



The Fairview Press

Serving Fairview where "People Make The Difference"

SMALL CHANGES CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2006

Tentative Agenda Topics

For the May 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 ASD on the Denali Pedestrian Tunnel
- An updated on Fairview's V.A. Domiciliary
- Community Comments & Concerns
- Committee & Community Reports

The 13th and Gambell intersection, for a long time notorious in Anchorage for its gatherings of drug dealers, prostitutes, panhandlers, and street inebriates, is a different place.

Several things happened in the past couple of years to change behavior there. Owners of the office building on the northeast corner fenced in their parking lot. This made the areas under the building and in the adjacent alley less appealing for drug dealers and vagrants.

Nye Frontier Lincoln Mercury moved into the old Chubby Chicken's Cheep Cheep carpet store, and improved the look of the southeast corner with attractive landscaping and stronger lighting.

The new security officers at Carrs Gambell are working hard to keep trespassed people off the property. At the

The FVCC's Neighborhood Planning efforts continue at the Council's Thursday, May 11th General Membership Meeting. NHP Committee Chair Allen Kemplen will update the Membership and Neighborhood on the

Mental Health Consumer Web's Computer Connection, new policies and procedures are in place and there is a new Executive Director, and already there seem to be positive things happening.

The most immediate and noticeable change was the result of People Mover relocating the bus stops from the west side of the intersection to the east side. Thanks are due to Jody Karcz and Tom Wilson for listening to the concerns of neighbors and arranging to have the stops moved.

Now that the bus doesn't stop on the northwest corner, there is no longer an excuse for people to hang around in the parking lot there. The police can more clearly identify who is trespassing on the property, and it is clear that more police attention is being paid to the corner.

The efforts of Chief Mone-

gan and the other members of the Anchorage Police Department to return this area to the residents of Fairview are very much appreciated.

People who have lived in Fairview for a long time recall that there used to be dozens of people on 13th and Gambell on a typical night, selling drugs or their bodies, begging for money, or getting drunk. A newcomer to the neighborhood might find those stories hard to believe now. Nothing really big happened at 13th and Gambell, but huge results can come from small changes over a long period of time.

The Neighborhood still has work to do at the intersection, but people coming together to make positive changes epitomizes what the Fairview Community Council is all about!

Submitted by Sharon Chamard

The FVCC will hold a Public Meeting Saturday, May 13th, from 10am-1pm, at the Anchorage Senior Center to unveil the Draft of the first three chapters of the Fairview Neighborhood Plan. Be sure to attend this important meeting!

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyranny; it is the creed of slaves."

William Pitt (the Younger)
(1759-1806)

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S APRIL MEETING

Meeting called to order by presiding officer Sharon Chamard at 7:10 pm.

The agenda was amended to allow two guests to speak for two minutes each prior to the regular agenda items. Hugh Wade from the Mountain View Community Council thanked Allen Kemplen for his recent guidance on issues that neighborhood is dealing with. Lydia Hayward from the Anchorage Women's Commission gave a brief description of the goals of the organization.

Secretary's Report, Sharon Chamard:

Due to communication and technical problems, there were no copies of the March general membership meeting minutes available. At the May meeting, the membership can vote to approve both the March and the April minutes.

Treasurer's Report, Harry Deuber:

Balance forward 2/14/06
\$5,151.43

Deposits

2/22/06 Memberships 8.00

Total Deposits **\$8.00**

Balance **\$5,159.43**

Expenses

2/24/06 Neighborhood Plan Reimburse Sharon Chamard 37.97

2/24/06 ACS (Patrol hotline) 19.29

2/24/06 Alaska's Best Water 31.00

Total Expenses **\$88.26**

3/14/06 Ending Balance
\$5,071.17

Sgt. Cindi Stanton, Anchorage Police

Department:

No one from the community has contacted Sgt. Stanton in the last month regarding issues. The gang unit has been making contact with suspected gang members, and confiscating lots of guns and body armor. People are reminded not to leave their valuables in their vehicles when parked at trailheads. Sgt. Stanton can be reached at 786-2668, or by e-mail at cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us, although she will be out of the office until May 10th.

Allan Tesche, Anchorage Assembly:

Downtown will change soon because of the convention center construction, and will be a mess for the next couple of years. Work will also start on the E Street Corridor project and the museum expansion.

On the Assembly, there was a dustup concerning the liquor license for Calypso's Martini Bar at 637 A. Street. It turns out this is next to a Russian Orthodox Church, and there was lots of opposition from priests. The bar probably won't open because of a law prohibiting a liquor establishment from being within 200 feet of a religious meeting area. There continues to be debate about the sign ordinance and pole signs, and people are upset about the 92 feet high transmission towers recently installed by Chugach Electric along Northern Lights. On Tuesday the Assembly will be taking up the Assisted Living ordinance again. Allan praised the Neighborhood Plan and congratulated Allen Kemplen and the rest of the Neighborhood Plan Committee for their hard work.

Questions and comments from the membership concerned recent gun ordinances and the state law prohibiting bars within 200 feet of churches.

Doe Anderson, Northwest Parks District

The Parks Bond was not supported by the electorate in the recent municipal election. This will led to a set back on some projects. The advisory board for the Northwest Parks District will be going on a tour of the area parks to identify those that need help the most. The Parks and Recreation

Department is moving to "zoned gardening," wherein staff will be assigned to take care of the parks within a certain area. The parks in Fairview are getting better, but there are a few areas with severe decay. Last summer, there was great participation from Fairview residents on parks projects. The three neighborhood paintings in the multi-purpose room at the Rec. Ctr. are going to be restored and perhaps covered with plexiglass.

Amy Danzl, Fairview Recreation Center

There will be classes offered in the computer lab and on personal finances. Over the Spring Break, 35 children attended the program, though not many were from Fairview.

Allen Kemplen asked who is responsible for the Fairview gateway sign on 15th and Orca, as some of the lights are burnt out. Doe said Park Maintenance is responsible for the sidewalk areas along 15th, Street Maintenance looks after the median, and lights are replaced by Facilities Maintenance.

Fairview Neighborhood Plan

Allen Kemplen began by showing the FVCC flyer he received in the mail that day which advertises the Fairview Neighborhood Plan process and asks for public participation at the April, May, and June general membership meetings and the workshop on May 13th at the Senior Center. He then presented the first three chapters of the draft Neighborhood Plan, and then led an hour-long discussion on the action items people would like to see in the plan. The following ideas were generated:

- Take advantage of economic engines in neighborhood
 - Sullivan Arena
- Quality education for our youth
 - K-12
 - family education
 - rite of passage
- Rebuilding unity
 - block parties

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S APRIL MEETING

- identifying elders
 - homeownership
- Fourplexes
 - landlord association
 - strict design standards (lots, parking, dumpsters)
- Walk about survey
 - incentives to respond
- Redevelopment after Highway-to-Highway
 - mixed-use
 - winter city design
- Improving distribution of information to residents
 - pamphlets distributed door-to-door closer to meetings

Committee and Community Reports:

Education Committee, Dale Myhill

The committee met on March 21st and Dale reported briefly on what occurred there. The School Board Candidate Forum went very well, with seven of eight candidates attending. The Fairview Community Barbecue will be on June 1st from 5-7 pm at the Parkview Manor (810 Karluk St.). If anyone wants to receive the minutes of the Education Committee meetings, they can leave their e-mail addresses with Dale or look on the FVCC website.

Beautification, Harry Deuber

The Spring Clean-up is on the first Saturday in May. Waste Management will not be donating dumpsters this year. Each one will cost \$125, but the muni will waive the dump fee. Money for the dumpsters will come from out of Beautification Committee funds. Other committee activities, such as the plant sale and diverter planting, will be starting very soon. The committee will be working closely with Parks and Recreation. The calendar of activities is on the FVCC website. Volunteers are needed for all activities.

Recreation Center, Dave Brossard

The facility is still being painted. It is taking a while because there is only one painter, but there has been much progress already. The Center will be closed from May 30th to June 5th for floor maintenance. Victims of the fire at King's Court were able to use the Center as a shelter. The Muni Contracting Office has some money to spend this year on the Rec. Center.

Public Safety Committee, Sharon Chamard

At the March Public Safety Committee meeting there was discussion about behavior problems among kids at the Recreation Center and possible approaches to handle the situation. Sharon is still trying to find someone who might be interested in being involved with the Brother Francis Shelter. The committee discussed possible content for the new Fairview Community Council website. Things have been quiet on community patrol, although one property is under surveillance, and another landlord, despite evicting some drug dealers, still has work to do. Sharon and Lee put together a letter to Les Gara asking for \$5,000 for the patrol. His staff got back to us and asked us to be more specific with a list and costs of items and to prioritize the list. Sharon attended a meeting on April 4th regarding the Anchorage Community Assessment Project. This involves a city-wide survey effort on June 3rd; it is very likely there will be people in Fairview that day surveying residents on a number of community indicators. There will be a design workshop on Fairbanks Park on Saturday, April 15th from 10 am to noon at the Fairview Recreation Center.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Celeste Benson would like a regular agenda item for a report from the Anchorage Senior Center. The Senior Center will be having an Open House on Wednesday, May 17th from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Regina Manteufel commented on the activities of the Red Cross in relation to the victims of the King's Court Fire. She was angry because the Red Cross refused her offer of a clothing donation, and asked

that the FVCC send a letter of complaint to the Red Cross. Allen Kemplen said the matter merits further consideration, and that perhaps the Red Cross should be invited to the May general membership meeting to account for its actions.

Ron Alleva mentioned two pieces of legislation concerning firearms that are pending in Juneau and with the Assembly. He moved that the council write a letter to Senator Johnny Ellis and Representative Les Gara voicing our opposition to concealed gun laws that allow adults to bring firearms onto school property. This motion carried. He then made another motion that the council write a letter to Assemblyman Allan Tesche and Mayor Mark Begich opposing the municipal ordinance that would allow guns seized or confiscated by the municipality to be auctioned directly to the public. This motion carried.

Old Business:

At last month's meeting, Dan Loring requested that the FVCC make a \$100 donation to the Student Council at Fairview Elementary School. A motion was introduced to this effect and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Submitted by Justina Meyer and Sharon Chamard.

<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. When the Federation's Home Page opens, click on "Fairview" on the list of Community Councils on the right hand side of the page.

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.

FAIRBANKS PARK: A WORKSHOP & A GRANT!

On April 13th, several members of the FVCC met with Doe Anderson of the Northwest Parks District and E. 11th Avenue residents to discuss design changes for Fairbanks Park. The main issue is the use of the park by street inebriates.

There was consensus that building a fence along the south side of the park should be the top priority. Lighting was also emphasized as a way to deal with the inebriates. Changes are slated for the playground area as well. The

priorities of the group were to replace the pea gravel underneath the equipment with a softer, rubber-like material and to remove the basketball court.

The first landscaping goal will be improvements to the central planted area, followed by new planters on the northeast and northwest corners of the park. Since the meeting, there has already been progress. Street Maintenance will be repairing the muddy parking area on the south side of the park by bringing in crushed asphalt.

The Fairview Community Council recently heard that it is the recipient of a Challenge Grant from the Anchorage Parks Foundation to be used for improvements to Fairbanks Park. It is a match grant from the Rasmuson Foundation.

Special thanks to Dan Loring and Harry Deuber for their efforts in putting together the grant application! Thanks also to Doe Anderson and Sharon Chamard for their help with the Fairbanks Park Workshop!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

***Saturday, May 6, 2006, 10am-2pm:** Fairview's Annual Spring Clean Up Day. Meet at the Fairview Recreation Center, 1125 East 10th Avenue, starting at 10am, to get bags and/or team up with others.

Individuals and groups will clean up various locations in the Neighborhood. Two large dumpsters will be available in the Rec Center parking lot. NO refrigerator, batteries or other hazardous materials please! **Pick Up Trucks needed: contact Harry Deuber at 440-6372. Come out and help make a difference!**

***Saturday, May 13, 2006, 10am-1pm:** Fairview Community Council Public Meeting at the Anchorage Senior Center to unveil the Draft of the first three chapters of the Fairview Neighborhood Plan. For

more information contact Allen Kemplen: 274-9772 or Darrel Hess: 258-3714.

Please attend this important Neighborhood Meeting and lend your voice and vision for Fairview's future!

Thursday, June 1, 2006: Fairview Community BBQ, 5pm-7pm, Park View Manor, 801 Karluk Street. Free food, pony rides, games for the kids, music and free books! Sponsored by Nine Star Enterprises, the YWCA, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Youth & Family Network and the MOA Parks & Recreation Department.

***Thursday, June 1, 2006:** Due to the closure of the Fairview Community Recreation Center for annual floor repairs, the Council's June Executive Board Meeting

will be held from 7pm to 9pm at the Anchorage Senior Center, 1300 East 19th Avenue. For more information or directions, contact Council Secretary Sharon Chamard at 222-0649.

***Thursday, June 8th, 2006:** Due to the closure of the Fairview Community Recreation Center for annual floor repairs, the Council's June General Membership Meeting will be held from 7pm to 9pm at the Central Lutheran Church, 1420 Cordova Street. For more information or directions, contact Council Secretary Sharon Chamard at 222-0649.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ANCHORAGE SENIOR CENTER AND CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR FACILITIES FOR OUR JUNE MEETINGS!

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