

Scenic Foothills Community Council  
Thursday, October 7, 2010  
Meeting Minutes

Council **Vice President** Cathy Carte called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

September meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

On behalf of SFCC, Carte gave gifts to WBU's president and SFCC's Publicity Chair Jerrienne Lowther and webmaster Shannon Weiss for all their hard work with the community council and the Muldoon Road clean up.

**Treasurer Lance Pruitt** reported SFCC's funds increase by \$50.00 this month. He said about half the funds are spent on beautification and half on food/refreshments for SFCC. Pruitt requested ideas for fundraising opportunities. He also encouraged donations to SFCC, reminding members that SFCC is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

**Edu/Schools Chair Alex Monterrosa** introduced School Board Seat B **Jeannie Mackie**, representing schools in our area such as Susitna, Baxter, Scenic Park Elementary Schools, Wendler and Begich Middle Schools, and East and Bartlett High Schools. Mackie discussed upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. She said that enrollment numbers in ASD were within 1% of projected estimate, 152 students less than last year. Graduation Exit Exams will be proctored in the spring and fall. Eighth grade students will be taking the Explorer Test to examine potential career options and assist students in work path preparation and areas of academic weakness. Mackie mentioned that the school board is in the midst of the budget process and hoping to receive direction from the assembly regarding tax funding and the flat cap. The Anchorage School Board's financial team hopes to be a model for school boards across the nation. The Board is anticipating the administration will bring forth a bond in the next election for upgrades at Service High School.

**Mackie** addressed concerns in SFCC's schools. There's been an increase in litter and vandalism at Baxter and Scenic Park Elementary Schools and the principals are hoping for help from the community, e.g. Neighborhood Watch. Updates at Begich Middle School can be found on their MyBegich on line site. Begich is looking for mentors following their PT meetings. Bartlett HS needs legislative support in updating athletic fields to meeting criteria for holding State competition events.

Attendee Roger Shaw asked Mackie what the school board anticipates if the budget is flat funded. Mackie responded that the budget would leave a \$10-15 Million gap and if enrollment spiked the board would have to absorb the cost.

**Publicity Chair Jerrienne Lowther** told the council that SFCC is now on Facebook and requested members to "Like" the page so SFCC could have its own username. Lowther reported the Spruce Up Muldoon campaign was well on its way with WBU celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by providing 60 volunteers to clean up Muldoon Road. Volunteers also came from Eagle River and pictures of the event made ADN. Lowther also posted photos to Facebook from the clean up as well as photos for "Walk to School" day.

**FCC Advisor Lynda Billmyer** reminded the council of NUSA coming May 25-28, 2011 to Anchorage. NUSA is in need of volunteers in many areas, [www.NUSA2011.org](http://www.NUSA2011.org). Billmyer was unable to attend FCC's recent meeting and attendee Shaw requested when Billmyer was unable to attend someone else would go in her place.

**Parks Chair Michele Pamer** that the Lights and Camera project is awaiting permits and meetings are being set with city manager Vakailis. Pamer reported that the agenda for the \$42k funds for Little Dipper Park is being set. Pamer requested a Halloween Committee for safety in SFCC area.

**Utilities:** SFCC is recruiting a new utility chair. Monterrosa said that the first utility guest will speak at November's meeting and address rate increases and emergency response.

**Emergency Watch Program Update:** Emergency Watch Leader positions open to recruitment. Dawn Brantley, PIO & Community Preparedness Manager, shared a 5 minute emergency wild fire video with the council and discussed what could have been done better. Members mentioned that people in the video did not have specific roles in an emergency situation. Brantley shared about the Emergency Watch's 9 step program adapted from Washington to Alaska's emergency scenarios. Brantley passed out EW brochures and suggested two volunteers to be EW Leaders in our community as well as teams for Damage Assessment,

Communications, and First Aid Response. Trainings are available through EW for HAMM radio training and First Aid Responders. EW can be contacted on face book and [www.muni.org/oem/emergencywatch.cfm](http://www.muni.org/oem/emergencywatch.cfm).

### **Candidate Forum for State Representative District 21**

**Robert Clift** (Libertarian Party) said his philosophy represents less government and is disturbed by Washington DC's willful ignorance. He said the constitution is a contract between the federal government and the people, those governing the state. He said we need to demand the government to adhere to the constitution and not allow one man to do it alone. This could set the stage for man to govern his own life and not affect another's equal rights. Clift asked, "Why would I be better suited?" and responded that he wants to follow the constitution and think of his neighbors' needs and wants.

**Barbara Norton** (Democrat) lives in the University District and has been knocking on doors since December and has found people to be concerned about jobs, economy, schools, and public safety. She said she is a listener who does her homework and who works hard. She has been a nurse, midwife, and business owner in the past 32 years. She has managed people and believes her approach is validated by 20 talented employees, providing employment benefits, slow growth, and customer service. She has been married to one man for 32 years and has raised two girls.

**Lance Pruitt** (Republican) is a lifelong Alaskan and an Anchorage "Eastsider." He has two kids and believes we must act on things now. He has served as the co-chair of the School Advisory Commission. He is passionate about jobs for our children's future and preparing them for work within Alaska. Pruitt favors pipeline and business development, creating work opportunities for Alaska's future.

### **Candidate Forum: Question & Answer**

Attendee Shaw wanted to know Pruitt's and Clift's business experience. Pruitt said that he has worked for Sears Logistics of Alaska which deals with transpiration in and out of Alaska. He has also held employment with FedEx, the North Slope, and in construction. With Sears, he hands a multi-million dollar budget. Clift said he was a retired Army Officer who served in the Vietnam War. He taught school in Aniak and served as a school vice principal, superintendent, built his own home, and flew planes.

Attendee Summer concerned with public safety and drug/alcohol issues with teens, wanted candidates to share how they can help students finish school and obtain jobs. Norton emphasized the importance of preschool education and Boys and Girls Clubs that help children succeed in society. She also mentioned the importance of families making the investment in their children early and preventive efforts at juvenile ages. Clift opposes the government intruding into people's lives and said with decreased taxes both parents would not have to work, thus investing in their children and hopefully extended family could provide support for the family's needs. Pruitt mentioned that often times both parents have to work and having schools extend time or provide after school activities to give supervision and a structured environment could help children.

Attendee Monterrosa wanted to know how candidates will cooperate if elected with other representatives who do not hold their same political, philosophical, or personal views. Clift responded that he or the other candidate were not professional politicians but would do the best they can. He would not want representatives to sacrifice their principles while working as an elected official. Norton said she works with 20 women and grew up in a home where her father was a Republican and her mother was a Democrat; these experiences have led her to feel that differences of opinion are normal. Pruitt shared with the council that his door is always open to sit down and talk. Differences exist and we can get along and hash it out. Pruitt said we can do it, it has been done, and will continue to be done.

Monterrosa was curious of candidates' stance when a representative does not completely agree with their political party's views and are shunned as a result. Clift said he would not be a part of a caucus. Norton said she would join a caucus that shares her viewpoint. Pruitt said a caucus is not necessarily party related and those who participate do not violate a personal belief. Pruitt said it's about the relationship and what is best for District 21.

Attendee Carte wanted to know if the candidates would factor people's beliefs into their representation in Juneau. Clift said this is an age old conflict with a democracy. Pruitt said that people's calls to their representative make a difference. Norton said she would vote the people's ideology and not her own; this is why she did her homework and listened to the voters in her district.

Attendee inquired on Pruitt's position for U.S. Senate. Vice President Carte asked members to respect candidate privacy.

Attendee Jake Moe asked candidates' views on the 5 year 50% renewable energy goal placed by the Alaska Energy Authority. Clift discussed oil, coal, and wood. He said that there is a fantasy of energy on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers. Norton said coal is not clean energy. Hydro-electric power from the Chakachamna would provide power for the rail belt. She said this is a big job for the legislature and would like to expand renewable energy and lower oil revenues. Other options Norton mentioned were geo-mass and geothermal energy from Mt. Spurr. Pruitt said there is great potential for the Susitna and Chakachamna River Projects. Pruitt said we need to give ourselves the industry opportunity and plan for renewable energy at a steady rate. He also mentioned the wind factor in villages and geothermal potential in Alaska.

### **MOA Assembly**

**Mike Gutierrez** discussed the city budget planning and potential cuts on safety and transportation. He gave SFCC his cell phone number 382-5972 if our council had any questions or concerns.

**Paul Honeman** said this is his first chance to work on the budget. He is looking at alternative sources of revenue such as a cigarette tax, alcohol tax, and seasonal sales tax. Gutierrez said that one proposal is changing the law to only requiring 50% of the vote to pass a sales tax versus the current law of 60% of the vote needed for a sales tax. Attendee Carte said this the first time she's lived in a city without a sales tax, thus property owners are absorbing the tax renters do not pay. Gutierrez assured her renters still pay property tax, just in the form of rent. Pruitt said that with a sales tax there would be no guarantee that property taxes would decrease. Clift mentioned that you are paying your sales tax currently in the form of a property tax. Gutierrez concluded that the property tax would have to decrease for voters to pass a sales tax. Attendee Shaw suggested that the assembly show the people \$1 for \$1 how a personal sales tax versus a property tax would affect the people. Miernyk said if you allow a sales tax there is no end to how high it would go. Honeman suggested a sunset sales tax like they have in Wasilla (every three years re-evaluate).

Gutierrez discussed with a decrease in the budget for public safety there would be a decrease in officers as well as some police detectives would be demoted to officers, thus increasing overtime wages and decreasing public safety. Gutierrez also mentioned that Engine 14 would lose two firemen.

Honeman asked for a Community Patrol Chair. He also discussed the Red Stripe Law and potential changes to better write the law. He also said he is working on landlord/tenant law that would require the tenant to move out when nine calls to the police have been made in a 12 month period.

**October 21 at 7 p.m., North East Community Council** will host a joint Candidate Forum at **Begich Middle School**.

The meeting was adjourned. Twenty-seven people attended.