



The Fairview Press

Serving Fairview where "People Make The Difference"

HOMELESS PLAN MAY HAVE FAIRVIEW IMPACTS

A task force appointed by Mayor Mark Begich 10 months ago to address the long-term impacts and solutions for Anchorage's homeless population has released a draft report that is now available for public comment. The report sets out a 10-year strategy for dealing with homelessness, founded on a housing first and coordinated services plan to reduce homelessness.

Housing first is a philosophy that assumes assistance for any other aspect of an individual's life will be less successful if he or she is without safe and affordable housing.

The plan presented by the task force says that in 10 years, the homeless in Anchorage will be connected with a way to find safe and affordable housing within three months of being identified as being homeless by a provider.

The Plan on Homelessness includes action steps and performance measures written for one- three- five- and 10-year time frames to achieve the plan's vision and goals. According to the draft report, implementation of the action steps requires two fundamental changes in the way the Anchorage approaches homelessness.

- Service providers must change the way they do business to focus on housing.

This will involve developing the infor-

mation technology and the willingness on the part of service providers to cooperate with one another to efficiently and effectively address individuals and families' housing barriers.

- Planners, funders and policy makers must change their processes and rules to provide information, funding, and requirements that result in housing as the first priority:

Planners will need to provide real-time feedback to service providers on their performance on an on-going basis. Training on how to participate in the homelessness service provider network will need to be on-going, and a centralized place for maintaining web-based referral and information systems will need to be identified and funded. Funders and policy makers will need to be responsive to the effectiveness of programs and organizations in their contribution to housing first.

The report also calls for the mayor to appoint a five-member Oversight Board to track progress and implementation of the Plan on Homelessness. It also recommends the Oversight Board work with the mayor's office to ensure coordination with state and federal Interagency Councils on Homelessness and with other homeless service providers, advocates and other entities.

In January, Mayor Begich appointed the 24-member Task Force on Home-

lessness and charged them with developing a vision for how Anchorage will address homelessness by the year 2015. Working as a subcommittee of the Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) Commission, the Task Force is made up of homeless and formerly homeless people, representatives from non-profit agencies, public safety personnel, businesses, the school district, government officials and charitable foundations in our community.

The draft plan was made available to the public on Oct. 8, 2004. A public hearing was held at 4 p.m. Oct. 26, 2004 in the Mayor's Conference Room. The Task Force then presented the final report to the Anchorage Assembly and the Mayor during a December work session.

Copies of the draft report are available on-line at <http://www.muni.org/cdbg/homeless.cfm>

Many Fairview Residents have expressed concern that all, or most, of the Homeless Transitional Housing might be located in the Downtown/Fairview area, and not spread throughout Anchorage. For this reason, the FVCC is scheduling a presentation on the Homeless Task Force Plan for our January 13, 2005 meeting.

Please plan on attending this important meeting.

DIVERSITY
IS OUR
STRENGTH

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Tentative Agenda Topics for the January Meeting

- A presentation on the final report & recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force On Homelessness.
- A presentation on the condo project at 13th & Denali
- Community Comments, Concerns & Reports.
- A resolution to modify one of the conditions on Oaken Keg's license

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

ECCLESIASTES

APD COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S LIAISON PROGRAM REVAMPED

Sometime ago the Anchorage Police Department started assigning Patrol Sergeants as liaisons to Community Councils. The idea behind the program was to increase communication between APD and Anchorage's Community Councils.

Unfortunately, the program never worked as intended. Monies and

extra hours were never allocated for the program, and attendance by the Sergeants at Community Council meetings was spotty at best, and non-existent in most cases.

APD has now revamped the program, and ONE APD Patrol Sergeant has been assigned as the Community Council Liaison Sergeant for ALL of Anchorage's

Community Council's.

The new Council Liaison is Sgt. Cindi Stanton. Sgt. Stanton officially assumes her new position in January, and has been in contact with all Council Presidents to obtain meeting schedules for all of the Community Councils in Anchorage. We look forward to working with Sgt. Stanton.

AROUND FAIRVIEW



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DECEMBER MEETING

Treasurer's Report, Darrel Hess for Celeste Benson:

Council account	- balance forward as of 11/07/04	3075.49
	- balance as of 12/09/04	3075.49
Patrol account	- balance forward as of 11/07/04	1168.17
	- deposit - ACS refund	43.84
	- expenses	
	- ACS	(38.94)
	- Alaska's Best Water	(72.00)
	- bank charge	(5.54)
	• balance as of 12/09/04	1095.53

Shiloh Community Development – Shenee Williams:

Shenee Williams gave a presentation on Shiloh Community Development, a new Certified Housing Development Organization (CHDO). The purpose of the organization is to develop affordable housing in Fairview. They are looking for 4-plexes or 6-plexes that can be rehabilitated and turned into low-income housing. They will also provide property maintenance services to existing properties. An additional program they are involved with is "Shelter Plus Care," a federally-funded program that provides housing assistance to disabled homeless people. One-third of the organization's board of directors must be residents from Fairview; currently they are looking for one board member from Fairview. Anyone interested in serving on the board can contact Shenee Williams at 223-8445.

Following the presentation, there was discussion about Fairview's previous experience with good-hearted organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity, which came into the community to develop affordable housing. There has not always been a good response to these properties on the part of neighbors due to the design and quality of the buildings and the behaviors of the residents. Ms. Williams was strongly encouraged to ensure that developments be well-designed and attractive (even if this means obtaining additional funds beyond those provided by HUD) and take into account northern design features (such as space for snow storage). The need for training or counseling on home ownership was also stressed, so that the people living in these new developments are assets to the community. With respect to board membership, Dan Loring suggested Jerry Haggerty as a potential director. Allen Kemplen also expressed interest in the activities of the organization, and asked for a schedule of board meetings.

State House Report, Les Gara:

The legislative session starts on January 10th. At this point, there is nothing to report, except that Les plans to work with the FVCC on capital funding requests.

Questions and comments from the membership concerned pending alterations to the Gambell-Ingra Corridor and the Glenn Highway, and the affect these developments could have on Fairview. David Post, from the

state DOT, will make a presentation about the Hyder project at the general membership meeting in March. The following Saturday, there will be a public meeting in Fairview on the issue.

Committee Reports:

Education, Dale Myhill

The following was discussed at the November 23rd meeting at Fairview Elementary: the PTA is going slowly now, but has lots of activities planned for after the holidays. Dan Loring gave a report from the State PTA & Marc Robinson gave a report. The Education Summit is planned for a weekend in early March. Matters to be discussed there include why Fairview Elementary is the lowest-performing school in Anchorage. Community input will be requested.

The next meeting will be on December 21st at 6 pm in the Recreation Center nursery. Agenda items include the scope of the authority of the committee.

Public Safety, Sharon Chamard

Recently the committee discussed liquor license renewals for Oaken Keg and Spirits of Alaska. The committee thinks the conditions attached to the operating permit for Spirits of Alaska need to be rewritten, but there is no time to do this before the matter comes before the MOA Assembly in early January. Pending a more comprehensive review and rewrite of the conditions, which will occur before the next license renewal in two years, the committee recommends that the conditions be amended to include a provision that Spirits of Alaska's closing hours be the same as Oaken Keg's.

Several members of the committee have been working with the owner of a property at 402 E. 11th Avenue and neighbors to deal with some problems at that location. An initial meeting was promising—the owner promised to clean up old furniture and appliances strewn about the property and work with committee members to evict two troublesome tenants. Yet one month later, nothing had been done. In a subsequent meeting, unattended by the property owner, a strategy was designed to more strongly encourage his cooperation.

Recreation Center, Dave Brossard

Thanks to Regina Manteufel. At a recent meeting of the Education Committee at the elementary school, she noticed a bunch of computers that seemed ready to be disposed of. She made some contacts and got the computers moved over to the Rec. Center. Lorne Bailey has been working to incorporate this new equipment into the computer lab.

The Rec. Center will be opening on Sundays. The hours now are seven days a week from 9 am to 10 pm. We've been told we will get more staff, but this has yet to happen.

Several events are planned for December:

- 16th – 4:30-6:30 – Kids Kitchen – arts and crafts, a nacho dinner
- 17th – 6:00-8:00 – Parks and Recreation Department Christmas Carnival – arts and crafts
- 18th – 12:00-3:30 – Christmas party for kids aged 3-10 years old

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DECEMBER MEETING

(continued from page 2)

The Parks and Recreation Department is creating new districts. Currently the districts of Russian Jack and Kincaid have been established; eventually the Northwest district, which included Fairview, Spenard, Government Hill, and downtown) will be established. The person in charge of each of the districts will attend community council meetings.

Following the report, Dan Loring asked about criminal incidents at the Rec. Center, and if there has been improvement on the camera system. He further suggested raising funds to buy a new camera system. Dave Brossard said there have been minor issues, but no evidence of gangs or drugs. He also said he would find out how much it would cost to get a new camera system and let the FVCC know.

Regina Manteufel mentioned that Lorne Bailey needs \$225.00 for a firewall at the computer lab. She said she could approach Dean's Automotive for this money, and that they could just write a check to the FVCC. Allen Kemplen said that usually something like this is dealt with through the Lions Club.

Zoning and Code Enforcement

Darrel Hess reported that there seems to be some confusion regarding this committee. Darrel will contact the Committee Chair, and seek clarification regarding the status of the committee.

Ad Hoc Neighborhood Committee, Allen Kemplen

The MOA Assembly has agreed to provide \$750,000 over three years (\$250,000 per year) for street and pedestrian improvements in Fairview. This is a line item that will go into the municipal budget. Jim Lamson, from the Capital Improvement Program at MOA, wants to work with the Executive Board to determine where these funds will be used; one focus will be 13th and Gambell.

The committee has been focusing on streets and traffic. One issue is how to deal with the connection between the Glenn and Seward highways. The community needs to give input. People seem the like the idea of the "cut-and-cover," but we need to make sure we get what is promised. Fairview could be a leader in advocating non-road alternatives, such as commuter rail or enhanced bus services. If Fairview makes a commitment to the cut-and-cover, we are making a commitment to vehicular traffic. The committee is organizing a forum in March to discuss these issues. A plan for the workshop will be sent out soon. We'll seek the involvement of key agencies.

Darrel Hess mentioned that in the capital budget there will also be an extra \$2.5 million for the 9th Avenue Project to make the design more attractive. Allen Kemplen wrote the resolution, which was co-sponsored by 13 FVCC members, asking MOA to do more than just repave and replace street lights.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Vince Casey – how long does it take MOA to get around to clearing snow from sidewalks?

Dan Loring – thanks to Darrel and Allen and the rest of the Executive Board for getting us the \$750,000 and also for slowing down the 9th Avenue Project to ensure that pedestrian amenities are included. Some of the \$750,000 should go towards the 13th Avenue corridor from Fairview Elementary to Carrs Gambell.

Vince Casey – I am considering running for President of the Anchorage branch of the NAACP.

Regina Manteufel – the Urban League now has an office in Fairview, across from Anna's Health Food Store on Hyder St.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

RASMUSON FOUNDATION SEEDS PARK FOUNDATION

In an effort to bridge the gap between growing park and recreation needs and limited financial resources within the city, Mayor Mark Begich recently announced the creation of the Anchorage Park Foundation. The announcement was highlighted with the first gift to the foundation of \$400,000 from the Rasmuson Foundation to be used for capital improvements to trails and parks.

The Anchorage Park Foundation is now able to accept tax deductible contributions. Its mission is to advance park and recreation opportunities, trail projects, and conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to Anchorage.

As we continue to work to relieve the burden on property taxpayers, this is a unique opportunity for citizens to individually help fund park projects or plans, Mayor Begich stated. Once again, the Rasmuson Foundation is a leader in the commitment to improving the quality of life in Alaska. We thank them for this generous donation.

Anchorage has over 14,000 acres of municipal parkland, 200 parks and over 400 kilometers of trails and greenbelts that link neighborhoods with surrounding natural open space and wildlife habitat. Many local parks and recreation departments around the country are creating foundations to accept private donations, stated Jeff Dillon, Director of Parks and Recreation for the municipality. Anchorage has the natural assets and hundreds of committed volunteers and user groups to meet our community needs. This infusion of new resources will show results.

Mayor Begich and Dillon recently held a joint news conference at City Hall with Rasmuson Foundation Chairman Ed Rasmuson and Foundation President Diane Kaplan.

According to Dillon, Anchorage Parks and Recreation relies on property taxes for 88% of its budget. Nationally, that figure averages around 60%. Between private contributions to the foundation, and increased income from fees, the municipality expects to decrease dependence on property taxes and enhance services in the next few years.

In the coming months the community will have opportunities to get involved and help set goals and priorities for programs by district.

Possibilities for Community Giving Include:

- Individuals can give for a project, or give in memorial of a loved one, in a wide variety of ways, including cash, securities, and all types of personal property.
- Groups can raise funds for favorite parks or recreation projects and place those funds in the foundation.
- Foundation staff will apply for state, federal and foundation grants.

The quality of services available through Anchorage Parks and Recreation are a reflection of the community's commitment to our programs through tax dollars, volunteerism, and now through private contributions to the foundation, Begich said. We can do more with your help.

The Anchorage Park Foundation is a Community Involvement Fund within the Alaska Community Foundation. For more information go to:

<http://www.alaskacf.org/>

FAIRVIEW FAMILY FUN LITERACY NIGHT

On Tuesday evening, December 7, 2004 Fairview Elementary School held Family Fun Literacy Night. During the event, over 346 donated children's books were distributed to the Fairview children attending the event.



Attendance was estimated at 425, with 389 people registered on the sign-in sheets! Of this total, 221 were children. Thanks to the many Community Volunteers and School Staff who worked so hard to make the event a smashing success.

A special thanks to Nine Star Area Coordinator Dale Myhill (Chair of the FVCC Education Committee).

Dale and Nine Star continue to be valuable contributors to Fairview and the future of her residents, especially our children. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by the Council and the Community!

Kudos also to community activist Regina Manteufel, who arrived with donated clothes for the attendees! Everyone attending left with books to read, or clothes to wear!



Land Use Enforcement Officer

Teresa Deitz
343-8335

Community Service

Patrol Pick-Up
277-5000

Fairview Community

Patrol Hotline:
277-8818

Carrs Gambell

Grocery Cart

Pick-Up:
339-0200

Beverage Trash

& Campers Hotline

563-3815 ext 225

SISTER NOREEN HEADING FOR SUNNY CALIFORNIA

Sr. Noreen McPartland has been reassigned by the Daughters of Charity to California. The community is sad for our loss, but delighted for her. Sister Noreen wishes to be closer to her sister & nieces who live in the Bay Area & Southern California.

Sister Noreen has been a tremendous help to Catholic Social Services, and the entire Community during her 6-year assignment. She has done everything from running St. Francis House, to selling Charity Ball raffle tickets, to being a consistent attendee at the Downtown & Fairview

Community Council Meetings. Not only will CSS miss her but the community will as well. Who else do you know that receives hugs from both Mayor Begich and Senator Fred Dyson? She has been a true CSS mission ambassador and is well respected by individuals from all walks of life. Thank you Sister Noreen for all that you have done for Anchorage & her citizens!

Please save the date for Sr. Noreen's Good Bye Celebration — Tuesday, January 11, 2005 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the BP Cafeteria. Please help spread the word.

Contact Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us

May to January:

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Assemblyman Allan Tesche

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Mayor Mark Begich

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Fairview Council:

Darrel Hess, Chair

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Noel Rea, Vice-Chair

349-9941

noel@alaska.com

Become involved in your community! Join the Fairview Community Council, and "Make A Difference!" The Fairview Community Council meets the second Thursday of the month, at 7 pm at the Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 East 10th Avenue (except on certain holidays and special occasions). For more information, contact FVCC Chair Darrel Hess, at 258-3714.