

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

February 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Roger Shaw. The December 4 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Alaska Legislative Report:

Representative Lance Pruitt was in Juneau. His aide, Jenna Crouse, said there would be a constituent meeting February 21 at Wayland Baptist University. They have started budget subcommittees. State Senator Cathy Giessel was in Juneau. Mark Hill read a statement from her regarding budget challenges in this economic climate. There was emphasis on the amount spent on education and health care. National Medicaid program costs have not been clearly stated so she is not in favor of expansion. She sends out weekly e-newsletters which you can sign up for via e-mail.

Anchorage School Board Report:

Kathleen Plunkett, School Board member: Anchorage School District Bond proposition for municipal elections April 7: \$59.3 million to improve eight schools. The schools involved are Gladys Wood, Mountain View, Rabbit Creek and Turnagain with smaller projects at Fire Lake, Inlet View and West High. East High would have work on bus loop improvements.

ASD Budget for 2016 was presented to the ASD Board on Monday. We're fine this year, she said, but the future will be tougher. She was asked how we expect to attract good teachers and be able to fill positions without defined benefits. Ms. Plunkett acknowledged difficulty and says they are starting earlier with the recruiting this year.

Enrollment is down. More families are moving to the valley. Still looking at testing, especially what is happening at the high school level. She said they are getting better at identifying schools that need maintenance and working on bonds for the most needy schools. Equipment replacement funds are in place for items over \$5,000.

Chugach Foothills Park Improvements:

Kevin Doniere of Corvus Design showed conceptual plans for changes to Chugach Foothills Park to create play areas that are more inclusive for a broader group of kids. This design was funded by Anchorage Parks Foundation. There is a big push to make parks accessible to all. Playground would be moved west, by the shelter, and would have a glacier theme. There would be a climbing rock, zip-line, slides built into the hill, saucer slides and a roller slide. Old equipment would go, except for swings and a spring toy. The volleyball court would be moved. Cathy Carte wants to fund this playground privately. She talked about all the developmental benefits of playground equipment. Cost estimate is \$300,000-\$400,000.

Nextdoor Scenic Foothills – social media for our neighborhoods:

Jerrienne Lowther gave out invitation flyers about Nextdoor and how this neighborhood social media site might work to disseminate information about our council. Five smaller

neighborhoods have merged to make one more like our council boundaries. There will be a bigger presentation at an upcoming meeting with the state lead, Albert Whitehead.

SFCC Bylaws Adoption:

Bylaws are the legal description of how the Council is to conduct its business as a community forum. We are currently operating under default bylaws from the Assembly until our new, conforming bylaws are adopted.

The most significant changes are to make an executive board, which selects the officers. The board would consist of seven members, serving staggered terms.

The terms would be two years, which means that in one normal year four members would be elected to the Board; in the opposite years, three members would be elected.

Eligible voters must have attended at least one meeting in the year since the previous election.

Mark Hill suggested we go line by line, comparing old bylaws with the proposed new bylaws. He has concerns about things that might have been dropped.

Member Danny Sereyko suggested we need time to compare new and old bylaws, side by side.

A motion was made to table the discussion until the March meeting. This motion passed with a majority voting for it.

Mark Hill was asked to give examples of the most objectionable items. He reiterated that there needed to be more careful consideration of the changes from our 40-year-old bylaws.

Jerrienne Lowther was asked to make notice to review the bylaws and bring forth suggested changes prior to the March meeting.

Introduction of our new Vice President, Forrest Dunbar

Forrest Dunbar has been voted by the Executive Board to take the position of Vice-President, which had not been filled in the May election.

Municipality of Anchorage Report:

Assemblyman Pete Petersen: Assembly approved \$35 million in bonds to be on the April 7th municipal ballot. MOA will be retiring about the same amount of bonds at the same time. They debated an alcohol sales tax that did not pass. The tax would have been dedicated to programs to reduce street inebriation and homelessness. They approved a ban on public smoking of marijuana. People can possess up to 1 ounce and can smoke it in private.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman: Described the reasons he voted for opting out of the marijuana initiative. There will be a discussion of an ordinance about marijuana liquids and their control. There were questions about whether the ABC board will be able to manage this. Our assembly members had split opinions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.