

Minutes - Spenard Community Council

Spenard Recreation Center

2020 West 48th Ave

November 7, 2018

(all times approximate)

6:30 pm Set Up - Coffee/Cookies/Conversations

7:00 pm Introductions: Executive Committee; Guests

Neighborhood and Community Announcements (1-2 minutes suggested)

- Tonya and Liddy shares Solarize Anchorage opportunity and asks community members to sign up. 15 people have signed up and have businesses who have expressed interest.
- Sam, the coach of drama and debate team shares that at West High School on Dec. 7th -8th there is a tournament. He invites everyone to attend and/or be a volunteer judge.
- Candace Blas the manager of Church of Love invites the council to attend a dance festival tomorrow 6-9 pm who is addressing the concept of land recognition through dance. There will also be an Alaska Native dance group. Free to the public with hot soup and fresh bread.
- Helen and Sharon share concerns with the public transportation system. Helen has a disabled son who struggles with the cancelled bus route and says that the cancelling routes to save people time is inequitable for many Anchorage residents. Sharon asks for our support in asking for the city to restore bus routes. Jay asks council to talk to them after the meeting and sign up on their sign in sheet to stay involved in the issue.
- Abe and Tammy are opening up a dispensary in the Tesoro strip mall next to Tammy. They will present in December.
- Mark Butler co-founder of the Spenard Farmers Market introduces a new award inspired by Rene Hegg. "The good citizen award" for being super volunteers for the cause. The award goes to our own Tom McGrath and Tim Kosednar.

Approval of Agenda and October 2018 meeting minutes

- Agenda moved to approved by Tom McGrath and second by Peggy

Airport Report (John Johansen)

- Aircraft using North South runway through the winter. Ted Stevens foundation opening a memorial exhibit near security.
- Human sex trafficking Awareness Educational opportunity open to the public on Nov. 27th at 10am and 4pm. 90 mins.
- Airport is still looking for firefighters, and police officers, aircraft mechanics.
- Ribbon cutting for Alaska Airlines hangar on old international. This is where maintenance for 737s will be participating.

No Assembly Report (Special Assembly Meeting tonight)

- Jay Stange - Spenard Community Council By Laws changes were not accepted. Lessons learned 1) take by laws suggestions to Municipal Ombudsman before the Assembly review. 2) once you are a member, you are always a member. 3) voting rights are established as a council. All by laws changes are tabled until further notice.
- Lois Dr. has had a \$20+ million dollar renovation proposed in the budget. Jay negotiated a \$500,000 bond issue with PM&E and the Assembly for sidewalk/trail improvements from 32nd to Benson and some intersection realignment at 32nd and Lois. Our previous request for sidewalks at the intersection were denied bc the city of Anchorage was not the owner of the right of way. The city and state transferred ownership to city. We have requested a safer intersection and a bike trail from 32nd to Benson with better lighting. Amendments are due on Nov. 14th.

School Board Report (Deena Mitchell) Out for negotiations.

7:30 PM **Report** on 32nd Ave.and 33rd Ave. Upgrades (Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle AK, and Matt Edge, CRW Engineering)

- Public open houses next week and Dec. 4th to talk about improvements to non-motorized paths in Midtown and Spenard area. Special Spenard area meeting next Thursday will share route alternatives and types of facilities that are possible for the corridors. Dec. 4th is an open house for the entire plan and they are looking for feedback so they can make recommendations to planning and zoning commission.
- Spenard public stakeholder meeting is Thursday Nov. 15th.
- Alternatives could look like shared lanes, protected bike lanes, and more. Protected bike lanes require more changes to the adjacent properties and land owners will need to be involved in the decision making process.
- All comments are welcomed. You can send comments on their website, via email, or in person.
- Jay mentioned that we have identified as a council that a priority non-motorized corridor is from Cuddy Park to Fish Creek. Jay asks that we step back from the project and rethink where to spend our money and consider what is going to keep people safe. Jay says that 32nd and 33rd don't get enough non-motorized traffic to be work the resources and we should consider upgrading 36th and Northern Lights/Benson.
- Tom McGrath talks about Bear Tooth/Moose's Tooth and how they typically get free passes to the Title 21 parking code. Tom says this plan seems to benefit these businesses.

7:45 PM Emily Kloc, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, **presentation** on Toxic-Free Children Act - protection from a toxic flame retardants on furniture and children's products.

- ACAT is environmental health and justice organization.
- Toxic-free Anchorage ordinance at local level and Toxic-free Children's ACT at state level.

- They are working on health impacts to flame retardants that are found in furniture, children's products, and other common items. They are tied to lowering children's IQs and more. The ordinance would ban a class of retardants from children's products. Removing this chemical also protects firefighters. The ordinance has support from the fire-department in Anchorage. 5 co-sponsors on Assembly level right now including Eric Croft. The ordinance would affect products being sold in Anchorage.
- What are non-toxic alternatives? California, who is a large furniture producer, passed a law to eliminate flame retardants in furniture. There are natural waves, like different types of fabric and weaving in a certain way.
- Emily will come back for a future council meeting with more information on the specifics of the ordinance and a draft resolution for council support.

7:55 PM **Presentation** from Spenard Community Council Land Use Committee on amendments to the city's R-2 zoning districts. www.muni.org/Planning/2040actions.aspx

- Spenard has the highest amount of R2 districting. This is an important issue for Spenard. R2 lots are 7,000sq. The amendments say that you can only have 3500 sq of building on each lot with height sizing changes as well. Tom says they give builders really clear definitions of what is allowed. The SCC commented at the meeting that we would like the old code and new code to apply for one year. We commented that there should be a grace period of one year for these changes that people who have ongoing projects can continue.
- The councils wants a committee to work on this issue
- Sharon Lovegreen and seconded by Jed Smith to approve a resolution to support the R2 code changes with the amendment to have the grace period.
 - Motion carried unanimously. All support.

8:15a PM: Alaska Airlines Sign Variance

- Nov. 21st is the deadline for council input on the new Alaska Airlines hangar and signs. These signs are out of code in terms of area and placement. We have worked in the past to stop variances for other businesses. Jed Smith motions and Tom McGrath motions to approve the resolution that denies the variance. Lorile suggest we amend the resolution language to add that we support Alaska Airlines. This amendment was denied and Lorile retracts her amendment suggestion. Jed Smith adds that we add a line that we have historically opposed sign variances.
 - Unanimous approval from council

8:15 PM **ACTION ITEM:** Resolution urging the Anchorage Assembly to require marking of all containers sold by package stores (Tom McGrath)

- All businesses should put a sticker or identifying mark on all individual bottles that we can trace trash + other nuisances back to businesses.

- The resolution says SCC supports the identification of origin for liquor in individual containers.
- Discussion moved to approved by Bill Marsh and seconded.
 - Bill Marsh suggests that this helps identify where improperly selling alcohol. This could help identify where people need additional training.
 - Sam is worried this will help train people to discriminate against people.
 - Jed says this is going to help us collect data that can help us go to ABC board when there is an issue when licenses are up for approval. Says we can't sit back and do nothing with these operators in our neighborhood.
 - 15 yes votes and 6 opposed votes. Resolution passes and Tom will forward language from resolution.

8:30 pm Wrap Up