

# Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

December 10, 2015

**Meeting called to order** at 7:07 p.m. by President Mark Hill. November Minutes approved.

**Cathy Giessel's office** / Akis Gialopsos: budget written in pencil, not pen. No questions.

**Lance Pruitt's office** / Dirk Craft: trying to set up meetings. No questions.

**Paul Honeman:** absent.

**Pete Petersen:** Assembly resolution approved vote-by-mail starting May 2017. Should save money and increase turn out: Washington State had an 86% turn out for Presidential election last time. Muni budget passed for a few million dollars less than the last budget.

Muni budget homeless plan: housing first model = people in, fill needs (jobs, medical, psychiatric, etc.) then you can get them help they need because they're stable. Veteran's homelessness has decreased for the first time in many years. About 300 people are using about 3/4 of the homeless budgets: firefighters, sleep off, spice, man down calls, etc. Besides expensive, it's very difficult on first responders causing significant amounts of turnover because of these issues.

Hearing 12/14/15 at Planning Zoning for Marijuana / retail, growing, manufacturing, etc. Tax Cap changes: revenue sharing within the tax cap. Now it's more of an unknown, so now it's going to come out from under the tax cap. Tax cap went up: increase in population, bonds, etc. Marijuana: sales in areas zoned commercial. Growing allowed in areas zoned industrial only. There aren't very many places left to grow or sell. Munis can opt in or out. Tourists will be coming to Alaska. DRE officers need to be trained.

**Pat Higgins** School Board update: superintendent search process with citizen committee involvement. School board makes the final decision. RFP tomorrow both in and out of state: traditional and non-traditional. What's best for the kids and who will give us results. Flat performance for the past few years. 80.2% graduation rate.

AMP test came back bad – higher standards and it's different. Trying to get kids to think differently and test differently. We have a lot of work to do to get kids to be competitive nationally. Jan/Feb interviews. Then public meetings. We have a waiver that opted Alaska out of no child left behind.

STEM charter school for the Eastside: space is a problem; many of the teachers will be from Begich MS. School board approved a bond for \$48 million (retiring a \$60 million bond). Deferred maintenance needed of \$200M – lots of these projects need to get done: roofing, electricity, and some compliance issues. 30+ schools need the improvements.

Ketchikan lawsuit: state cannot require cities to tax locally. Supreme Court heard 9/16/15 – should rule within 6 months. If it supports Ketchikan – can of worms on funding education is definitely impact the state's requirement. PICA study: what is adequate funding for education? \$100M cut is possible ... something out there. More information will be coming forward.

Seat belts on buses: issues nationwide and probably something that will happen with the next set of buses.

**Rep. Max Gruenberg:** UACC-SFCC Reflection Lake Area Annexation

UACC-SFCC Reflection Lake Area Annexation survey: in process. Pretty much no response whatsoever, so far, but Max is here to talk to us at the social.

**Muldoon Library, Jim Curran:** three months – Loussac and ASD Libraries. Adding hours starting in March – morning and evening. Adding new tech in January / wifi. Fine changes are coming / paying for them. Program for adults: if you have an idea, let Jim know.

Tuesday: 3-7pm; W-F 10-6; Saturday 12-6. Trying to be more consistent with other branches. Are we serving our community?

**Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan** Preferred alternative coming to SFCC for resolution next month.

7:57 p.m. Meeting Adjourned.

Holiday Social: Go eat cookies!