

# Airport Heights Community Council Newsletter

## October Agenda~

- Call to Order
- Introduction of Board and community members present
- Approval of September minutes
- Announcements
- Guests: Out North Contemporary Art House
- Assembly Report
- Federation of Community Councils report
- Legislative Report
- Zoning Committee
- Traffic Committee
- Parks Committee
- Community Patrol
- PTA Report
- Old Business: Discussion of 1830 Kuskoqvim, 1531 Kinnikinnick, Traffic calming, Northern Lights and Bragaw
- New Business: Home Depot in the old Kmart? What do you think?
- Non-agenda Items / Community Concerns
- Adjournment

The Airport Heights Community Council needs your input and support. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to attend meetings.

It's your community and your council, Together we make it a better neighborhood.



## Airport Heights Community Council September 16, 2004 – Meeting Minutes Summary

**AHCC Members in attendance:** Darcy and Chet Harris, Bill Boyd, Greg, Piper and Tatum Hartleib, Ken Flynn, Shirley Iverson, Jeff Conaway, Art Elliot, Peggy Hecklen, Alice Richardson, Sister Noreen, Holly DiMeglio, Bernard Hoffman, Cara O'Brien-Holen, Whitey Geddes, Richard Snyder, Bernita Hamilton, Romie Clark, Barbara Karl, Phil McGuire, Gretchen Pikul, Emily McCoy, Sharon Cissna, Karl Reich, Fred and Janet Shurman.

**Guests:** **Elaine Christian-** North Star Behavioral Health System, **Dick Traini-** Anchorage Municipal Assembly Chair, Representative **Sharon Cissna**, State Senate Candidate **Ken Flynn**, **Steve Beardsly-** AWARE (Anchorage Watchful Alert Ready for Emergencies).

**Board members in attendance:** Chet Harris -Chair, Bill Boyd-former Chair, Darcy Harris -Secretary, Greg Hartleib - Member at Large, Fred Shurman-APH Community Patrol, Bernard Hoffman- APH Community Patrol.

Meeting called to order by Chair Chet Harris at 7:05 pm.

Introductions and announcements made.

### Assembly report

- ✂ ASD school bonds will be back in front of the electorate. East High School and Wendler Middle School are scheduled for completion of their renovations this winter.
- ✂ Dog Park issues: It is very important to some council members that people keep their dogs off of school property and private property. The idea was raised to post signs saying "No Dogs Allowed on School Premises".  
**Reminder to all neighbors to please pick up after your pet. It keeps the neighborhood and Chester Creek cleaner, and your neighbors happy!**
- ✂ The Assembly passed the new child-care ordinance. The ratio for child-care facilities is now one adult for every four children. They also passed the regulation that there will be no smoking within 25 feet of the doorway of any child-care facility.
- ✂ Mr. Traini is introducing an ordinance to increase the tax on all tobacco products by \$1.00. This tax will potentially be in addition to a tobacco tax the state legislature is expected to pass of \$.60.
- ✂ There were concerns raised about the mandatory trash collection by the municipal office of Solid Waste Services. This was recognized as the municipality having a monopoly on the trash collection business in Anchorage.

**Federation of Community Councils** No report

**Legislative report** Representative **Sharon Cissna** visited the council this month. She stated there have been lots of legislative cuts. She was particularly concerned about the loss of the longevity bonus.

**Zoning Committee** No report

**Traffic Committee** No report

**Parks Committee** No report

**Community Patrol** Please welcome **Bernard Hoffman** as our newest Community Patrol Officer.

**PTA report** No report

### **Old Business**

- Bob Kniefel from DOWL Engineering is working on adding turn lanes and eliminating various traffic problems at the Northern Lights and Bragaw intersection. Issues were discussed regarding student and other pedestrian safety, traffic back up and safe connections to Chester Creek bike trail and Goose Lake.
- Lee Coop from MOA Traffic. Discussion of Airport Heights Transportation Study. The final draft of the plan is in process. Discussion of various traffic calming techniques, and pedestrian safety at Debar and APH Drive.
- Mr. Traini still looking into changing the name of Goose Lake to "Jim Parsons Lake". He will keep us posted.
- Mr. Traini is still looking into getting donations to pay for "Scotty Gomez Skating Rink" sign at Tikishla Park.

### **New Business and Speakers**

#### **Elaine Christian from North Star Behavioral Health System**

North Star is a treatment facility for children with emotional or behavioral problems and has been a neighbor for 20 years. It is under new management and has an all new experienced staff. There will be construction of a new 60 bed residential facility, breaking ground spring 2005 at the earliest. The new facility will be a two story building no higher than the existing structure. Universal Health owns the treatment center and their goal for the new facility is to bring the kids who are shipped out of state for treatment, home. There were concerns expressed within the council regarding potentially violent children. The facility will not be treating children with violent or criminal behavior. Children with these behaviors are sent to treatment facilities out of state and will not be in the neighborhood. [Please contact elaine.christian@uhsinc.com](mailto:elaine.christian@uhsinc.com) with further questions.

#### **Condemned and derelict properties / vandalism**

- ✘ The owner of the condemned house on Kuskokwim Street has been slowly removing her belongings. The house will probably be removed.
- ✘ Discussion of concerns about the degradation of the neighborhood, trash in the alleys and junk vehicles. The suggestion was made to call police regarding derelict properties and vandalism to create a record of public complaint.
- ✘ There was a council member who explained how the wheels of one car were stolen and her second car was stolen and totaled.
- ✘ Another neighbor called the Chairman and explained how he and several neighbors on 20<sup>th</sup> had had things stolen from their porches.
- ✘ There was discussion of a problem house on 16<sup>th</sup> and Valerian and another on 20<sup>th</sup> and Lake Otis.

#### **1531 Kinnikinnick**

The house on the corner lot on Kinnikinnick and Sunrise was removed and the new owner is building a duplex in its place.

#### **15<sup>th</sup> and Wintergreen**

A concern was raised that a neighbor parks his motorhome and trailers too close to the stop sign and blocks safe viewing of on coming traffic. The Shurmans will be looking into this.

#### **Tikishla Park Playground Equipment**

Many council members do not like the playground equipment at Tikishla Park that replaced the old chemically treated wood playground equipment. They were also concerned that no one asked for community input regarding equipment choices. These community members will be playing on the equipment and giving a full report at October's meeting.

#### **Ken Flynn**

**Ken Flynn** is a long time resident of Airport Heights and Anchorage and is running for **State Senate**. He came to introduce himself.

#### **Steve Beardsly AWARE**

AWARE is a municipal organization that encourages and supports emergency preparedness in Anchorage. They have free emergency kits for seniors (60 and over) and distribute them to the senior centers and pioneer homes. They encourage everyone to put together a kit in case disaster strikes. These kits should include water, preserved food, matches or lighters, prescription drugs, flashlights and a medical kit, just to name a few items.

#### **Other Concerns**

- ✘ "Community Park" lot on NW corner of Bragaw and Northern Lights. What will become of it? Great place to connect Chester Creek trail sections. Concerns to protect this green space in our neighborhood. Neighbors take action before it is developed.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Questions? Please contact our Council Chair, Chet Harris, at 277-0945 or [chetharris@hotmail.com](mailto:chetharris@hotmail.com)

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, **October 21** at 7:00 PM  
**Airport Heights Elementary School Library**

