

MVCC Minutes for August 8, 2016

Call to Order: 7:07PM

Voting Members:

Crime in Anchorage – Dialogue with a Focus on Mountain View: Special Guest Mayor Berkowitz

Mayor Berkowitz is attending to hear community concerns, and discussed crime trends in Anchorage. Pat Falon asked when APD would return to full capacity; Mayor Berkowitz said that with a third police academy this year, APD would be up to 400 officers, but attrition would continue lowering force numbers, and there's a need to recruit officers from the community. Dan Maher asked about the existence gang violence in Anchorage; Lt. Rollins responded that all crimes are investigated to the same extent. Dan Maher stated in his experience and from what he has heard from neighbors, there is low confidence that APD will respond to calls. Rep. Tarr stated that there is a need for education on reporting property and non-emergency crimes, and filling out online reports. Mr. Lopez asked about Mountain View's density and the representation of APD in the community; Mayor Berkowitz responded that APD resources are distributed by need, not density, and that a goal of his administration is to increase community policing. Tasha Hotch talked about having a police substation on Hoyt and how that deterred crime in the neighborhood, and how by the time she called 911 last week for a car related to a car, the slowness in getting to an operator meant the car had left by the time she called someone. Tasha also talked about how when shown pictures of drug crimes, she was told that she had to call in this information. Tasha talked about the how the lack of response made community members feel victimized. Lt. Rollins responded to say that she had worked in Mountain View for decades and that higher staffing levels were the primary solution to these concerns. Tasha asked whether there was a way for community members could be more involved in helping the police. Sue Samet spoke about how several Sitka Place residents have been assaulted on the pathway to Bean's Café and asked whether she could call in on residents' behalf, as they are scared and do not want to contact the police themselves. Jasmin Smith spoke about making an app or making the website mobile-friendly and getting status updates. Mayor Berkowitz spoke about the Muni's Chief Innovation Officer and the need for transparency. Angela Jimenez spoke about the increase of violence in Mountain View over the last few decades, and mental illness, and substance abuse issue. Mayor Berkowitz said the APD is well-trained to deal with these issues, but also that there are larger social issues such as detox bed availability and the halfway house system. An attendee asked about taxes and funding for additional officers; Mayor Berkowitz discussed the state's fiscal crisis and the need to invest in our own community. Daniel asked about CAP team's presence in Mountain View and what specifically in Mountain View APD is planning to do; Mayor Berkowitz responded that there's a need to holistically address social issues in Mountain View, such as unemployment. Angela Jimenez and John Lopez spoke about social issues, panhandlers, litter, and inebriation outside McKinley Services. Dan Maher spoke about the problems in Davis Park 5 years ago, and how the community and APD came together to clean up the park, and now there are almost no campers and the APD response is fast and effective.

Annual Election of Council Officers

Unanimous election, 11 in favor by acclamation. Positions are:

Jason Bookman – President

Jasmin Smith – Vice President

Radhika Krishna – Treasurer.

Sarah McBryde was appointed by Jason as Secretary, to be confirmed next month.

Reports and Announcements

Minutes: Minutes approved. Motion by Don, seconded by Jason.

Treasurer's Report: Jason presented the Treasurer's report and shared that this year, we secured \$500 in donations, and that if we can reduce clean-up expenses, that will stretch the council's budget for this next year. Daniel spoke about the clean-up's costs this year, which were \$6000; there is \$9000 left in the clean-up grant.

Schools and Education Committee – Tasha Hotch: See attached report.

Safety and Cleanliness Committee Meeting: Action is deferred until Jason picks it up next meeting.

Presentations and Appearance Requests

Bike Plan Implementation Presentation – Matt Edge, CRW, CRW Engineering & AMATS

Matt presented about the three projects happening in Mountain View. There will be an open house next Tuesday, the 20th at 5PM, at the Boys and Girls Club. The three projects are: bike lanes on McCarrey up to Mountain View Drive, a separated lane on Mountain View Drive from Bunn to Lane, and a bike boulevard from Lane to Ship Creek Trail along Peterkin Ave. They are currently in the beginning design stages. Dan Maher objected to the Peterkin routing and stated that he thought the council had passed a resolution opposing the Peterkin route. Matt replied that the routing for this project has to conform to a project listed in the bike plan. Daniel asked about the project timeline; Matt replied that there is currently a design study report that will be finalized in early October, and the final design will be finalized in late spring for construction next summer. Don asked whether the proposed traffic calming measures would be shown at the open house next week. Kirk spoke in support of the Peterkin route and stated that he did not recall a resolution opposing a Peterkin Bike Boulevard that had been passed by the council. Matt said that before this bike boulevard, there will be a bike boulevard installed along 10th Ave. from P to Medfra. Rep. Tarr asked about the Bunn to Lane connection and how that will work; Matt replied that part of the design will be reconfiguring Louis Mizelle Park to make the park safer. Matt stated that the project is 91% federally funded. Dan asked about the width of the sidewalk near Holiday and the Alaska Butcher Supply; Matt replied that they would purchase pieces of the Butcher Supply's property. Matt also spoke about a downtown trail connection between the Ship Creek Trail and the Coastal Trail. There will be an open house at the Railroad on October 20th to look at route options.

Crime and Public Nuisance Issues – John Lopez, McKinley Services GM

John spoke about the worsening nuisance and inebriation issue outside the business. John gave examples of abandoned furniture, panhandlers, prostitution, and inebriation near his storefront. Niki spoke about the Muni's housing plan, which is in progress. Tasha proposed that a solution may be to create a group to take back public spaces. Tom Begich spoke about a similar initiative in Tacoma.

Legislative Reports

Sen. Ellis: Sarah Evans presented on behalf of Senator Ellis. Sen. Ellis will retire in January and will be succeeded by Tom Begich. Sarah gave an update on HB 84 (Narcan). The legislature will now be housed in the old Wells Fargo building and will move out of the LIO soon. Many people will be working from home during the transition.

Rep. Tarr: Rep. Tarr stated that there will be a 3-min slot at the Assembly meeting tomorrow, where Airport Heights residents can speak on safety and crime issues. Rep. Tarr discussed proposed solutions, including a lighting audit. Rep. Tarr spoke about the additional dollars for substance abuse and mental health treatment through new legislation. Rep. Tarr is also a co-sponsor of SB 91, to allow those with

felonies to access food stamp benefits. She also presented about food waste and that September is Hunger Action Month. Rep. Tarr also presented the legislative finance quarterly reports showing the funding remaining for our infrastructure projects. Rep. Tarr suggested that for areawide projects that impact Mountain View, partial re-appropriations may be directed towards Mountain View. There is \$500k left in McCarrey. There will be a constituent meeting on September 8th, and on December 1-2, there will be a restorative justice summit.

Kathleen Plunkett – School Board: The 2016 5-year graduation rate is 86.4%, the 4-year is 80%. The student count is 48,258 students. Dan asked about graduation requirements.

Assemblyman Flynn:

Community Partner Updates

Mountain View Branch Library: The Library just increased their open hours from 32-37, and have a great response so far. There will be a job fair in the community room on September 23rd.

RurAL CAP: Sue spoke about the resurfacing at the site, and that there are now 47 residents. Sue will be leaving RurAL CAP and they are seeking a new Safe Harbor Merrill Field manager.

Anchorage Community Land Trust: Kirk encouraged residents to attend the public hearing for the Mountain View Targeted Neighborhood Plan, and testify in support of the plan, at 6PM at the Anchorage Assembly meeting tomorrow (September 13th).

Cook Inlet Housing Authority: Lisa spoke about their 33-unit Spenard project that will be completed next spring.

NineStar: Sharon Pulou presented that NineStar has been operating public job workshops and a clothing closet in the MVCC's room during the week. They can offer bus passes for job interview and will be at the job fair.

Member and Attendee Comments/ Neighborhood Concerns:

Rich and Troy of Green Go LLC introduced themselves and stated that they will be opening a cultivation facility on Post Road. They will attend our October meeting for their public hearing.

Adjournment: 9:28PM