



The Fairview Press

Serving Fairview where "People Make The Difference"

MARCH 12th FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY PLANNING WORK SHOP TAKING SHAPE

This article is reprinted from the February edition of The Fairview Press: This Work Shop is of great importance to the Community, and will help shape it's future direction.

Saturday, March 12, 2005, the Fairview Community Council, in conjunction with the Municipality of Anchorage, and Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, will hold a Community Planning Work Shop at Fairview Elementary School, 1327 Nelchina Street.

The purpose of the work shop is to take planning for the implementation of Fairview's Neighborhood Plan to the next level.

Representative of various MOA and State of Alaska departments will be participating in the work shop, and Mayor Mark Begich will address the group at 9:05 am. The tentative agenda for the work shop is:

8:00 am: set up

8:30 am: registration & continental breakfast

9:00 am: welcome & opening remarks by Fairview Community Council President Darrel Hess

9:05 am: remarks by Mayor Mark



Begich

9:15 am: remarks by Community & Economic Development Director Mary Jane Michael

9:30 am: a review of past planning efforts by Debe Mahoney, ANHS CEO

9:45 am: a review of current MOA planning efforts by Tom Nelson, MOA Planning Director

10:00 am: Key planning issues outlined by FVCC Neighborhood Plan Committee Chair Allen Kemplen, AICP

10:45: workshop outline/description by Allen Kemplen

11:00 am: buffet lunch and materials review

11:50 am: call workgroups to order

12:00 pm: begin afternoon planning workshops

2:00 pm: snack distribution

3:30 pm: workshop presentations

4:45 pm: closing comments & door prizes

5:00 pm: clean-up

The Neighborhood Work Shop Committee is still looking for help with the work shop. They are in need of:

- Facilitators for the work groups
- Donations of money to help off set food and material costs
- Underwriters for breakfast, lunch & snacks
- Volunteers to help set up and take down

If you would like to help with any of the above, please contact FVCC Chair Darrel Hess at: 258-3714, or e-mail to gmpeon@alaska.net.

If you are planning on attending the work shop, please RSVP to FVCC Neighborhood Plan Committee Chair Allen Kemplen at 274-9772, or e-mail to kemplen@alaska.net.

The fruits of this work shop will help shape Fairview for the next 30 to 40 years! Become involved and make a difference! Join us for a day of hard work, food & door prizes!

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2005

Tentative Agenda Items

For the March Meeting

- An update on the proposed Glenn Highway/New Seward connection
- An update on the FVCC's March Community Planning Work Shop
- A report on the audit of the Council's finances for 2003 & 2004
- The annual election of FVCC Officers
- Community Comments, Concerns & Reports.
- A resolution to modify one of the conditions on Oaken Keg's liquor license

"Racism is an eclipse- it blocks you from the truth"

Justin Flom: Age 12



WANTED

A few good people who are pugnacious, persistent and dedicated to serve on the Fairview Community Council's Executive Board!

The annual election of officers for the Fairview Community Council will take place during the March 10th Meeting! If you are interested in running and serving, contact Sharon Chamard at 222-0649, or chamard@gci.net. Help Make A Difference!

AROUND FAIRVIEW



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S FEBRUARY MEETING

Thursday, February 10, 2005, Fairview Recreation Center

Meeting called to order by Darrel Hess, President, at 7:05 pm.

1. Secretary's Report – there was no quorum, so the previous month's minutes could not be accepted.

2. Treasurer's Report – no report; the books are currently being audited.

3. Fairview Elementary Report – no report

4. Assembly Report – no report

5. Presentation

Don Warden, Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery

After a brief presentation on the history of the cemetery, Mr. Warden discussed his plans to construct a bell tower somewhere on the grounds in 2006, possibly at the location of the current flagpole. This would not be a clock tower. It will likely be a carillon from a company named Shulmerich Carillons. The cemetery is seeking grants for \$125,000 to cover the cost of the carillon (\$50,000) and landscaping (\$50,000). The rest would go towards incidentals such as running electricity to the carillon. The carillon bells will be electronic and controlled by computer. The bells will not be rung at night. Mr. Warden would not object to someone from the community council being involved in the design process.

6. Anchorage Police Department – Sergeant Cindy Stanton

Regarding the ongoing problems at 402 E. 11th Avenue, Sgt. Stanton has done some research on the issue and contacted one of the neighbors, Patti Greene. The property had eight calls for police service last year. Because the ordinance regarding excessive calls for police service runs from calendar year to calendar year, the clock has started again. Currently the ordinance allows for liens on the property. APD wants this changed to a civil citation and a fine.

7. Presentation: *Brad Doggett, DOWL Engineers and Lee Coop, MOA Traffic Department*

This was an update on the 13th and Gambell Highway Safety Improvement Program. There are several changes planned for the intersection: a center median on the 13th on the part west of Gambell to prevent vehicles turning into the Carrs parking lot, a right-turn-only lane on 13th heading east, and a left-turn-only lane on 13th heading west.

Following up on some issues raised at the last HSIP, DOT will not allow any entrances from Gambell into the Carrs parking lot, but there is money in the project to pay for re-striping the parking lot to allow for entrance from 14th. With respect to landscaping, project money is prohibited to be used for this purpose, although areas could be set aside for later landscaping improvements. Construction should take from 30 to 60 days. The first step in to bring in the utilities and install new traffic sig-

nals.

There was a lengthy discussion about pedestrian safety. Allen Kemplen asked if pedestrian counts data are available; Brad Doggett said he would make the pedestrian collision data he has available. Allen made some remarks:

This design just accommodates vehicles, not pedestrians. There will be conflict. There are other things that can be done other than these hard-scape (?) improvements, such as signs and the like. I would like the engineers to take a more open approach to problems at that intersection, and not try to force one approach down the throats of the community and businesses. This design goes against the 20-20 plan. The intersection is a town center area; this design is not in the best interests of the neighborhood. I don't see a willingness on the part of the engineers to accept the concerns of the neighborhood. Why aren't these concerns being addressed?

Darrel Hess asked if the intersection is going to be safer or more dangerous for pedestrians after this change. Allen added that it is a heavily pedestrian area, there are already few crossings along Gambell, and this design will make the cars go faster. Lorne Bailey expressed his general support for the project, but asked that the intersection lights be adjusted so that there is enough time for slower people to get across. Lee Coop said they could look at things that would mitigate the risk to pedestrians.

Allen requested that the project be delayed until there is a design that accommodates both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Lee Coop said that the municipality is required by law to monitor accidents. HSIP is about doing relatively minor and quick changes to make areas less prone to accidents. Darrel requested that he and Allen be sent a copy of the latest pedestrian survey.

7. Oaken Keg Resolution

There was no quorum, so the resolution could not be voted on. It was moved by Ron Alleva and seconded by Celeste Benson that the matter be put to a "sense of the body" vote. Ron then voiced his support for the resolution, stating that Carrs is the best corporate neighbor Fairview has, and that they have paid their dues. They are responsible. Their record is unblemished. They have made donations to the Senior Center and to the APD substation. We should pass the resolution unanimously. Further, he added that the guards and no trespassing signs make him feel uncomfortable. Carrs' employees are professional, but those guards may cause as many problems as they are supposed to prevent. Darrel Hess mentioned that the resolution is only for a six-month test period, and that he had discussed with Sharon Chamard the possibility of doing a small study to assess the effect of the guard hour reduction on crime in the area. Sharon added that although it is true that Carrs is a good neighbor to Fairview and the Community Council, the business also does contribute in some way to the social disorder problems around 13th and Gambell. Prostitutes have been seen to solicit customers at the rear entrances to the store, and drug dealers move freely through the parking lot, unchallenged by store security. However, she added that there is only so much Carrs security can do about problems that happen off their property.

The sense of the body motion to support the resolution to amend the

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S FEBRUARY MEETING

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8. Committee and Other Reports

Education Committee – Dale Myhill

At the last meeting, Dr. Mell from UAA gave some suggestions about what the committee could be doing. He said it is important not to discuss what happened in the past, because it prevents focusing on the future. He also said there should be tutoring services at Fairview Elementary, and that this, coupled with looking towards the future, could help change the culture of the school. March 1st is Dr. Seuss Night at Fairview Elementary. The next Education Committee meeting is Tuesday, February 22.

Recreation Center – Lorne Bailey

The genealogy course is being held on Saturdays at 6 pm in the Rec. Center computer lab. The cost is \$10 per person per session. The course covers internet skills for on-line research, geography, history, and automated records management.

Neighborhood Plan Committee – Allen Kemplen

At the last meeting, we talked about getting maps from the municipality and background material from Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services. There was a discussion about the concept of a zoning overlay. The workshop on March 12th will concern possible scenarios for the future of Fairview. Streets have a hierarchy for cars; we could also have one for pedestrians. Fairview is laid out on a grid pattern. We could emphasize improvements along 9th, 13th & 15th Avenues to enhance pedestrian mobility.

Public Safety Committee – Sharon Chamard

At the last meeting, we were joined by Sam O'Connor of Westside Patrol and also the mayor's Public Safety Advisory Committee. He gave some suggestions about how best and when to present a list of action items for that committee to address. Jerry Haggerty is leading our inquiry into the Homeless Task Force Plan. He has reviewed the document and met with several people and will soon be making a recommendation to the committee about how we should proceed to minimize negative impacts of the plan on Fairview. The Community Patrol is continuing to monitor properties for drug activity.

There was some discussion about the oversight committee for the Homeless Task Force, and the need to get someone from Fairview on this committee. Darrel said he e-mailed Summer LeFebvre, Mary Jane Michael and Diane DiSanto asking about this, and was told we wouldn't get a seat.

9. Community Comments and Concerns

Ron Alleva – the convention center shouldn't be downtown. It should be at the old native hospital site. The soil there is better in case of an earthquake.

Allen Kemplen – there was a limit as to how far east the convention

center could go.

Darrel Hess – there would be more parking there

Allen Kemplen – there is not an advocate for the development of east downtown. The auto lots there need cheap land.

Sharon Chamard – there was an article in Sunday's Anchorage Daily News in which Robin Ward, the head of the municipality's new land development agency, was quoted as saying she thinks there is potential for locating a cooperative trailer park on vacant land somewhere in Fairview, Mountain View or Spenard. We should invite her to a meeting to make our concerns about this idea known.

Darrel Hess – take a look at the Executive Board contract and get changes to Sharon or me by the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard,
Secretary, Fairview Community Council

WORLD CHANGERS TARGET FAIRVIEW IN 2005

Lori Nealley, with ANHS announced February 3,rd that the World Changers organization will be focusing on Fairview this summer!

The FVCC and ANHS need to line up 25 projects in Fairview for the group to work on. The volunteers are able to perform repair work on single family, owner-occupied residences.

They work in three major areas: roofing, painting and fencing. If a resident requests a fencing project, it can only be combined with a larger project such as roofing or painting. Our goal is to find projects to keep the work crews of 13 people busy for 4 1/2 work days. The volunteers generally start work at 7:30 am and leave the project at 4:30 pm.

We ask if you are chosen for a project that your or your family participate in some fashion during the project.

Income limitations apply to the World Changers projects. The program looks at taxable forms of income, including wages, permanent fund dividends, taxable interest income and self-employment in-

come. Complete income guidelines are listed in the application packets. The household income for all family members cannot exceed the maximum annual limits below, based on family size.

- 1: \$40,250
- 2: \$46,000
- 3: \$51,750
- 4: \$57,500
- 5: \$62,100
- 6: \$66,700
- 7: \$71,300
- 8: \$75,900

Income such as Social Security, Adult Public Assistance, and military pensions normally are not considered taxable under this program, and normally would not be included in the annual household income calculation.

For an application packet, contact FVCC Chair Darrel Hess at 258-3714, or pick up a packet at the customer service counter at the Carrs Gambel Store, or at the front desk of the Anchorage Senior Center.

REPRESENTATIVE LES GARA'S LEGISLATIVE PERSPECTIVE: MARCH 2005

We've focused much of our energy on working to reduce class sizes. One of our pressing concerns is what one of our constituents correctly terms the "achievement gap" in our schools. This past year roughly half of the state's low income students failed to pass the state's benchmark exams, and Alaska still sends fewer students to college (28%) than 47 other states. *That is – there's a lot of room for improvement*, and neither of us accept the view of many in Juneau that in Alaska our schools are fine "as is."

Studies show children learn best in smaller classes. In larger classes, it's difficult for teachers to give individualized attention to students who need help. We've worked with the Anchorage School District to educate legislators in Juneau that class sizes are too large, and that we need to add teachers, aides and tutors if we're going to make progress in helping more children reach their greatest potential.

In the Fall the Governor offered his proposed education budget. Unlike prior years, he's proposed to add significant school funds

this year. Unfortunately, because of obligations the state has to fund our teacher and state retirement programs (it would be illegal to under fund these retirement obligations), most of the proposed budget increase goes to fund the retirement system. Many school districts from Kenai to Anchorage to Pelican, Galena, Wrangell, Juneau and elsewhere state the Governor's proposal will unfortunately require staff reductions at a time when we need to add teachers.

We're working with the Anchorage School District, and parents and educators from around the state to try to build the consensus to achieve a funding budget that adds, rather than cuts teachers. According to the Anchorage, Kenai and Juneau School Districts, making progress to enhance student achievement, and to reduce class sizes in a material way, will likely require an additional \$40 - \$50 million in statewide classroom funds beyond what the Governor has proposed. If you'd like more information or legislative reports we've commissioned on this subject, please let us know.

LEGISLATIVE VIEW POINT MARCH 2005: SENATOR JOHNNY ELLIS

Sen. Johnny Ellis and Rep. Berta Gardner, both D-Anchorage, introduced companion bills in the State House and Senate to fund the University of Alaska Anchorage Integrated Science Center, the number one capital priority for the entire UA system, and a critical need for UAA.

With \$8.4 million in the bank already approved by voters, SB 99 and HB 145 will provide the remaining \$71.6 million for the \$80 million project."

"We need to break ground on this project as soon as possible," said Senator Ellis. "With rising construction costs every season we wait, SB 99-and HB 145 would fund the remaining balance upfront so the shovel can hit the dirt this summer and save money too."

"The Integrated Science Center is the number one capital project priority for the University of Alaska statewide," said Rep. Gardner "There is a shortage of lab and classroom science space at the University of Alaska Anchorage campus. This is limiting the growth of the nursing program, ranked in the top ten in the country, and desperately needed."

The University is an economic engine for both the city and state and the Integrated Sciences Center will provide tremendous opportunities for public and private partnerships.

There is potential for millions of dollars to come into the state, both from federal and private sources, to support research efforts.

More than 50% of college bound Alaska high school graduates are now staying in Alaska for their higher education. With the success of the Alaska Scholars program, the popularity of biology and health sciences programs, and increasing student enrollment, UAA science facilities are inadequate and outdated. "We have not kept up to support that growth," said Senator Ellis. "Our science facilities at UAA have not been upgraded in 30 years."

The new Integrated Science Center would solve this problem by providing 40,000 square feet of lab and classroom space. Departments such as biochemistry, biological sciences and chemistry would be housed in the new building for more efficient delivery of services, and with state of the art science labs and technology. "This project will be a springboard for our students to meet the employment needs of the State of Alaska and the 21 st Century," said Rep. Gardner.

"We need to bring the project online now," stated Senator Ellis. "SB 99 and HB 145 means 'yes' to construction of this facility and shows strong support for our university."

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