

MVCC Minutes 5/8/17

Call to order: 7:05

Reports/ Announcements:

April Meeting Minutes: Don Crandall moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Dan Maher seconded. The meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: See attached report.

Mountain View Safety and Cleanliness Committee Update: South of Peterkin, there are still several large piles of trash that have not been cleaned up. Now that the clean-up is over, residents are now responsible for their own trash.

Council News Items: People Mover has announced their new transit route, with additions to the Mountain View Neighborhood. See attached report.

Presentations & Appearance Requests:

Mother Lawrence Foundation: Terrell Durant presented information about this foundation, with the desire to bring the community back to a "state of sovereignty." What they are asking from the Mountain View Community Council is participation and donations. Their goal is to bring services outside of state bureaucracy. They would like to expand from providing food and clothing to making the community feel like a safe place to live.

The Business Boutique Training Center: They were recently approved as a 501c3, and they help people get startup grants as well as write business plans. The focus is helping people overcome the barriers that prevent people from being successful in the first place. They also do workforce development to train prospective business owners in employee management. They offer certification for various training programs as well. They will be doing a full launch in June. The difference between the Business Boutique and Nine Star is that the Business Boutique will be able to help people overcome barriers on more of a long term status.

Resolutions/ New Business:

Dan Maher inquired about a previously passed resolution regarding not allowing any new halfway houses in the Mountain View Neighborhood. He is concerned that it's not an appropriate location because the neighborhood is a residential area, and there tends to be higher amounts of violence from the halfway houses. 3920 Peterkin Ave is the site of a potential halfway house. The council has not seen any new special land permits for any new halfway houses. Mr. Maher is concerned that the process of bringing in this new halfway house is under the table and less than legal. Christopher Constant is going to look into this further at the city level.

Legislative Reports:

Sen. Tom Begich: The house is addressing the fiscal gap, and several members of the Senate are supportive of what the House is doing. He recommended sending emails to the state senate, as the senators do read them. Another project that has been accomplished is that they put an end to the KABATA Knick Arm Bridge Authority. This was a huge waste of state funding, according to Sen. Begich.

He is working with labor unions and the Northway Mall to reduce the 22% unemployment numbers in the neighborhood. He is also looking at long term solutions for addressing homelessness and drug use.

Sen. Begich also criticized the corporate tax breaks for the oil industry at the state level.

Rep. Geran Tarr: Rep. Geran Tarr addressed the new tax plan as well as the state budget and PFD. She is looking for a more balanced and fair approach. She supports a new school tax, which will also allow the PFD to be bigger, with room to grow further. Another positive point about the school tax is that out of state workers would also participate in the tax. The goal at this point is to stabilize the budget, in order to reduce the amount of time that the state is in recession.

Another bill that Rep. Geran Tarr is in support of is meant to assess the full cost of capital projects, including daily maintenance.

Governor Walker: Gov. Walker is hopeful that the budget problems will be addressed this year, and applauds the difficult decisions that have been made thus far. The decisions that are being made are changing the way the state operates, and are historically unprecedented. He also discussed some of the cuts that have already been made. We have relied on resources in this

state in the past, but we can no longer do so. The goal going forward is to change the economy to one that is consistently stable and sustainable. The goal is to solve this this year, as opposed to putting it off for yet another year. Equity in the budget cuts is the goal, as opposed to cuts to only a few programs.

Dan Maher asked Gov. Walker why the budget isn't the first priority in the legislature, before anything else. Gov. Walker responded that it's the goal to think ahead for the next hundred years rather than only planning year to year. He is also committed to continuing to fund and improve education.

Su Chon asked what the state is doing to diversify its economy and reduce our dependence on oil. Gov. Walker responded that it's too bad that the state hasn't focused on this in the past. This will be another focus going forward, including increasing broadband Wi-Fi to areas of the state that are underserved.

Mr. Uwe Kalenka raised concerns over the PFD, and how that money was meant to be a rainy day fund for the residents of Alaska, and condemned the decision to use those funds for the state budget. Gov. Walker defended his decision to use those funds for the state budget in order to ensure that future generations can benefit.

Assembly Member Christopher Constant: Today is his first Community Council meeting as a sitting City Assembly member. He reported that there is currently a safety dispute between the city and the residents of the Government Hill neighborhood regarding proximity to dangerous chemicals. He also reported that there will be 100 additional beds at the homeless shelter in downtown, despite concerns that this will result in people treating the shelter as a permanent home. He is working with the mayor, to decide which way he is going to vote on this issue. His first ordinance will be introduced at the next assembly meeting, regarding health care for the family members of police officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty. The spouse would receive the benefits for 10 years, and children would receive benefits until the age of 26.

Community Partner Updates:

Boys and Girls Club: Faster than a Falcon run is this upcoming Saturday, and the new basketball league has been successful. All games and all practices are here at the club, and they are free of charge. The facility is going to be repainted, and Dave is looking for volunteers for the project.

Anchorage Community Land Trust: ACLT has remodeled, and the Alaska Works Partnership will be new tenants. They have also formed a partnership with Catholic Social Services to construct a community farm. Ideally, CSS will be providing materials for the project. The Mountain View Farmer's Market will be starting on June 15, running until September.

Anchorage Public Library: The library is offering another small business workshop at the end of the month, and is also offering new brochures detailing the resources that the library offers.

Mayor's Office Welcoming Anchorage: The AmeriCorps team is still getting to know the communities they will be working with.

Freedom 8 Living: They are starting to accept applications for women leaving prison, in order to give them new opportunities.

Member & Attendee Comments/ Neighborhood Concerns:

Nikki Burrows: She is concerned with the memorial for the young woman who was killed at the corner of Flower and Parsons. The property owner where the memorial is located no longer wants the structure there. She would like the memorial to be removed as it's been there long enough. Jasmin Smith suggested contacting the family of the young woman to see if they would be willing to consider a more permanent memorial somewhere else in the neighborhood.

Glen Hausen: He made comments regarding seeing fewer people loitering on the streets and how he is pleased with this.

Adjournment:

9:24