

Spenard Community Council Minutes November 2, 2005

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its November meeting shortly after 7 pm. No legislative teleconference was planned this month. The Minutes from the last meeting and the Meeting Agenda were both approved as drafted.

Assembly Reports

Pamela Jennings and Dan Sullivan provided the Assembly report for this month. Ms. Jennings reported that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) passed the Assembly. The Lake Otis & Tudor project, along with any coastal trail work, were cut out according to Ms. Jennings. Language related to “attractive and efficient” transportation was deleted from the plan. Mr. Sullivan reported that Lake Otis & Tudor was not “cut out”, just reprioritized until alternative routes are completed. The Coastal Trail amendment, sponsored by Sullivan, was intended to address the “taking of private property” issue that he said doesn’t make sense. People want repairs of the trail system too, he stated. The amendments passed 9-2. Ms. Jennings said that the Harding & Van Buren project is in the LRTP at \$2.6 million. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he submitted an amendment to move the proposed schedule up from 2008 to 2006 using the Lake Otis & Tudor funding. He also said that it might be placed on the State list. Ms. Jennings mentioned that the Parks Plan would be up next week. Budget hearings are also set for that meeting November 9th. The Taft/Van Buren project needs community comments during this meeting also. Mr. Sullivan indicated that \$250,000 was added back to the Northwoods project. He further discussed an amendment he is introducing to the Sign Ordinance. It will either grandfather existing signs or extend the amortization period. Auto dealers and others that use temporary signs and banners are also an issue they hope to address. Leniency of rules for the “18-20 year old clubs” needs to be fixed said Ms. Jennings. This was part of her update on the ongoing issue at Fantasies on 5th. Mr. Sullivan continued, adding there are other small issues the Assembly will be discussing including longevity pay. The Assisted Living ordinance and the Large Domestic Animal ordinance are also up again.

Several council members had questions for the Assembly representatives. Peggy Auth expressed dissatisfaction over the changes to the LRTP and the manner in which they came about. Mr. Sullivan replied that we funded the transit portion at 100%. Peggy continued about how hypocritical it was to oppose taking land for trails but not for freeways. Another member asked if the treatment of the Harding project funds was even legal? Mr. Sullivan cautioned not to get caught up in the rhetoric – AMATS has the final say and everyone will get another chance in 3 years to comment. Peggy continued to express disappointment with the way the Assembly handled the Lake Otis & Tudor project. “Don’t think anybody in the neighborhoods believe that this project should be deferred.” Mr. Sullivan said the complete grid of roads needs to be constructed to solve the problem. Sam O’Connor asked about School Resource Officers. Mr. Sullivan said that the Municipality is locked in, as part of the original grant, to keep the positions at least 1 year after the grant expires. Ms. Jennings indicated it was the Chief of Police’s

priority to maintain the positions, although some would prefer to have officers on the street instead of in the schools. A council member asked why the power lines wouldn't be buried as part of the road projects. The response indicated that they would if it weren't so cost prohibitive.

Chairman Auth provided a brief update on the discussions that went on during the last Federation of Community Councils meeting related to the Assisted Living issue.

Habitat Update

Habitat is actively seeking applicants for the homes that are planned at 32nd and Spenard. Everyone interested in providing input on the design is also encouraged to call them.

APD Community Liaison Report – Officer Stanton

Officer Stanton provided follow up on questions asked during the last meeting. Sam O'Connor had asked whether the area north of Spenard Rd. had recently seen an increase in crime, theft in particular? The reply was that in the area of Northwoods/Taft/48th during the August to October timeframe, only six thefts had been reported. This is consistent statistics from adjoining areas. Everyone was encouraged to look their home and car doors to deter potential thieves. Tom McGrath asked about the Cops in Schools program. He also inquired about the smoking problem around West High and why more citations aren't issued. Officer Stanton said she would pass on these concerns. She also reiterated that she can be reached by phone or email if anyone has questions or concerns.

Northwood Drive Update

Steve Noble provided an update for the council. He related the history of the project and why work isn't going on this season. Northwood Drive project is going to bid; with a planned start next year. The project is still planned to occur over two construction seasons. Water and sewer mains will be entirely replaced, so brief outages will occur. AWWU will work closely with the residents to limit the outages and forewarn when work is planned. A question was asked about the area south of 48th, toward International, and the need to provide some type of traffic calming or landscaping.

The Tudor/Harding project was also discussed. It has become an outgrowth of the original Harding/Van Buren/Taft project. There have been safety improvements, but the truckers are still unhappy because they can't get around the corner when meeting another truck.

Parks and Trails Update

Doe Anderson told us about the "Clean and Greens" that were done this summer. She also showed some of the before and after pictures of the areas they worked on. A lighting project will soon be coming to Minnesota Park to improve safety. The recreation planning efforts continue with 3 programmers working on the Spenard/Fairview and Russian Jack areas. The Youth At Risk program is expanding.

A separate presentation, from the South Addition Community Council, was provided related to the Tennyson Owens encroachment issue near Westchester Lagoon. A request

was made that the SCC provide a resolution to restore public access to the park area. No action was taken for lack of a motion.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

Peggy encourage everyone to turn out for the public hearing with the Assembly for two issues; Taft project CIP funding and Ersin Aygun rezone request. November 22nd is the hearing date.

Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

There was a Meth. Forum last Saturday that provided some good information. It will be replayed on Channel 9 for those interested in finding out more. Ghostbusters-Trail Watch are recruiting for more volunteers. If you see graffiti, call 343-GONE to get it cleaned up. The surveillance camera is almost ready to be installed on the Channel 11 tower.

Announcements

The 20th International Food Festival is planned at Chilkoot Charlie's on Sunday. The Building Design committee is planning a meeting on the proposed renovations of West & Romig November 8th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm.

SCC minutes November 2, 2005

Page PAGE 2 of NUMPAGES 2