

Spenard Community Council
Spenard Recreation Center
2020 West 48th Ave
October 4th 2017

Vice-President Jay Stenge at 7:00 with Welcome to all attendees asked if this was anyone's first Spenard Community Council meeting.

President Jed Smith brought meeting to order at 7:07, made introductions of Executive Committee members present.

West Anchorage public safety Town Hall & resource fair to be held 6-7:30 pm, (18:00-20:30) Thursday October 19th at Kincaid Elementary school to discuss concerns about what can be done to reduce the increasing crime rate in Anchorage.

Lindsey H. volunteer with "Bike Anchorage", asked for volunteers to help organize a Halloween costume parade along the soon to be completed reconstruction project of Spenard Road, contact her for more information.

Dakota from Senator Mia Costello's office gave a brief comment.

Dan Joyner from Fire Station # 5 announced Home rescue kits are available for "opioid" overdoses that occur at home; Child Safety Car seat installation experts; Oct is Fire Prevention month; Fill the Boot campaign raised \$100,000.00 this Labor Day weekend; fortunately the Municipality budget for fire protection services did not get cut; ambulance transports have increased 50% in past 7 years so needed additional ambulances; a fund raiser has been on-going for co-worker Ben Schultz, who had an accident earlier this year is still in Denver recovering quite well.

Harriet Drummond introduced herself and gave an update about the new LIO building where Legislators have now moved into.

Victoria and Samantha of the Spenardian.com Blog looking for commentary and stories about our community. Jay commented about how impressive the blog is especially a photo series called "Windows of Spenard".

People Mover will be starting new routes Monday Oct 23, check website for current route changes. Assembly budget meeting on Oct 24th, Northwood Park is working on Fish Creek Trail upgrades expected to be completed summer 2018

President Jed Smith asked for a motion to approve tonight's Agenda and September 4th Minutes both passed.

Jay and Natasha reviewed the history of The Fish Creek Festival which started with a planning meeting in 2015 as an effort to bring attention to the community's desire to have the 4+ mile length of Fish Creek 'day lighted'. This was 2nd annual Fish Creek Festival which Waterways Council, and several other entities collaborated to bring this event to fruition. Weather was beautiful and over a thousand people attended. Several bands provided musical

entertainment throughout the day with Big Fat Buddha as late afternoon “head liner”, a clean up was done on the bike path along the Barbara Street Park, children painted “happy rocks”, several food wagons and various vendors were in attendance, lots of neighbors commented on what a positive, successful event it was thanks to several sponsors and many more volunteers! Plan to have a 3rd annual festival in late summer of 2018. Many thanks to all those involved:-)

John Johanson gave report on Anchorage Airport updates- Alaska Airlines will participate for the 9th year in the nationwide Honor Flight program flying veterans to Washington DC for Veterans Day activities, will depart Anchorage on Nov 10th return from DC on 14th. Next summer there will be major maintenance on north-south runway 15 & 33, work will be in progress 24 hours a day/7 days a week starting in April 2018 with estimated completion time early October 2018. Some community members were not pleased with this information. Last time the North-South runway was upgraded was in 2001. Still looking for fire fighters to hire for positions at the airport.

Cook Inlet Housing Authority report from Tyler Robinson- 3600 Spenard Road is campus of 1 bedroom apartments and neighboring buildings of CIHA, that is requesting re-platting of 9 separate properties to ‘clear up’ property lines that presently actually run through the ground level of several existing buildings. Will be making improvements overtime to get a cohesive feeling of these previously separately owned properties. It is an advantage to the Municipality that CIHA will already provide easements etc as needed for future development. Alan Thornhill asked about location of the bus stop on south curve at Chugach Drive. The People Mover system requested specifics of bus stop at that location but there will not be a pull out for buses unfortunately for the convenience of vehicles. Questions asked about various aspects of the road. Jed mentioned the uses of the Church of Love building being very positive over the past several months. The original plan was to tear the building down but decided to keep it for various commercial purposes and special events, if interested contact CIHA for rental options.

Municipal Assembly report by Eric Croft and Tim Steele- concerns about ‘homeless camps’ will have hearings regarding the time frame of when a camp must be vacated after being notified to move. There are legal aspects to consider for the people who are living in camps, working with ACLU to deal with lawsuits that have been brought up.

Sat Oct 7th from 9-1:00 at Loussac Library will have community meeting to discuss concern about spike in crime. SB 54 has 3 changes suggested, jail time, treatment,

Tax increases suggested from Mayor include a gasoline hike; property tax deductions being discussed from \$20,000 to \$50,000 which means break for home owners but less revenue for the Municipality trying to make it more progressive; snow plowing budget to be expanded due to decreases made at State & Federal level maintenance budgets. Lots of suggestions made by citizens and discussion about SB 91 being changed due to rise in criminal activity. Next 2 Assembly meetings the agenda will mostly focus on budget issues.

Bill Marsh made comment on ‘homeless camps’ that he has reported on 6 weeks ago and got an e-message back that the camp he reported could “not be found”. Alan Thornhill

commented on a previous liaison person from the police department who used to attend Community Council meetings and reported on Community Safety Patrol concerns; no longer funded. Jay commented on some Capital Improvement Budget issues such as Lois Drive being determined as a priority and asked that Municipality consider these requests. Mayor has requested that all departments, except Police and Fire Protection, for a 5%-10% cut to their budget. Lindsey thanked both Eric & Tim for voting on adding a youth liaison on Assembly, so now 16 year old students are eligible to apply.

An attorney representing Popeye's Emporium gave an informational report about their request to add retail cannabis sales to their 30 year old retail business that is owned by Mark Magno and his mother Terry. The business has applied for the license at the State level and is working on fulfilling the process. Lots of discussion and questions from attendees about various aspects of cannabis businesses in general though not specifically about Popeye's Emporium. Someone asked if the Assembly has put a limit on number of cannabis business licenses in the Municipality, Tim and Eric responded that SCC did not ask for this limitation from the Assembly. Free market philosophy is expected to prevail which limits number of businesses that actually thrive and survive.

Next meeting date is Wednesday November 1st, regardless if the World Series of baseball goes to game Seven!