

Scenic Foothills Community Council
Thursday, September 2, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Council Vice President Cathy Carte called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. President Mark Hill will be attending classes on Thursday evenings until January 2011 and has asked Cathy Carte to conduct SFCC meetings. 33 people attended and 30 people signed in.

Treasurer Lance Pruitt discussed SFCC's budget. SFCC's account has \$397.00 and \$100.00 is dedicated to beautification reimbursement from this summer. SFCC money is always spent on community events and signs. SFCC funds come from contributions and occasionally money allotted by FCC as grants for projects (e.g. community patrol).

Publicity Chair Jerrienne Lowther discussed the special summer meeting addressing the artillery range on EAFB, summer beautification of flower beds and Pioneer Drive median, and website improvements (pictures demonstrating "invasive weeds" are coming). She is continuing work on cleaning up SFCC contact database and asked for SFCC help in providing e-mail addresses in order to receive the monthly newsletter.

Alex Monterrosa inquired about agenda item on SFCC's "branding." Lowther discussed the "Spruce Up Muldoon" and "I [heart] Muldoon" campaign.

FCC Advisor Linda Billmyer recently attended the FCC meeting where a cyber crime presentation was made and UAF representative proposed a grant to facilitate Asset Board Communication (ABC) discussion groups. Billmyer also attended the nationwide NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) conference in May 2010. Anchorage will host the NUSA in 2011. FCC is having meetings every other Wednesday in preparation for the NUSA 2011. Volunteers are needed for transportation, neighborhood tours, hotel coordination, workshops, etc., if interested please contact Billmyer or FCC. NUSA will be a 2 day event and cost \$180/person.

Monterrosa asked how many people are expected to attend. Billmyer said approximately 500 attended in May and 300 are expected in Anchorage for NUSA. Pruitt asked how the NUSA conference would be funded. A fundraising letter will be sent out this month and the Egan Center has offered its facilities for NUSA, and FCC is waiting to hear from Mayor Dan Sullivan. Attendee Jake Moe asked when the conference would be held; NUSA will be held in Anchorage May 25-28, 2011.

Engine 14 (Tudor Road and Campbell Airstrip Road) shared with SFCC about the annual *Fill the Boot* fundraiser occurring September 3, 3-6pm. Last Saturday, the Anchorage Fire Department had their annual open house and this year the community could explore the new training center. Engine 14 shared with SFCC that with Mayor Sullivan's request to trim the department budget by 7.5%, 36 positions would be cut (15 of which are already vacant due to no recent academies) causing closure of Truck 21 in Eagle River, Engine 10 in Rabbit Creek, and Engine 15 in Bayshore. Fire fighters are currently working 4-7 hours of overtime every day. With the cuts, the AFD would operate on minimum staffing requirements.

Education/Schools: Committee Chair is open for recruitment.

Public Safety: Chair Paul Honeman discussed the \$13,500.00 grant designated for SFCC's community patrol. The community patrol is the eyes, ears, and voice for our community. The grant would provide radio scanners, jackets, hats, background checks, and gas cards for community patrol volunteers. CP will also help alert the community to animal activity and identify stolen cars on the Hot List. CP would typically volunteer Friday and Saturday evenings for 3-5 hours.

Honeman addressed the need for an [Emergency Watch](#) meet to prepare our neighbors with a local disaster (e.g. earthquake or wildfires) plan.

Due to Honeman's assembly commitments, the public safety committee is looking for a Community Patrol chair or Public Safety Co-Chair.

Honeman shared that the Graffiti Buster Program is available via Parks and Recreation Department. Lowther mentioned that Parks and Recreation has training available using the [Graffiti Buster](#) program to remove graffiti in our community.

Streets: Chair Art Johnson was introduced as our new street committee chair. He has lived in east Anchorage for 10 years and been a city engineer for the last 25 years. Johnson said he has been surveying our local collector roads such as 32nd Avenue, Baxter Road, and Pioneer Drive and our state roads such as 36th Avenue. He desires to help SFCC to move forward with CIPs involving streets.

Utilities: Chair Alex Monterrosa shared his four goals with the CC. First, Monterrosa would like establish a contact at each utility company and second, have a representative from a different company come every month to address current utility projects, future plans, status quo, and utility emergencies. Thirdly, Monterrosa would like to initiate contact with other CCs to learn from their utility committees, and fourth, attend chair committee meetings with President Mark Hill.

Parks: Chair Michele Pamer noted a successful year in our parks with only two graffiti incidences, ash bins to be placed in parks, and the new Chugach Foothills Park volleyball court. Pamer shared that on September 25th the Muldoon Road clean up will occur with the help of Anchorage Parks and Recreation. Wayland Baptist University is deciding whether or not they will participate in this clean up as part of their 25th anniversary celebration to give back to the community. Volunteers will be needed.

SFCC needs to decide when and where they would like Graffiti Buster Program training to occur.

A local Eagle Scout is willing to paint park playground equipment at Chugach Foothills Park and is waiting on his superior's approval to move ahead.

Baxter Bog Park trail was fixed this summer by the Youth Employed in Parks department at Anchorage Parks Foundation, and the park dedication has been delayed to next summer.

Pamer attended a NECC meeting involving Centennial Park and the Muldoon Park Strip. Lowther said the proposal to bring greenhouses to Centennial was for a [\[Seeds of Change\] youth program](#) run by Anchorage Urban League. Pamer said the city is still talking about moving MOA Russian Jack greenhouses to Centennial as well.

Pamer thanked Senator Bettye Davis and her staff, Rich Benavides and Don Burrell Jr., for their help in obtaining \$56,000.00 sent to Anchorage Park Foundation for video surveillance at Chugach Foothills Park. This is a pilot project to be done by October 2011. Pamer introduced a "Letter to Mayor Dan Sullivan" with regard to approving permits for this project. Attendee asked that the number of volunteers and hours that already have been put into maintain Chugach Foothills be added to the letter. Heather Ireland said that kids want cameras. Carte mentioned she has a friend who has seen drug deals occur in Little Dipper Park. Billmyer said she didn't understand the purpose of the letter until the last paragraph. Attendee suggested ending the letter on a positive note. Attendee Jake Moe asked if permits for the camera installation were denied and Pamer responded that the permits have not be denied as of yet.

Monterrosa moved that the letter be formed as a resolution. This motion was seconded by Honeman.

Senator Bettye Davis (Don Burrell Jr., legislative aide) dispersed an *Eastside Update* handout to SFCC for CIP that were funded. These capital funds will be good for 4-5 years.

Representative Harry Crawford shared his thanks for the recent Tudor Wall Repairs by Alaska DOT. The 32nd Avenue upgrade and youth ball field projects behind Totem Theater were both vetoed by the governor.

MOA Assemblyman Paul Honeman shared that he is serving on the assembly public safety committee. The assembly is beginning to build the pre-budget for 2011. The executive board will address the budget at the end of September and early October and address the Tax Cap Limits. Honeman said that as of July 31, 2010, the city had spent 7% less than expected. In 2009, there was a \$10 Million surplus which remains in a fund balance. In 2011, taxes will increase by 3%

to cover CPIs and will fall \$18Million short due to increases in labor and utility costs. With the tax cap, there would be an \$8.5Million deficit, according to Honeman. In order to address the shortfall, Mayor Sullivan has called for every department to cut their budgets by 7.5%. Honeman is looking forward to learning more about the municipal budget and the upcoming meetings to address more efficiencies and cut waste, as well as looking for different forms of revenue.

MOA Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Official Streets & Highways Plan (OS&HP) Traffic Department Associate Planner-AMATS Transportation Planning: Van T. Le shared Anchorage's 2020 Vision. Public hearing and planning started in April and SFCC's President Mark Hill is on the citizens advisory committee. OS&HP manual is being updated; the manual's last update was in 1996 and amended in 2005. Pioneer Drive and 32nd Avenue have been designed but not updated, according to Le. OS &HP gives roads their functional classification (local, collector). Attendee asked Le the time frame for expected improvements of Pioneer Drive and 32nd Avenue, and Le responded with approximate 10 year estimate, depending on where they were in the planning and update process.

Pamer read the [Video Surveillance Resolution](#)

Honeman moved to pass the resolution; the motion was seconded by Crawford. The resolution passed, unanimously.

Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Burrell. The motion was passed at 9:16pm.