Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – February 2, 2017

Call to Order: President Roger Shaw, 7:05 p.m. December Minutes approved as presented.

Legislative updates were postponed to the next meeting; legislators unavailable for call-in from Juneau.
Call them with your concerns. Phone numbers for Senator Cathy Giessel and Representative Lance Pruitt are unchanged. They will be in Anchorage for Legislative Caucus (public forum) 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, February 25th at new Legislative Information Office in the old Wells Fargo building, corner of Benson and Minnesota.

Single Track Advocates – Janice Tower, founder and board member since 2004:
Mountain biking advocacy group wants to build new trails on hillside near Hilltop Ski Area. Non-profit. Multi-use trails. Brown Bear trail, finished in 2005. Mission: maintain what they build and continue building. Making presentations to Community Councils to see input – decongest high traffic on existing trails, improve user safety, provide more variety; design: minimize intersections. Want to build more trails – narrowest, minimal disturbance of nature. Technical trails: mostly hand cut with very minimal impact to nature. Map was handed out. Timeline: start building this summer. March 2017: back to Parks & Recreation for approval. Grants are being applied for. Fund raising campaign coming. All money has come from grants, REI funds, private donations, fundraisers, etc. http://www.singletrackadvocates.org/our-trails/

Chugach Electric – Julie Hasquet:
Power line vegetation clearing continues all year round; will be in Scenic Foothills area in the first quarter of this year. Showed video, which is on their website, and discussed right of way clearing. http://www.chugachelectric.com/inside-chugach/projects/right-of-way-clearing-program . Firewood is take-able for anybody who wants it. They will come back and haul away firewood that isn't claimed by residents. Brush, branches are mulched and hauled away. Everybody gets notified 2-3 weeks before trees trimmed/brush cut.
Undergrounding: About 50/50 above ground versus underground lines. City ordinance: all overhead distribution (not transmission) lines need to go underground – some Eastside areas are on the list for 2017 – you can find out more here: http://www.chugachelectric.com/inside-chugach/projects/distribution-facilities-undergrounding-plan-2017-2021
Outages: The new smart meters immediately communicate to the dispatchers when outages occur. There's an outage map that is kind of fun: http://www.chugachelectric.com/outage/outage_map.html
Chugach elections for 2017 will be paperless/online only unless you call to ask for a paper ballot. To get the notices, update your e-mail address if it isn't current on the website: http://chugachelectric.com

Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar:
April ballot proposals: sales tax (failed), bed tax (failed), red light cameras (failed), fluoride advisory questionnaire (failed); parks district expansion, including Basher townsite, proposed by John Weddleton, passed and will be on ballot: needs two majorities; the 350 houses will get taxed more for parks improvements, including true trails vs. trespass trails.
Northeast Connector Trail: AMATS grant $500,000 – more of it is going into design. UAA plans will be used for the first part, but it should be enough money if we use Youth Employed in Parks program and volunteers to build the trail.

Assemblyman Pete Petersen:
Municipal taxi program approved. New Transportation committee; Forrest is the chair. Snow removal: we knew this was going to be an issue. The State sold a lot of their equipment and it's really showing. Muni had a fund-balance / savings, but the State did not do this. Forrest has a plowing map if anybody wants to see it. Call APD non-emergency number to have cars tagged (if they are parked on street so snowplows can't plow). http://muniorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=dbfa537f491f4c5fbc69e0a0c517eb72

Meeting adjourned 8:24 p.m. March 2 is our next SFCC meeting.