

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

May 1, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Alexander Monterrosa. April meeting minutes were approved as written.

New Business:

Denny Billman reported on traffic issues on Apollo Drive. Children going to and from Scenic Park Elementary School encounter increased car traffic with lots of speeders. Lighting is limited with no sidewalks. When Patterson Street was widened with a crosswalk opposite the school, they made an egress that funnels students from the neighborhood onto Apollo Drive.

He contacted the Municipality of Anchorage about a need for traffic calming on about one-half mile of Apollo and has been doing preliminary legwork on it since 2010. The Muni said he needed the community council involved for speed reduction programs. President Monterrosa spoke with Tim Myland, Municipal Traffic Calming Engineer at MOA, about the problem. He presented a draft of a resolution regarding traffic calming on Apollo Drive.

Vice President Roger Shaw said SFCC policy precludes passing a resolution without prior notice. He suggested there may be additional options for funding traffic calming, such as Safe Routes to Schools.

Public Observer Bill Miernyk said he thought it appropriate to show support and then would like to see engineering reports and such later.

Treasurer Harry Crawford said we should show our support even without a resolution, as this is something good for our community. A decision was made to discuss possible resolution with the executive board and look at other funding options, such as Safe Routes to Schools.

Municipality of Anchorage Report – Pete Petersen, Assemblyman:

The Assembly is working to decide what to do with a budget surplus. They voted to put \$8.55 million into schools. This will cut layoffs to about 12. Another \$6.1 million went to savings. Property tax was reduced for Anchorage residents.

Question: What is the status of the Old Alaska Greenhouse property park? Anchorage Parks & Recreation Director John Rodda says the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Commission has to make decisions on how best to use the land. Mr. Petersen does not believe they can override the Mayor's veto. The East Anchorage District Plan (which includes consideration of the proposed park on the old Alaska Greenhouse site) goes to Planning & Zoning June 2.

Firefighters from Fire Station 14 introduced:

Captain Keene
Firefighter Purcell
Engineer Woolsey

Legislative Reports: Rep. Lance Pruitt – via teleconference:

Proud of what we accomplished in Juneau – banner year for funds for Anchorage.

He said he's excited about the Gas Line legislation that was passed.

Education: In the end, money in the Base Student Allocation was pushed by the House; they ended up with a mix; compromise of modest increases to the BSA and some one-time funds.

Four bills passed this year, including background checks for gun purchasers and immunity for those calling 911 to get help for someone overdosing on drugs. Funds were secured for some resurfacing of roads in our area. The process of getting permits and rights of way for Campbell Airstrip Road has been started. Discussion on Pleasant Valley road improvements has begun. This will be a big project since it includes drainage that had never been put in.

Alaska Legislature Candidate Introductions:

Matt Moore has served as Basher Community Council President and is now running for Alaska House District 27.

Harry Crawford also announced that he is running for Senate District N.

Old Business:

Chugach Foothills drainage. Russ Oswald is doing walk-throughs on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)/Chugach Foothills line, where there has been persistent flooding. Private contractors have also been out. It's been a lot better than last year.

New Business:

Trails – Karen and Tom Bronga presented a slide show of trail problems in this area and the proposed Northeast Connector Trail that the East Anchorage District Plan and the Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Plan have identified. They also shared survey results, indicating that safety and difficult access are top barriers to trail use in our area. In this same survey many of the 129 respondents voiced concerns about the safety of biking along Tudor/Muldoon curve. Another question, about whether or not to make the proposed Northeast Connector a priority for our community, had 82% of respondents say they were “very supportive” and another 12% say they were “supportive.”

Questions were asked about who maintains bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBC), especially in regard to the one on the gas line. Most agreed it was only neighbor efforts.

Many statements of support followed. A possible resolution was read by Alex Monterrosa, with support to continue discussion with the executive board this summer.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) access – [JBER iSportsman pass](#) can be obtained online and needs to be carried on one's person, along with ID, while on JBER property.

Capital Improvement Projects:

Take the survey (on Survey Monkey online or on paper); the board will use input to prioritize items for the Scenic Foothills Community Council CIP list. The Municipality of Anchorage created the list of projects to be prioritized; however, we can add suggestions and comments.

Election of Officers:

Treasurer – Harry Crawford
Public Observer – Bill Miernyk
Publicity Chair – Jerrienne Lowther

There were no candidates for the offices of President, Vice President or Secretary. [The existing officers in those positions may, according to our bylaws, remain in their positions until they resign or a replacement is elected.]

Roger Shaw moved for unanimous approval, which was seconded and passed.

Anchorage Citywide Cleanup:

Harry Crawford and Michele Pamer expressed concern about trash in our area after the snow. They have observed Alaska Waste trucks losing trash as they drive through our area. Michele would like to send a letter to Alaska Waste, from our council, as a first warning letter. She will draft it. This was approved.

SFCC will be involved in cleanup week in the following ways:

Michele Pamer will be at the front entrance of Chugach Foothills Park 10 a.m.-12 p.m. May 3rd and May 10th. She will have reflector vests for those going on to Tudor/Muldoon Roads and stressed that no one under 8th grade should be on this road.

Jerrienne Lowther will be out photographing the event and reports that all schools in the area will be passing out bags Saturday morning, May 3rd. Council members Cynde Hill and Karen Bronga will be hosting at Scenic Park Elementary School.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.