into housing. Assemblyman Constant thinks the Brother Frances shelter needs to be rebuilt and the system they use to service the homeless rethought. In response to specific questions, Assemblyman Constant offered this information;

1. Salt Lake City and Seattle were referenced as two other major cities that have been studied as to their efforts re the homeless population.
2. The Alaska Native tribal entities are helping in dealing with the homeless issue.
3. The most immediate funding need is for housing subsidies.
4. The short term implication of a cut in funding is that the homeless population will increase and all problems associated with homelessness will increase.
5. Individuals can help by volunteering with agencies working in this field.

Assembly Report – Assemblyman Chris Constant reported on recent Assembly issues. There is a proposal before the Assembly to revise on street parking requirements on Saturdays. Chris indicated there are ‘Land Bank’ matters being studied; foremost the possible use of the vacant lot formerly used by the Native Hospital – Chris hopes a community farm will someday operate there. There was a recent change in dog barking rules. The Assembly affirmed that RV’s cannot be parked overnight in box store parking lots.

New Business:

SACC Executive Board Election - A ballot was distributed for the SACC officer elections and other nominations were encouraged. Jed Brolet agreed to run for an At-Large position. As each seat was sought by only one individual, the officer slate was elected by acclamation. Officers for the cycle of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 are as follows:

President – Moira Sullivan
Vice President – Jeff Manfull
Treasurer – Cathleen Hahn
Secretary – Hans Thompson
At-large – Ruth Ann Jennings
At-large – Seth Anderson
At-large – Jed Drolet

7th and M undergrounding of utilities – Robin Figueroa reported to the group that MLP is planning to underground the electrical line at/near 7th and M, but the other utilities (ACI and GCI) have told Robin they don’t plan to underground their lines. Robin is frustrated that the utilities aren’t working together. Assemblyman Chris Constant volunteered to look into the matter to try to get the utilities to coordinate their efforts.

Community Comments:

1. A resident reported the Municipality attempted to dump snow at the end of 13th late last winter, but he intervened to prevent this dump. Apparently budgetary pressures were motivating the Municipality to dump in areas they had never used before for dumping. The resident encouraged the group to be alert.

Jeff announced the next regularly scheduled meeting would be in September and the location for the meeting is under consideration.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40.