



The Fairview Press

Serving Fairview where "People Make The Difference"

FAIRVIEW FIRE SPOTLIGHTS NEED TO HELP AT HOME!

The Friday March 24th fire at King's Court Apartments in Fairview puts the spotlight on the need for Fairview and Anchorage residents to Help At Home. Recent natural disasters in Southeast Asia and America's Gulf Coast Region funneled literally hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations to non-profits out of state.

Consequently, many local agencies, such as the Alaska Chapter of the American Red Cross, risk not being able to respond adequately to local disasters. Three large fires in Anchorage in a short period of time, brings this point home to many of us. Please consider making a donation to the Alaska Chapter of the American Red Cross. Visit <http://Alaska.redcross.org/> for more information.

Fairview's own Senator Johnny Ellis had this to say when he heard of the King's Court fire (just a couple of blocks from his own home):

"I am touched by the plight of my Neighbors and Constituents as a result of this disaster. The

fire beings home how suddenly and unexpectedly such a tragedy can occur. I went on line and made a personal donation to the Alaska Chapter of the American Red Cross, and I urge others to do the same."

Representative Les Gara and his Staff contacted the Anchorage Chapter of the American Red Cross and Alaska Housing to make sure that the Fairview Residents displaced by the fire were being taken care of, and had immediate access to all available services.

After witnessing the fire, Fairview Community Council Chair Darrel Hess had this to say in an email to Mayor Mark Begich:

"Mayor Mark, I wanted to pass on to you Fairview's appreciation for the Anchorage Fire Department, the Alaska Chapter of the Red Cross, Central Lutheran Church, Denis LeBlanc and Parks & Rec Staff. Their joint efforts made a bad situation more bearable for 63 citizens of our Neighborhood

this past weekend.

I live across the street from King's Court, and witnessed first hand AFD's professionalism and courage. After their work was done, the work of the other groups and individuals began.

It says a lot about the spirit of Anchorage that these groups and individuals could come together so quickly and effectively in response to such a disaster.

I hope that you can find a few minutes to personally commend the groups and individuals who went above and beyond to help our Neighbors in need this weekend.

Best Regards
Darrel"

In response, Fairview Community Recreation Center Director Dave Brossard had this to say:

"You're absolutely right – tragedy can strike very rapidly and affect the lives of many. In times like these, it's so important for people, businesses and various agencies to (cont. pg 6)

**DIVERSITY
IS OUR
STRENGTH**

Volume 4, Issue 4

April 2006

Tentative Agenda Topics

For the April Meeting

- An update by the Chair of the Neighborhood Plan Committee & discussion of next steps & the May 13th Public Meeting at the Anchorage Senior Center
- A presentation by Doe Anderson, MOA Northwest Parks District Manager
- A donation request for the Fairview Elementary School Student Council
- Community Comments & Concerns
- Committee & Community Reports

"Read every day something no one else is reading. Think everyday something no one else is thinking. It is bad for the mind to be always part of unanimity."

Christopher Morley
1890-1957

The FVCC's Neighborhood Planning efforts continue at the Council's Thursday, April 13th General Membership Meeting. NHP Committee Chair Allen Kemplen will update the

Membership and Neighborhood on the status of the Draft Plan, and will facilitate a Public Input Session.

As part of the Council's Planning efforts, watch for a Fairview-wide mail

out coming within the next week!

The flyer will be a bright pastel color and will have "Something Big Is On The Move," and "Formal Notice" written on it: READ IT, DON'T TOSS IT!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MARCH MEETING

Meeting called to order by President Darrel Hess at 7:00 pm.

Darrel Hess said that from this point forward at council general membership meetings, to ensure that meetings adjourn in a timely fashion and everyone has a chance to be involved in the meetings, Roberts Rules of Order will be followed.

Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Dan Loring and seconded by Allen Kemplen to amend the agenda to move Cindi Stanton's presentation to immediately after the election. There was no objection.

Annual Election of Officers:

The slate was presented: President—Darrel Hess; Vice President—Justina Meyer; Secretary—Sharon Chamard; Treasurer—Harry Deuber; Members-at-Large—Celeste Benson, Dave Brossard, Allen Kemplen, Rebecca Kinney, and Noel Rea. Sharon thanked outgoing Member-at-Large Dale Myhill for his service to the council in the past year. Darrel asked if there were any further nominations, and hearing none, closed the nominations process. Dan Loring suggested that the slate be accepted, but Darrel said the council by-laws require an election even if there are no contested positions. Sharon then distributed the ballots. After they were collected, Assemblyman Allan Tesche counted the ballots.

Sgt. Cindi Stanton, Anchorage Police Department:

No one from the community has contacted Sgt. Stanton regarding issues. But people should call if there are any problems. She can be reached at 786-2668, or by e-mail at cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

Les Gara, State House Representative:

There was a good turnout for the recent constituents' pizza party at the Fairview Recreation Center. In Juneau, efforts are underway to implement a profit-sharing production tax for oil companies, and to expand needs-based financial aid for university students. There doesn't seem to be a lot of movement on the Highway-to-

Highway EIS funding in the legislature this year.

Allan Tesche asked if it the case that Gov. Murkowski wants to spend \$230 million on a rail-link; this is about twice what municipal-state revenue sharing was in the good old days. The Anchorage Assembly voted that if revenue sharing is returned, there will be property tax relief.

Dan Loring asked Les to explain his education bills. Les replied that they concern more student aid for University of Alaska, and funding Parent Outreach Officers in each school to encourage parent involvement.

Secretary's Report, Sharon Chamard:

Allen Kemplen asked for an amendment to the minutes from the February general membership meeting minutes. There, he is quoted as asking Doe Anderson about the possibility of moving the Fur Rondy ice sculpture contest to Fairview Lions Park; he said he actually asked about the snow sculpture contest.

It was moved by Sharon Chamard and seconded by Dale Myhill to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report, Harry Deuber:

In the past year, the separate Community Patrol account was eliminated and the funds moved into the council's general account. The Patrol account contained \$1,064.02 on January 1, 2005, and \$859.68 on April 20, 2005 when the account was closed and the funds transferred. The general account contained \$3,100.49 on January 14, 2005, and at the end of 2005 contained \$5,400.01. The current account balance, as of February 21, 2006, is \$5,102.17.

People are reminded that the \$1.00 dues for 2006 are now being collected. In the future, the monthly Treasurer's reports will coincide with bank statement dates instead of general membership meeting dates.

Allan Tesche, Anchorage Assembly:

Allan presented a graphic showing the potential impact if each of the 30 people in

the room is able to convince 10 people to vote in the upcoming municipal election, and each of those 10 people in turn convinces 10 more people to vote. This would result in 3,000 votes, which is about as many votes were cast in the downtown district in the past election.

Dan Loring asked if Allan has ever heard people complaining about the Anchorage School District because it has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country and has low standards. Allan replied that he only hears from Carol Comeau, and occasionally from parents about bonds, but otherwise rarely hears from ordinary people. He hears too many complaints from people who don't want to pay taxes to support schools. He said it is the job of people who care about schools to vote and support school bonds, and to get their friends to vote as well. Dan said the Minority Education Concerns Committee finds that there are people who aren't happy with the Anchorage School District's "customer service," but they don't make an issue of it, and eventually go away. If you dig deeper, you can find an underlying current of dissatisfaction. For example, in Anchorage, 70% of Natives and 40% of African-Americans will dropout before graduating from high school. Allan said there is a tremendous disconnect between the native community and the School District.

Katsumi Kenaston said there are old people and poor people who get cold waiting for the bus, and how will these people be able to vote? Allan replied that if minorities and poor people don't vote, someone else will tell them where they can live, and so on, and will also make them pay a 3% sales tax.

Darrel Hess encouraged people to educate themselves about the bonds, and added that these bonds include \$150,000 for Fairview projects.

Randy Kinney, 16th Avenue Terrace Project

There was a public meeting in mid-January at the Senior Center to discuss evaluation criteria and possible alternatives. Also in January they had an agency meeting with

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MARCH MEETING

the fire department, Merrill Field, and others to get their perspective. A public forum was held on March 8th to go over alternatives. At the present meeting, five alternatives were presented. Randy distributed detailed maps and the agenda from the March 8th meeting.

Alternative 1 – placement of stop signs and no parking signs; estimated cost \$3,125

Alternative 2 – expanded entry lane at SE corner of Medfra and 15th Ave.; estimated cost \$637,500

Alternatives 3a and 3b – creation of new street south of the properties on south side of 16th Avenue Terrace between Medfra and Nelchina Streets; estimated cost \$838,000 or \$917,000 depending on alignment and angle of entry on Medfra Street.

Alternative 4 – widening of 16th Avenue Terrace through right-of-way acquisition on north side of street between Medfra and Nelchina Streets; estimated cost \$1,451,250, which includes \$920,000 for property acquisition

Alternative 5 – installation of sidewalk on south side and creation of snow storage space on north side of 16th Avenue Terrace between Nelchina and Orca Streets; estimated cost \$257,000

Another alternative is to alter the 3B corridor by turning it into parking, and then take the parking in front of those buildings and turn it into a roadway.

Someone suggested a one-lane couplet with the existing 16th Avenue Terrace, with the existing road being one-way and the new one the other way.

Paul Kanitz, representing the 22 homeowners at Birchwood Condos, said they want the alley to be two-way. Then he thanked the council for getting things going, as this has been going on since 1999. Darrel Hess thanked Paul for keeping the issue on the burner for so long.

Stan Wollfe asked if Alternative 2 is really necessary; Randy Kinney replied probably not.

Allen Kemplen moved, seconded by Dan Loring, to amend the agenda to get rid of the scheduled break. There was no objec-

tion.

Fairview Neighborhood Plan

Allen Kemplen gave a brief background on the neighborhood plan process to date, mentioning the Assembly ordinance authorizing groups to put together neighborhood plans, and the importance of Title 21 and the Land Use Plan Map. At last month's general meeting, we talked about the values of our neighborhood; Allen reminded the group by reading the relevant section of the February minutes. The discussion at the current meeting is about goals and strategies. For example, one of our goals is the Highway-to-Highway connection, and our strategy is to get money for the Environmental Impact Statement. To lead off the discussion, Allen asked What are our goals? What are specific things we want to see? Parks, sidewalks, snow removal? For about the next hour, people gave their ideas while Allen facilitated.

Goal 1—Clean sidewalks

Strategies

ordinance requiring property owners to clean adjacent sidewalks
get kids to be involved in snow removal

Goal 2—Make our street more pedestrian-friendly

Strategies

get rid of rolled curbs
an ordinance concerning design criteria

Goal 3—Economic development that is environmentally and socially sustainable

Strategies

needs survey about shopping needs, involving the neighborhood and small businesses
neighborhood as active partner, such as through a community development organization

Goal 4—Encourage volunteerism to help in the local parks and with landscaping

Strategies

Spring Clean-Up

Goal 5—Expand Neighborhood Watch

Strategies

provide training workshops
volunteer personally
talk to neighbors

Goal 6—Expand Fairview Recreation Center to meet the needs of the community

Strategies

request design study
expand programs and services
explore new activities, e.g., Farmers Market

Goal 7—Regarding the Sports Complex, have neighborhood businesses attract spending by visitors

Strategies

street improvements
support Title 21 changes for mixed-use centers

Goal 8—Do something about mega car lots

Strategies

support Title 21 changes
participate in public hearings

Goal 9—Fairview to be recognized as a neighborhood of education excellence for all people

Strategies

partnering with the Department of Education
support funding for schools, e.g.,

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MARCH MEETING

- bonds
- set high standards for Fairview Elementary School and Central Middle School
- promote access to learning, such as through the Internet and a computer lab
- help the Anchorage School District with academic improvement in neighborhood schools and feeder schools
- advocate for early childhood education
- fund student advocate positions

Goal 10—Make Fairview a neighborhood of choice

- Strategies
- better marketing
- improve public education

If people have other goals and strategies not mentioned here, they can send them to Allen.

It was moved by Celeste Benson and seconded by Claris Syren to change the order of business to vote on Resolution regarding the 2nd Public Draft of the Land Use Map. This motion passed with no opposition.

Discussion on the resolution followed. Allen Kemplen said we need to direct MOA staff on what to focus on – where we agree with the MOA Land Use Map and where we don't agree. It allows us to have our comments considered. Joe McCallon asked how the council had gotten the word out about all these previous workshops what Allen mentioned. Allen replied that we did a mail survey a few years ago. For the workshops, flyers were mailed out. 75 people participated in the March 2005 workshop. Joe expressed concern that he had not been informed about any of these things, and asked about the response rate to the survey. Allen said the response rate was fairly low. Dan Loring asked about #6 on the list in the resolution. He said he has

been involved in neighborhood planning activities for a long time, and is glad that the Neighborhood Plan Committee recognized the 15th and Ingra NE corner. He is purchasing property on that corner, and plans to develop the property to meet the needs of the community. He wants to work with the Neighborhood Plan Committee to figure out what to do at that corner before the Land Use Plan Map is finalized, as he wants to be sure not be boxed into some particular kind of development. He also wonders if sometime next winter it might be appropriate to have a group of neighbors meet frequently to figure out what should be done at that corner, because he wants to develop a project that will make people say "WOW."

The resolution regarding the 2nd Public Draft of the Land Use Map was accepted with by a vote of 18-0.

Sharon Chamard moved, seconded by Diane Younger, to extend the meeting past 9 pm to get through the agenda. The motion passed.

Committee and Community Reports:

Beautification, Harry Deuber

The Spring Clean-up is on the first Saturday in May. The Plant Sale is also happening in May. People are needed to help with maintaining landscaping and to adopt diverters. Each of the five diverters can be adopted for \$75.00. On March 14th and 15th there is a two-night workshop on the Delaney Park Strip. The council will likely apply for a Challenge Park grant for the Fairbanks Park upgrades. There may also be bond money (depending on the voters), state funding, and matching funds.

Education Committee, Dale Myhill

Dale thanked the council for the opportunity to be on the Executive Board in the past year. The committee is working with the Fairview Elementary PTA to put on a School Board candidate forum. It is also working with the Fairview Elementary Student Council regarding landscaping. Dale passed out books at Dr. Seuss Day, and met with Amy from the Rec. Ctr to coordinate activities with Gateway. June 1st is the Community Supper at Gateway.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 21st at 6 pm. The location is unknown at this point.

PTA, Dan Loring

The PTA is working on a program for next year to fund school supplies for kids whose families need help. They are working on landscaping maintenance. The election is coming up. They are setting goals for academic improvement, and planning to hold the School Board candidate forum.

Public Safety Committee, Sharon Chamard

At the February committee meeting we met with Pastor James Willis of the New Antioch Church regarding the status of two of his boarded-up properties at the corners of 13th and Karluk and junk vehicles on one of the properties. Pastor Willis said one of the buildings will be renovated soon, and asserted that the so-called junk vehicles are actually operational. There was discussion about the Oaken Keg at Carrs Gambell. Several months ago the FVCC passed a resolution recommending the temporary removal of one of the operating conditions on the Oaken Keg. Specifically, it allowed them to only have a security guard at the store from 6 pm until closing, rather than during all hours of business. The committee agreed not to oppose a continuation of this condition's removal. However, it was the general sentiment of the committee that this not be interpreted as support for Carrs Gambell, as several members of the committee expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the store's operation, such as shady characters in the parking lot in the morning, flagrant shoplifting, and a proliferation of shopping carts throughout the neighborhood. Also, Sharon drafted a letter requesting \$5,000 of state funds for the Community Patrol and sent it to Representative Les Gara. He asked that there also be a motion of support for requesting this money from the council. *A sense of the body motion passed unanimously.*

Zoning, Dan Loring

Junk vehicles are now gone from 1230 LaTouche. Daune Wyatt is doing a fantas-

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S MARCH MEETING

-tic job.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Diane Younger – the Planning and Zoning Commission recently opposed rezoning to allow Wal-Mart to build in Muldoon. Now the issue goes to the Assembly. Darrel Hess said that the decision of the Commission still allows for the building of a Wal-Mart, or a Sam's Club, just not both.

Stan Wolff – it is his understanding that March 3rd is not the absolute deadline for public comments on the 2nd draft of Title 21. Regarding car lots,

he thinks light trespass will be an issue in Title 21.

New Business:

Dan Loring – at the next general membership meeting, he would like the council to consider a donation of \$100 to the Fairview Elementary Student Council.

Diane Younger – the Spirit of Youth Awards will be on channel 13 this Friday night. Also, Elgin Jones received a Hero Award.

Darrel Hess reported on the annual

election of officers. The slate was accepted by the membership. On March 14th, the Assembly will be voting on a resolution recognizing the Fairview Community Council as the official sponsor of the Fairview Neighborhood Plan. Thanks to Allen Kemplen for his hard work and leadership.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Secretary.

FAIRBANKS PARK PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

As part of the ongoing efforts by the Fairview Community Council and the Neighborhood to reclaim Fairbanks Park from unsavory elements, a Public Workshop has been scheduled.

The Workshop will take place Saturday, April 15th from 10am till 12 noon at the Fairview Community Recreation Center, 1121 East 10th Avenue. For more information, contact Sharon Chamard: 222-0649.

The Council has \$150,000 in the Park Bonds Package, and \$150,000 on the

Municipality's Legislative Capital Request List to help fund park improvements, with a focus on Public Safety. The MOA is also working with the Anchorage Parks Foundation in an effort to obtain funding.

As a first step in the Neighborhood's efforts, last year the Dan Loring Family stepped up to the plate and adopted Fairbanks Park. This year a Clean & Green is scheduled for Fairbanks Park.

As part of the outreach for the Public Workshop, informational flyers will be

distributed to residents and businesses near the park.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the distribution of flyers, or the Workshop, please contact Sharon.

Reclaiming our Neighborhood Parks for residents, as a safe and attractive place for children and residents to gather and socialize, is an extremely important part of our efforts to revitalize Fairview and make it a Neighborhood of Choice in the 21st Century:
GET INVOLVED TODAY!

CHECK OUT THE FVCC WEB PAGE TODAY!

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/14.html> is the address of the Fairview Community Councils Page on the Federation of Community Councils' Web Site: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/1.html>. When the Federation's Home Page opens, click on "Fairview" on the list of Community Councils on the right hand side of the page.

Sharon Chamard and Darrel Hess have been uploading information to the Council's page, and should have the process completed in the next week or two. There are, or will be, on the site, listings of Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs, with contact information, the Council's Bylaws, a map of the Fairview Community Council, a Fairview Calendar of events, workshops, functions and meetings, pages for the Council's Committees, and a page with links to the FVCC's Business & Institutional Partners. Check it out & stay tuned for new additions!

KING'S COURT FIRE (cont.)

step up and provide support. I too would like to compliment the Fire Dept, the Red Cross and Central Lutheran Church for their exemplary work and support

I'm not one to normally toot my own horn, but I'd like to recognize the Municipality & Parks & Recreation for stepping up during this time of emergency. City Manager Denis LeBlanc authorized use of the Fairview Recreation Center as a shelter for many of those families who were displaced.

We have had Center staff members on duty around the clock since early Saturday

morning to ensure the Red Cross has access to what they need within the facility and to help displaced families feel as comfortable as possible during their time of need. Kali Flowers not only worked the night shift Saturday night/Sunday morning, but also her normal opening shift Sunday morning. That makes for a long day. Becky Ring volunteered to work Sunday night into Monday morning. Other staff members worked their normal shifts and helped wherever/whenever needed, while still others volunteered to help if needed. I, myself, was called in at 1am Saturday morning and again at 4am Monday morn-

ing. I don't believe any of us are looking for recognition, we're just happy to be part of the community and be able to assist in any way we can."

Bottom Line: Disasters such as the King's Court fire show what type of spirit exists in a Neighborhood and Community: Fairview & Anchorage demonstrated that they are First Class!

HISTORIC 4 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

KUDOS to the Fairview Community Council's Education Committee, especially Committee Chair Dale Myhill and Committee Member and Fairview PTA President Dan Loring, for taking the lead in organizing a very successful School Board Candidate Forum!

The Candidate Forum, under the auspices of Anchorage's Historic 4 Neighborhoods, was held Thursday March 30, 2006 from 6-8pm at the Fairview Community Recreation Center. Seven of eight School Board Candidates attended.

Audience members posed several pointed and probing questions to the candidates, going beyond the one-liners and tag lines that many candidates throw out during campaigns, looking for answers to hard

issues and concerns with the state of Public Education in Anchorage.

The success of the Forum opens the possibility of making this type of function something that the Historic 4 would facilitate for every School Board Election!

These types of forums, where Neighborhood Residents and Parents can ask the "hard" questions regarding achievement in our Public Schools, could have a significant impact on the future of our Public Schools, and the direction of the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage School Board.

Dale Myhill and Dan Loring are to be commended for their continued efforts to make a GOOD Public Education for every student in Fairview, and indeed all of An-

chorage, a reality in this decade.

"Our Children Are Our Future," is not a cliché, it is a fact! What kind of future do we want for our Neighborhood and our Community? That future will be determined in large part by the quality and caliber of the Public Education that future and current generations receive in the Anchorage Public Schools.

YOU CAN HELP: Become involved in your children's education, volunteer to read at Fairview Elementary School, volunteer with the Fairview PTA, and attend meeting AND make informed decisions regarding School Board and Assembly Elections and School Bonds!

Make A Difference In Our Future!

Contact Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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