

**Spenard Community Council**  
Spenard Recreation Center  
2020 West 48th Ave  
February 6, 2019  
(all times approximate)

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

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7:00 pm Introductions: Executive Committee, Guests,  
Neighborhood and Community Announcements (1-2 minutes suggested)

- Cathy Gleason TCC President presents on the West Anchorage Council Debate about the Municipal Elections on April 2nd. Ballots are mailed out by March 12th. She is looking for interested members to help host a debate mid-March. She cannot lead the efforts and is looking for someone who can organize. Jay will help. Bhree is interested if Cathy can mentor.
- Mr. Chang from Anchorage Winehouse. In January they closed because the roof collapsed in. They will reopen in June.
- Lindsey Hajduk is selling raffle tickets for Bike Anchorage for Winter Bike Fest. They are \$20 and you can win 2 tickets on Alaska Air or Alaska Railroad, and bike gear.
- Peggy reminds everyone that Fish Creek Trail from Northwood Dr to Spenard Road was finished in September. She encourages everyone to use the trail because it keeps the trail safe and healthy.
- Craig Holston announced that they have opened a new interdenominational ministry next to the Writers Block book store.
- Kameron Perez-Verdia introduced himself as running in the Assembly election as Eric Croft is stepping down this year.
- Jay mentions that Solarize Anchorage has selected Anchorage Solar to be the installer and to get in touch with Kristen Collins or himself if you'd be interested in attending a workshop.

Approval of Agenda and January 2019 meeting minutes

- Misspelled Tahnee

Airport Report (John Johansen)

- North South Runway renewal project beginning in April and to be completed in October. This will have a significant impact on people East of the Airport including Spenard. This project will last for 15 years.
- Terminal Recycling is undergoing upgrades such as signage to increase correct usage. These are located in main concourses.

- Stormwater permit looks to be out for public review in February. Will allow for a 60 day public comment period. This permit allows water drainage to likely Cook Inlet
- Still hiring heavy equipment operators, police offers, and others. Asks that we send this info to anyone we know looking for employment.

#### Assembly Report (Eric Croft)

- \$100,000 park bond that connects neighborhood to Fish Creek Trail
- \$500,000 for Lois Drive improvements
- Animal Noise Code - dogs have to stop barking by 5 minutes or it's a violation. They are working on a reasonable chicken standard.
- Eric Croft - if you have significant damages to your home from the Earthquake you have 30 days, or Feb.15th, to let the Assembly know and get your appeal in. It costs is \$100. This \$100 is refundable if you show up for the discussion. They are considering to extended this deadline, but he urges people to get it done by Feb. 15th.
- Eric Croft- Downtown tax abatement - If you increase amount of residential units in downtown area you get a tax abatement.
- Eric Croft - They are working on an ordinance that establishes registry for vacant homes to manage the squatting issue. They are increasing fines to go to enforcement. This bill will be up for discussion at the next Assembly meeting.
- Eric Croft - Fire Retardant Ordinance - bans fire retardants that are toxic for people who are using products as well as firefighters who are breathing it in.
- Austin Quinn-Davidson - President Trump approved emergency declaration for earthquake damages. If you have earthquake damages you can apply at [ready.alaska.gov](http://ready.alaska.gov).
- Tahnee - Midtown area seems to be attracting hotels. She asks why we can't address low-income housing in this area as well as address low-income housing downtown.

#### School Board Report (Deena Mitchell)

- Counselor Appreciation Week
- Earthquake damage - still in assessment mode and says they are still discovering damage. Eagle River schools will not be online for next year. FEMA is in town and ASD has two months to decide how to proceed. There has been a group that has formed to discuss. They have to make up days for the Earthquake → Parent Teacher Conference week are now full instructional days. Teachers will reach out to parents of students that need the Parent Teacher day.
- \$20 million has been taken out of school funding that has already been allocated.
- ASD is looking at \$10 million dollar gap and looking into ways to close this gap.
- Deena Mitchell will be presenting more formally at the Council's March meeting about the school bonds on the April ballot.
- February is "visit our schools month" - 9:30am you can visit any school in the district and get a tour.
- Alaska Association of School Board have college scholarships. Closes on March 25th.
- Danielle from Alaska Native Charter School is one of 4 teachers chosen for the National Teacher of the Year award.

### **Fire Department at Station 5**

- Addresses the fires we have had recently. There have been chimney fires because of damages from the Earthquakes. It's important to look at dryer vents and chimneys. It's the time of year to switch out batteries in detectors. These detectors will save your life. State of Alaska has handed out enough smoke alarms that every resident can have 10..emphasizes importance of having them in your house. Smoke Detectors have shelf-life off 5 years .
- Feb. 17th at Station 5 you can get a free CPR training

### **7:30 PM Spenard Corridor Plan Public Release (Thede Tobish)**

- 5 projects to update us on
- 1. Spenard Corridor Plan - final plan as public draft released in the next two weeks. There will be a 60 day comment period on this plan. This plan relates to transportation issues/policies in relation to Spenard.  
<http://www.spenardcorridorplan.com/>
- 2. Final document for Fish Creek Restoration Feasibility Analysis. This covered what it would take/cost to daylight fish creek. Short summary is that its feasible and expensive. It will cost \$16 million.
- 3. Chugach Way Master Plan
- 4. 2040 Land Use Plan - 2 projects involving Spenard. Reinvestment Focus Area for Title 16 - in progress. <https://www.muni.org/Anchorage2040LandUsePlan>
- 5. Final planning document - small area implementation plan. These implement reinvestment focus areas. It is a master plan that will show where things like utilities, roads, etc will go for reinvestment focus areas. Fairview, Downtown, and Midtown Spenard are top priorities.
- Question: R2 improvements are not included in these plans.
- Jay mentions that Spenard CC is creating a committee to work with planning department on these projects

### **7:45 PM People Mover Route Change - Report Back (Jamie Acton and/or Bart Rudolph)**

- Jamie Acton, Director of Public Transportation, and Bart Rudolph, planning manager, present on implementation of the new bus route system in October of 2017. There is a [Report Card](#) that shares if how the new system is or is not working. 36th and route 60 were eliminated due to extremely low ridership. When they started the process with the question: would you like a bus to come every 15 minutes or every 60 minutes. Community overwhelmingly chose that they wanted more frequent service. Since the changes, ridership is increasing for the first time in the last 10 years. This is because they put the most resources where they community was riding the bus. They are starting a new project called Transit on the Move Plan. It will help prioritize the bus routes that need to be invested in. This will be prioritized by the public.
- The Report Card shows more information about all the routes:  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/17a15616601/bddddd734-803d-4983-abfb-bc401e3e344b.pdf>
- Q - are there options for smaller buses for routes that do not have high ridership?

- People Mover's short-range planning process, Transit On The Move, will be a year-long process for people to prioritize future changes or additions to People Mover services: [peoplesmover.org/transitonthemove](http://peoplesmover.org/transitonthemove)
  - The Public Meeting dates are listed below:
    - Thursday, 2/14: 5:30 - 7:00pm - *City Hall, Room 155*
    - Tuesday, 2/19: 10:00 – 11:30am - *Mountain View Library*
    - Tuesday, 2/19: 5:30 - 7:00pm - *Eagle River Town Center, Room 170*
    - Wednesday, 2/20: 10:00 – 11:30am – *Dimond Center Mall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Next to Habitat Housewares*
    - Wednesday, 2/20: 5:30 - 7:00pm – *Romig Middle School, Multipurpose Room*
    - Thursday, 2/21: 5:00 – 6:30pm - *Muldoon Library*
    - Friday, 2/22: 5:30 - 7:00pm – *Fairview Community Center*
  - Public meeting materials and comment opportunities are also available online beginning February 14, 2019.
- Member is expressing concern that the buses don't serve the people that need them to essential day to day transportation. It really hurt the people that depended on the bus system for getting to their jobs, the hospital, or across town and did not have another option.
- Bob mentions that this system might have not worked as well in Spenard because Spenard is not as walkable as other areas. Now that we have to walk farther distances, it's harder for some people (maybe disabilities or dangerous roads) to walk farther. Says we won't get higher ridership unless we have better footpaths.
- Tahnee asks if there is an option for very limited bus routes in areas that are most impacted.
- Jed served on public transit advisory board for 6 years. He didn't have a car and depended on the bus. Says that every year the ridership declined. It was challenging to go to the Assembly to ask for funding when it's serving fewer and fewer people. The board was looking for changes for bus system and this was the solution they came up with, and now ridership is increasing for the first time in a decade.
- Member suggests that we put 36th back.
- Member suggests keeping some routes and changes intervals from 15 minutes to 45 minutes
- Tom asks about vanpool. Vanpool has to be work related. Says that this might be a solution for the dozen people in Spenard.
- Jamie asks everyone to participate in the short-term planning process. They would like to continue to hear these things so they can make good decisions.
- Moved a resolution for discussion. Resolution for the community council to support of restoring people move service. Resolution asking specific improvements and restoring the bus service in Spenard. The department to recognize it's a vital service. Ensuring that there are safe bus stops.
- Jay added to resolution: they will add point people from council to continue dialogue with the transportation department.
- Jed mentions that the resolution is incorrect and that bus does go to Providence.
- Moves to vote on the resolution:
  - 10 votes in favor.

- 4 votes in opposition.

8:10 PM **2019 SCC Elections** for Executive Officers and Board

- There were no nominations from the floor so all candidates on the ballot were approved:

**2019 Executive Board**

Jay Stange, President

Irène Persson-Gamble, Vice President

Lindsey Hajduk, Secretary

Arina Filippenko, Treasurer

Tahnee Seccareccia, Julie Leonard and Bill Marsh (Auditing Committee comprising two Auditors and one Auditor backup)

9 pm adjourn