

**BASHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**Basher Elementary School**  
**September 28, 2017**

President Don Crafts  
Vice President John Beebee  
Secretary Margaret Nelson  
Treasurer Hillary Morgan  
Directors at Large Dirk Sisson, Rick Kullberg

Meeting Called to order at 7:10pm by Council President Don Crafts  
There were 21 people in attendance (See attached sign in sheet.)

**Mayor Ethan Berkowitz**

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz attended the meeting and was thanked by those in attendance for the Municipality of Anchorage's work on the Campbell Airstrip/Basher Roads—both the new trail and redone entry to the bridge and the upgraded pavement along the road.

Two residents expressed concern about the bike sign on the road that is misplaced and that the lights are not yet works. Mayor Berkowitz said he would research the matter.

- Relocation of Bus Barn now located on Tudor Road. Mayor Berkowitz said that the community has spoken and the location will not be near the Totem Theaters. (See additional discussion under report by Rep. Lance Pruitt.)

Mayor Berkowitz left the meeting to attend to other matters.

**Ted Trueblood**

Ted Trueblood of the LSRA gave a complete report of the upgrade of the road. He, the LRSA members, the MOA staff, Sen. Anna MacKinnon, Rep. Lance Pruitt, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz were all thanked for their hard work on the road.

- The speed limit issue will be researched for our road with DOT, the MOA and the LRSA. Trueblood will report back.

**Rep. Lance Pruitt**

\*Gave a report on the bus barn issue to the council. Under the prior proposal advocated by Mayor Ethan Berkowitz the Anchorage School District would move the district's 120-150 diesel school buses from its current location on Elmore Road near police headquarters/animal shelter to a vacant muni owned property to make way for a new development by David Irwin and Mark Lewis. The development would include a grocery store, a new Muni health building and new low-income housing (it was previously to be senior housing). Here's a link to the Anchorage Dispatch News article of the proposed development: <https://www.adn.com/business-economy/2017/06/12/major-anchorage-development-deal-includes-new-city-health-department-grocery-store-and-senior-housing/>

Pruitt stated that he does not normally get involved in municipal matters, but this was a big issue in the community, especially since no local leaders were informing the community about the decision to locate the bus barn at the Totem Theater location. He felt that the community should be made aware and that a public notification process should be followed.

\*Stated that at the last meeting he attended a site being considered by the MOA and the Anchorage School District is a location behind the Botanical Gardens and the Benny Benson School and not the snow dump location. The access into and out of the bus barn would be off Basher Road, meaning traffic from Basher onto Tudor would be impacted. Pruitt promised to keep BCC members informed of the

progress of a new location. Secretary Margaret Nelson stated she would contact the Mayor's office and the Muni Real Estate Director Robin Ward for updates.

\*Pruitt then discussed the upcoming special session of the Legislature called by Gov. Bill Walker to discuss the Governor's proposed "payroll tax" and the proposed SB 54, which has been introduced to revise SB 91.

- Payroll Tax. Pruitt indicated that he didn't believe that anything will happen in the session with the Governor's proposed tax. There's no support for any tax, she said.
- SB 91. As for the problems of SB 91 Pruitt stated that the Legislature accepted all the proposed legislation (SB 91) as recommended by Pew Research. There was no push back. (Pruitt voted against SB 91.) He said that SB 54 will not fix all the problems with SB 91, especially in a special session of only 30 days in length. Currently, he said, SB 54 has been referred to 3 committees. Usually when a bill has been referred to that many committees, he said, it means the bill will not go anywhere. Pruitt hopes that some action will be taken but believes that meaningful action to fix the problems with SB 91 would need to be taken in the Legislature's regular session.

### **Muni Assembly Update**

#### **Assemblyman Pete Peterson's report:**

- The MOA was sued by three police officers and won. The MOA paid out \$3 million.
- Peterson is the Assembly Ethics and Election Chair. The MOA is going to a mail in ballot process for this upcoming election April 3, 2018. Mentioned that the new Ship Creek election ballot processing location can count 18,000 ballots per hour.
- In public safety matters Peterson said that he is focusing on the opioid epidemic. He believes there are generally two solutions: restriction of Doctors writing too many prescriptions and education.
- The assembly has added a youth member to sit on the assembly for 6- to 12-month term.
- Reported on the Muldoon Town Square Park. Making progress on completion of the 3-phase plan. Currently phase 1. Phase 2, to begin construction next year, was funded in a recently approved Park Bond. Recently received \$500,000 grant from the Dept. of Interior.
- Did not discuss either the bus barn issue, nor SB 91.

#### **Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar's report:**

- Discussed the recently released MOA 2040 land use plan recently issued to the community. Stated the goal of the land use plan is to accommodate growth in the MOA within the next 10 years. Most of the plan, he said, discusses the use of zoning and offering a denser downtown and midtown and preservation of industrial land.
- New ordinances will be required to implement the plan. One is a potential new zone under R2a which would allow for more mixed-use development (i.e. housing above and retail below in a multi-story building).
- Stated the MOA has a \$3.2 million positive variance in the budget due to the MOA cutting its budget by 5% and receipts of grant funds. Will be using those funds for an additional fire dept. academy.
- Stated he is working on an ordinance to alter joy riding laws and the definition of "negligence."
- Provided flyer on mail in ballot issue attached.
- Did not discuss the bus barn nor SB 91.

### **Ted Trueblood, LRSA Report**

- Have adequate funds for winter maintenance.

- Looking for a road project for next summer. If any of you have suggestions contact a LRSA board member. The project needs to be: 1) cost effective; 2) serve the most number of people; and 3) keep the road in good shape with minimal maintenance.
- We have the same contractor as last year. Now appears to have equipment in order and staff to do the job.

**BCC President Don Craft's Presentation**

- BCC was unable to have a summer picnic and the group agreed to just hold a picnic next year.
- Provided flyer on new police chief attached.
- Mentioned that anyone in the neighborhood can form a neighborhood watch program. Usually best in small neighborhoods. Contact Natasha Walsh for assistance at 786-8585.
- Mentioned that the Anchorage Fire Dept. exists mainly to save lives and not to save property. We need to keep that in mind if we ever need them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.