

# Scenic Foothills Community Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 5, 2012

**Call to Order:** President Mark Hill 7:09 p.m.

**December Meeting Minutes** Approved

**Municipal Planner Tom Davis** spoke to SFCC about the **Title 21 Rewrite**. Davis encouraged the council to give input to the municipality for rezoning, town development, property grade changes, walkways, and any concerns citizens may have. Between the assembly and mayor, there are 107 amendments to the city's rezoning and planning ordinance. On February 13, the Planning and Zoning Commission will receive public testimony on the proposed changes. Some of these changes include community meetings, corridor streams, open space requirements, residential development standards, commercial building height limitations, and accessory dwelling units.

Attendee Roger Shaw enquired whether the proposed ordinance is available online. Shaw would also like to know how the community will know these changes are in effect once the assembly passes the amendments. Davis said there is an online forum. Planning Zoning Commission, PZC, has the ability to change the ordinances and the assembly can revisit the rewrites for the zoning and planning ordinance. Davis said changes will be made gradual and optional to current business' usage. The municipality will update the city comprehensive plan to be made available to the public.

**Cheryl Richardson, Anchorage Citizens Coalition**, directed SFCC to their website (<http://accalaska.org/>) for a summary of key amendments to the Title 21 Rewrite. The community can also email ACC at [anchoragecitizenscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:anchoragecitizenscoalition@gmail.com).

**John Sims, ENSTAR** representative, updated SFCC on the Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska, CINGSA. Simms said gas is expected to fill the facility next spring. The project is currently under projected budget of \$180 Million. Two percent of ENSTAR's gas is not under contract, therefore, that gas bid is sent to independent contractors to meet the gas needs. In the future, ENSTAR can buy gas at lower costs in the summer and store the gas for winter needs and allow cheaper rates for Alaskans.

**House Representative Lance Pruitt** will head back to the legislative session on January 17. Saturday, January 7, Pruitt will hold a constituent meeting at Begich Middle School. Pruitt celebrated funding received for district area projects such as 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Cherry Street, Madelynne Drive, Deborah Lane, and James Drive. Pruitt shared that East High School received funds for a turf and possible stadium. Pruitt encouraged SFCC to communicate any concerns with flooding during the spring break up, especially in the Chugach Foothills area. Pruitt researched information on the Totem ball fields land and found that the city and school district think one another own the property. Pruitt commented that the access to the land and interest in its use has changed.

Attendee Roger Shaw shared that it is attractive for east Anchorage to have the Totem ball fields. Attendee Alex Monterrosa questioned whether Bartlett High School could be a centerpiece of Anchorage for big events. Pruitt said Bartlett has the best location for state school events. Holding state events will save ASD money and will draw people to the Tikhatnu Commons. The proposed turf is designed for a larger finishing and viewing area. One attendee shared concerns for how the new turf may affect the cross country trails at Bartlett. Attendee Roger Shaw commented that much work needs to be done concerning AGIA and TransCanada. Pruitt said there is a liquified natural gas (LNG) side versus AGIA. Pruitt is currently serving as the co-chair of energy, vice chair of transportation, and on the judiciary, fishery, education, and fiscal policy committees.

**Assemblyman Adam Trombley** shared that the Public Transportation Department is planning to move the Muldoon Bus Transfer Hub to the Tikahtnu Commons. This change will allow better access to Eagle River and East Anchorage. Trombley and Dick Traini sponsored a bill to allow property tax exemption for widows whose spouse died in combat. This bill must pass state legislature to be implemented and would exempt the first \$150,000 value of the home. The widow must be a resident of Alaska for one year prior and reside in the home. If the widow was to remarry, she would lose her tax exemption. Trombley announced that the East Side District Plan will not begin until after the Title 21 Rewrite is complete. Trombley also shared about ASD's \$59 Million bond package. Trombley was concerned that this bond is above what ASD is retiring in debt.

Attendee Shaw requested that Trombley look to see if the \$80,000 set aside for the East Side District Plan is in the 2012 budget. Shaw also encouraged that work begins for the district plan and not wait for the Title 21 Rewrite to be completed. Attendee Monterrosa questioned whether the assembly employed Bill Sheffield as a consultant for the Anchorage Port. Trombley said the assembly votes on a contract. Sheffield maintains the day to day operations at the port, but the federal government overseas the Anchorage port project. Trombley said that Sheffield's employment ensures years of relationships built around the port are maintained and also keeps communication open with the federal government. Monterrosa and other attendees expressed concerns for Sheffield's contract and his plans and influence on the port of Anchorage project.

**Stuart Grenier, North East Community Council Vice President**, proposed a resolution combining SFCC and NECC as the Muldoon Community Councils regarding media communication about the proposed **Muldoon Town Square Park and Muldoon Park Strip**. SFCC concluded to keep the entities separate. Shaw moved to table the resolution and Monterrosa seconded Shaw's motion. Only one SFCC member opposed this motion; all others were in favor. Shaw moved that SFCC goes on record to affirm unequivocal support of the proposed Muldoon Town Square Park and Muldoon Park Strip. Carte seconded this motion. SFCC unanimously supported this motion.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:05 p.m.