

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Call to Order: President Mark Hill 7:03 p.m.

October Meeting Minutes Approved

Shannon Kuhn from the Anchorage Park Foundation presented Jerrienne Lowther with a certificate of appreciation for her volunteer work with the Park Report Cards and photographs of the parks.

Alaska Waste representative Craig Gales discussed the bio-diesel facility that takes cooking grease from McDonalds and Carr's/Safeway stores and converts the grease into fuel for Alaska Waste trucks. Gales said the curbside recycling program has allowed 70% of waste to be recycled. Alaska Waste also has a composting facility where they collect produce, horse manure, and wood chips that after six weeks produces twelve yards of top soil. Michelle Pamer asked Gales when Alaska Waste expects all of Anchorage to be covered by the automated curbside waste removal. Gales said Alaska Waste has six trucks currently and plans to add six more in the spring. He said the Hillside poses a challenge for automated waste removal due to the need for a four-wheel drive truck in these neighborhoods. Hillside does not currently have curbside recycling either. Alaska Waste's compost is now sold commercially; the compost size would have to increase to open sales to residents. Roger Shaw inquired if Alaska Waste could use sites at the airport for composting. Gale responded that those sites are an option but better sites are available. Gale said residents could expect an increase in fees if the landfill raises their disposal fees. Craig Gales encouraged SFCC to tour the Recycle Center and Bio-diesel Plant.

Scenic Park Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) president Tom Mackin shared about the school's PTO and member fees remain at the school to help students and teachers. Scenic Park has a new principal this year, Jennifer Schmitz. Mackin suggested SFCC can help Scenic Park Elementary by helping improve the school's ice rink, sign up for eScrip program at Carr's/Safeway, and enroll in Target's Take Charge of Education program. These programs give a percentage of your purchase to the school, which helps fund teacher's supplies, Scenic Park's special events, and bus fees for field trips. Mackin said they will need volunteers through the winter to snow blow the ice rink and hot mop the rink. Next summer they will also need volunteers to tear down the old ice rink and replace with the new ice rink. Michelle Pamer suggests ice rink replacement could be an Eagle Scout Project and she also suggested posting the snow blowing need on SFCC's website. Lowther asked Mackin to inform parents at Scenic Park Elementary about SFCC. Carte informed the council that one time a month Great Alaska Pizza Company donates \$1 to the specified school's day. Mackin said Scenic Park is hoping to do a Skate-a-Thon in February to help gain sponsorship and fundraising to enhance the ice rink and playground. He said it can cost \$1600 per month to maintain an ice rink.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman discussed the Sit and Lay Ordinance before the assembly that would ban people sitting or lying on the sidewalks downtown. Honeman also discussed the mayor's new contract for Dan Coffey to lobby for the port project at \$10,000 per month for six months. Attendees commented that the port project should be put to bid, another woman lobbies for the port project, and no monetary goal has been set for lobbyists to acquire. Honeman commented that the mayor has confidence that Coffey's efforts will be effective for the port project.

MOA Budget Process and CIP Training. Roger Shaw shared that ASD has one budget and general government has its own budget. Each has a different fiscal year. At muni.org, the municipal proposed 2012 budget can be found. In July, preceding a coming year, municipal departments begin working on their proposed budgets. September 2, the mayor's preliminary budget is due and on October 2 the assembly begins budget work sessions, to which the public is invited. In late October/early November, formal public hearings are held. The assembly approves the budget in early December. CIPs should be submitted the March prior to the coming year's budget, e.g. March 2012 for 2013 Budget. The General Government budget is \$450 Million, which includes \$92 Million/Police, \$81 Million/Fire Department, and \$58 Million/Debt Service. Shaw commented that a lower tax cap is the starting point for the next year's budget and can thus cause a decrease in services. Alaska has the highest property tax per capita but Alaska does not have a state income or sales tax. Honeman commented that as of September, Anchorage was at 74.9% of the

budget for 2011. Shaw said there are three budget years: Municipal Budget- January 1 through December 31, State Budget- June 30 through July 1, and Federal Budget- September 30 through October 1. The municipal budget is not zero based, but if money is left over it goes into a fund balance or a rebate is given to the homeowner. Shaw commented that in previous Community Conversations on the budget, people said they would rather see an increase in property taxes than have services cut. Shaw encouraged community members to attend assembly meetings coming up November 7 and 21 to make their voices heard.

Parks Chair Michele Pamer said two trash cans were donated for the Baxter Bog Park, Halloween watch was effective, and three LED light poles are being placed in the Chugach Foothills Park.

Publicity & Communications Chair Jerrienne Lowther said she photographed positives and negatives of east side parks. She gave the Anchorage Parks Foundation the report cards. Each picture has GPS coordinates to help the foundation and the parks department find and fix problems in the parks.

Public Observer Bill Miernyk communicated by letter to council addressing landscaping concerns around light poles along Northern Lights Boulevard. Miernyk also wanted to follow up on 12 foot path improvements such as James Drive to Scenic View Drive. He also shared concern for travel time across Anchorage and funding for various highways.

FCC Advisor Linda Billmyer was unable to attend but had President Mark Hill report on the State of the City Forum. Seven speakers spoke for seven minutes. Assemblymen Flynn and Coffey spoke and other speakers spoke on topics about Alaska Natives, Title XXI, Bike Plan, Rural Cap, and City Budget Community Conversations were addressed.

Legislative Aide Jenna Crouse to House Representative Lance Pruitt shared that Pruitt would be having a press conference about the Alaska Gas line. He just returned from a personal trip to Iceland and also took time to see a dam and power plant while there. Pruitt would also be taking an ANWR Resolution to Tampa this month.

Public Safety Chair Paul Honeman encourages the council members to attend the Public Safety Coalition meeting at Denny's on Debarr Road November 4 at 6 p.m. and attend Emergency Watch Brown Bag lunches each month.

Hill encouraged council to view Alaska's latest prepared plans for neighborhoods. Hill also addressed brush removal in the Arnold L. Muldoon Park. Green brush was being removed, not just dead brush.

Shaw wanted to address two issues with House Rep. Lance Pruitt: public orders being ignored with the Alaska Natural Gas Authority and state funding assistance for Totem fields.

Call to Close: 9:05 p.m.