

South Addition Community Council

Minutes - October 19, 2006 Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

I. Minutes of the September 21, 2006 meeting approved unanimously with correction to spelling of Kate Herring's name.

II. Reports

President's Report – Bonnie Harris, President reported:

- a. Capital Improvements - MOA Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) informed SACC that two SACC projects have proposed funding in the draft 2007-2012 CIP: 1) improvements to downtown curbs and sidewalks; and 2) Valley of the Moon Park upgrades improving turf, irrigation and upgrading the ball field.
- b. Delaney Park Strip - Proposed Title 25 amendment to require Assembly approval of major changes to the Park Strip is scheduled for consideration by the Assembly on October 24th. It was postponed for Assembly and Mayor to address a solution.
- c. Regulatory Commission of Alaska - Chugach Electric has applied for a change that would reduce retail rates and increase wholesale rates.
- d. Federation of Community Councils (FCC) - Hosting an October 25 event as part of Community Council Awareness Month.
- e. Zoning & Platting cases in SACC area:
 - 2006-123 Amendment to AMC 21.15.012.B to correct error regarding dimensional tolerances for variances concerning lot coverage; Hearing October 31.
 - 2006-074 Amendment to Title 21 regarding standards for High Voltage Transmission Tower Regulations; Hearing October 31.
 - 2006-138 Amendments to Title 21 regarding Urban Design Commission duties hearing November 6, 2006.
 - 2006-112 Amendments to Title 21 regarding off-street parking; No hearing date set.
**See the MOA website at www.muni.gov "Zoning and Platting Cases On-line" for additional detail and to provide on-line comments to specific cases.*

FCC Report – Kathy Weeks, FCC representative, reported:

- a. Star Youth Program: with a focus on young athletes, currently working with 300 young people, would like to know of community service activities to involve their participants. Call or email William Lidster at 317-2808 or wlidster@alaskastars.org with potential projects.
- b. Title 21: rewrite of the Land Use Code could affect SACC residents. An Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) will be completed this winter. Final review of Title 21 will occur in the summer of 2007, with public hearings and commission reviews between now and then.
- c. Anchorage School District –funding issues; two new charter schools are being considered, one with a Native Alaskan focus, the other a German immersion program.
- d. Anchorage Police Department – a new academy occurs in January. Look out for more aggressive ticketing in downtown since new officer training is in effect.

Legislative Report– Kate Herring reported Senator Ellis is working on the overhaul of substance abuse treatment laws for the State. Les Gara is attending at least two other CC meetings.

Municipal Assembly Report – Gene Storm reported: Assemblyman Allen Tesche is out of state for medical reasons and is anxious to get back to full speed on the Assembly; the 2007 MOA budget has had one public hearing, with the second on October 31st; the budget includes \$22 million in State revenue sharing and indications from legislators are that they will approve such legislation; and the Mayor intends to apply the full \$22 million to property tax relief.

APD Report - Sgt. Cindy Stanton went over crime statistics and provided the technical definition of many crimes. Changes in crime statistics for SACC may be viewed on line at _____.

III. Old/New Business

- a. Knik Arm Bridge Authority - Kathy Weeks reported that the recent public hearing was focused particularly on the proposed routes through Government Hill, with the Bridge Authority providing information and generally promoting construction of the bridge.

In opposition to the Knik Arm Crossing, SACC adopted Resolution 10-19-06B, (moved by Cheryl Richardson, 12 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention):

The SACC opposes the Knik Arm Crossing Project. Instead of investing further in the Knik Arm Crossing effort, the SACC encourages the Municipality and the State to invest in transportation improvements that benefit neighborhoods, specifically supporting public transit, sidewalks and roads that improve and not negatively impact neighborhoods.

Prior to action on Resolution 10-19-06B, SACC adopted Resolution 10-19-06A, which restated SACC's opposition to proposed Knik Arm Crossing routes through Government Hill and connecting to the A/C couplet. Resolution 10-19-06A was rescinded on reconsideration in favor of full opposition to the crossing in Resolution 10-19-06B.

- b. Update on E Street and 9th Avenue – SACC asked PM&E to present an update on the E Street and 9th Avenue projects. They sent a statement to the effect that: USKH Architects & Engineers has done initial study for improvements to 9th Avenue between L and Ingra Streets and will prepare plans and specifications for conversion of 9th Avenue into three lanes with pedestrian amenities and landscaping, and possibly lighting and signal plans. The public process to assist with development of a design will resume this fall; construction is scheduled for summer 2008.

- c. Alaska Railroad (ARR) update by Patrick Flynn:

1. The ARR is studying capacity improvements between Ship Creek and the airport. The ARR is down to two options, the No-build and the Double Track options. Once they identify the preferred alternative, they will have public hearings.
2. Public access trains will be running from the airport to downtown during the Alaska Native Federation Conference (AFN).
3. Inter-modal Facility Update – track upgrades in 2007; Phase 2 Depot renovation is not yet funded; Phase 3 bridge and lounge is not yet funded.

Follow-up Railroad questions from the membership included:

Will new track go inland or ocean side? *Patrick said location would vary.*

Noise of trains blasting horns is a nuisance and possible a health hazard. Pat indicated the need to use the horn is a safety issue and depends on the type of crossing at intersections as well as any trespass activity on the tracks.

The new track should be built on good fill to eliminate vibration. *Patrick says even with the use of high quality fill, vibration cannot be totally eliminated due to native sub-soils.*

The ARR needs to be responsive to local phone calls and complaints. *Patrick provided his phone number and the comment portion of their web site to help residents be heard. Pat is at 265-2206, the ARR internet address is public_comments@akrr.com.*

Some SACC residents want the ARR to guarantee trains will not be stored on the double tracks adjacent to residences. *Patrick cannot make such guarantees, however he indicated several reasons it is not preferred to store trains away from the Ship Creek Yard.*

The Delaney Park supporters have discussed providing a connection from the west end of the park to the coastal trail. *Patrick indicated the ARR has knowledge of this and is not opposed to burrowing under the tracks and that it is an MOA funding issue.*

Light Rail is important for Anchorage. *Patrick indicated the ARR would work with the MOA to assure coordination at points along the ARR tracks that could compliment light rail.*

- d. Chester Creek Fish Passage presentation by David Wigglesworth (Mayor's Office):
David Wigglesworth, who works on creek and salmon restoration issues for the MOA, offered to keep the Mayor informed of other issues he heard at the evening's meeting. He provided a handout with project descriptions and iterated that the goal of his efforts is to get fish to return to creeks and to improve the function of watersheds including reducing flood hazard. There are two phases to the proposed Westchester Lagoon project: 1) relocation of utilities on the ocean side, which has begun; and 2) work on the Lagoon side.

Comments from the membership included:

The Waterways Council did a study indicating bear populations may increase with fish run increases. Mixing bears and people is not a good idea and consideration to this is critical.

David is aware of the bear issue and is working with Fish and Game.

How long will construction take and where will staging occur. *David said staging could occur where current staging is occurring for the ocean side work.*

IV. Community Comments

1. Cheryl Richardson noted Title 21 rewrite has diluted the purpose statements which weakens the overall document in terms of the goals stated in the Anchorage 20/20 plan.
2. Mara Carnahan suggested we wear nametags at meetings and will provide supplies for that at the next meeting.
3. Gene Storm suggested we Google "Peak Oil" regarding the relationship of oil in the future to building our road systems.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.