

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Meeting Minutes

**Call to order:** 7:02pm by Vice President Cathy Carte

**Approval of Minutes:** October Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Lance Pruitt's Report:** Pruitt announced that \$150 of SFCC's funds would be allocated for beautification projects completed in the 2010 summer. Current SFCC account balance approximately \$200.

Also note: Pruitt thanked the council for their support during his campaign and election to the District 21 House Representative seat. He also thanked Harry Crawford for his hard work and dedication as the previous District 21 House Representative. Pruitt said he is looking forward to his new position and has enjoyed the campaign and hearing our community's concerns. As a result of House Representative Seat responsibilities, attendee asked whether Pruitt would continue as SFCC's treasurer. Pruitt will resign his treasurer position and recruitment is open.

**Public Observer Report:** Bill Miernyk had no new reports and said he would continue to be the "sheriff of time" during the meeting.

**FCC Advisor Report:** Linda Billmyer report that Assemblyman Dick Traini attended the last FCC meeting. Traini discussed city budget cuts. Police would lose 22 positions and fire would lose 24 positions, and neither department would have a new academy this coming year. Some public facilities may require a new usage fee. Billmyer reported that budget cuts would decrease funds for FCC by a third of the 2010 budget (\$98K). Traini asked FCC to lobby assembly members to maintain \$98K budget and our SFCC President Mark Hill will bring a resolution to the assembly.

Billmyer also encouraged SFCC to volunteer for the upcoming **NUSA 2011 Neighborhood Tour** occurring Thursday, May 26 from 4-8pm. The tour would bus 35-45 people from the Egan Center to different highlights in our community area (i.e. Alaska Botanical Gardens, Alaska Native Heritage Center) and would be followed by potluck provided by SFCC members. Attendee Miernyk shared concern for time to see all the community sights. Billmyer suggested a bus sightseeing tour. Jerrienne Lowther shared SFCC should apply for the neighborhood pride tour to continue our Spruce Up Muldoon branding. SFCC could provide a virtual tour on our website. The tour applications deadline has been moved to November 12.

**Executive Report:** Vice President Cathy Carte informed the council that Subway Restaurant will be opening in the Chugach Square. Recruitment is open for a Utilities Committee Chair, Public Safety Committee Co-Chair /Community Patrol Captain, Treasurer Position, and all committees are open to membership and support.

**Edu/School Committee Report:** Alex Monterrosa reported that he spoke with Karen Pollard, Scenic Park Elementary principal. She shared her concerns for the continued changing socioeconomic diversity in the school with 40% of the 390 students now on the free lunch program. Scenic Park has 16 classrooms and 65 certified employees. Pollard asked that SFCC address health and safety issues such as vandalism, arson, playground and field maintenance, road safety, animal feces left on school grounds, and illuminating school grounds. Monterrosa plans to address these concerns with School Board Representative Jeannie Mackie. Totem Theater has also become a common after school hang out for students; Monterrosa plans on meeting with the theater manager to address issues between the community, schools, and the theater. To address road safety concerns, Monterrosa plans to speak with SFCC Street Committee Chair Art Johnson. Monterrosa aims to maintain his mission to make a site contact at each school in SFCC and develop a partnership with these schools. Monterrosa will visit Susitna Elementary before the next SFCC meeting.

**Parks Committee Report:** Michele Pamer polled the council members to verify favor for potluck at the end of the NUSA 2011 Neighborhood tour. Pamer reported that nine volunteers patrolled the area on Halloween between 8pm to 4am. Chugach Foothills is still awaiting permits for construction of the surveillance cameras and lights. Pamer recruited two children and two parents to volunteer in the Little Dipper fix up project. These volunteers will attend two meetings to address what upgrades and fixes are wanted for the Little Dipper Park.

**Streets Committee Report:** Art Johnson reported on East 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue needs to be upgraded to a collector road, requiring city support. Johnson also discussed paving upgrades on Baxter Road. Johnson said that if Old Muldoon Road and East 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue (from Muldoon to Patterson) could get on the asset plan with Alaska DOT, paving could occur as soon as next summer. The municipality is looking at changing 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Pioneer Drive to collector roads which would require state funding and MOA bond funding.

Attendee Lowther asked for an update on the entrance from Muldoon Road into Foothills Storage. Johnson said that Alaska DOT approved the entrance two years ago and any disapproval should be voiced to Alaska DOT. Attendee Shaw said that SFCC had previously advocated for a slowdown turn lane from Muldoon Road to 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue but DOT said that they could not change anything due to state studies that found no safety concerns. Representative Crawford said he would like to see a petition from SFCC for 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue upgrades.

### **Representative Reports**

**Senator Bettye Davis** reported that the state senate has 19 returning senator with one new senator, Cathy Giessel. The senators have organized themselves and Gary Stevens will hold the Senate President Seat. Davis will be the health and social services chair. The senators will begin their first session January 18<sup>th</sup>. Davis plans to collaborate with House Representative Lance Pruitt.

**House Representative Harry Crawford** reported that he enjoyed his time as the District 21 Seat and he will continue to move forward with incentives by helping and serving his community.

**Advisory Committee Chairman Adam Trombley** discussed the city budget with SFCC. Trombley has been visited each city department to report how they can operate under mayor's new budget proposal and address better efficiency and technology. Attendee Shaw asked how efficiencies could be quantified. Trombley said with better IT and use of electronics departments could become more efficient. Shaw asked why city should not tax to the cap and keep services. Trombley said that even if the city taxed to the cap there would remain \$8M shortfall and city is looking at its biggest expense with 40% of the cost being police and fire.

**Engine 14** reported that the city budget proposal would cut Truck 11 in Eagle River, Engine 10 at Rabbit Creek, and Medic 7 in Jewel Lake due to being understaffed. Engine 14 Captain shared that this would affect all of Anchorage since three engines deal with one fire and if another fire were to erupt at the same time the Anchorage Fire Department would be spread thin across the city. AFD currently holds a minimum staffing requirement of one captain, one engineer, and one firefighter (current standard, 4 men: 1 vehicle). Attendee Pamer questioned why rigs being cut are located so far away and the captain responded that studies have shown their usage to be less frequent than other areas.

**City Manager George Vakalis** brought the "Citizens Guide to the Budget" for council members to view. He commended the Budget Advisory Committee for their work. He reported that Public Forums will be held November 5, 12, & 13 and public hearing will be held November 9 & 23. Vakalis said that the city budget will be solidified the first or second week in December. Vakalis said that permits will not be given to construct surveillance cameras and lighting for the Chugach Foothills Park until city has assessed the construction, cost, maintenance, and operations of the project themselves. Vakalis also encouraged SFCC to speak with Jerry Hanson with the DOT to address safety concerns with state owned roads. Vakalis said the Fire Truck 11 and Engine 10 have the fewest calls of all fire vehicles (fewer than 200), whereas the

average number of calls is between 500-1000. Vakalis reassured SFCC that these city budget cuts have been well thought out and will save the city \$1.5M.

**John Sims ENSTAR PR Representative** reported to SFCC that the cost of gas in 2011 will increase by 2%. Sims explained the increase was due the coming winter without forecasting for the gas demands and \$1B of gas is not under contract at this point with producers. One attendee questioned why we previously followed Henry Hub prices but currently are not, and Sims responded that ENSTAR tried to contract with companies such as Marathon Oil but were rejected. Attendee Shaw asked about the effects of LNG (Liquefying Natural Gas) on 2011 gas cost. Sims explained that there is plenty of natural gas in Cook Inlet and producers are out to make money, but the LNG would help to spread the cost over a large area. Representative Crawford asked about a gas storage facility and why proprietary independent producers cannot store gas reserves there. Sims responded that according to House Bill 280 the Regulatory Commission of Alaska economically regulates the facility and gives a tax credit to companies, but the facility is not expected to be running until summer 2012. Such a facility has a flat production profile due to Alaska 12:1 winter to summer natural gas usage.

**Vice President Carte closed the** meeting by reminding SFCC about open recruitment positions and encouraged attendees to bring cookies to the December meeting.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:31pm. Thirty people were present for the meeting.