

**DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 4, 2004**

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**DCC Members Present:** Paul Nangle, Paulette Houl, Deirdre Phayer, Becky Beck, Millie Renken, Sister Noreen McPartland, Ron Alleva, James Walsh

**DCC Officers Absent:** James Maurer, Craig Cook, John Pattee, Kim MacBeath

**Guests Present:** Zeleen Hood (Covenant House), Shawn Snisarenko (Anchorage Tomorrow), Norm Gutchen (Anchorage Tomorrow), Carol Comeau (Anchorage School District Superintendent), Mary Marks (Anchorage School District - Bd. Member), and Brian Vanderwood

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**Location:** Anchorage Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, AK

**Order is called:** Deirdre Phayer, Secretary, at 5:32 p.m.

**Special notes:** Deirdre Phayer is conducting this meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President.

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**I. The minutes of the February 5, 2004 meeting have not been presented are not available at this time for council approval.**

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**II. Treasurer's Report – Ron Alleva**

- a. As of now, the DCC account is at \$1921.19.
  - b. Please note that the Council needs to reimburse Kim MacBeath for a gavel; and that we also need to pay Xerox fees from the Council account.
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**III. Appearances – Assemblyman Tesche**

- a. The Assembly just approved a Bond package that will be going to vote in April on the E Street Corridor. It will be approximately ½ million dollars to fund the package with cooperation from business owners and others in the community. This is very exciting proposal that would essentially turn E Street into a second Main Street.
- b. There is a new RFP process for a new Anchorage convention center. It involves inviting private bidders / contractors to make proposals. The 4% hotel / motel bed increase is to fund the convention center. There should be more news on this in the next few months.
- c. 40 million dollars in road bonds have been introduced. This would be the largest in the city's history. It is a much needed package, and well overdue. The Parkstrip Committee will do outreach and surveys to the community to see what

the Parkstrip means to us. The committee will be looking into a community vision for this area. What should we do with this land? What do we have? What do we want? They will devise a plan and vision for this area. (Assemblyman Tesche encourages us to discuss this openly and debate the issue.

- d. Mr. Tesche wrote a proposition that got on the ballot for a comprehensive long-term fiscal plan. The public can view this plan in the spring. This will be an open meeting. Voters should urge legislators to adopt a long-term fiscal plan.
- e. School District headquarters project could spur interest in a town center project in the Northway Mall area. It would revitalize and prosper the downtown area.

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#### **IV. Appearances – Carol Comeau & Mary Marks**

##### **a. 2004 School Bond Projects – 3 propositions to be put to vote on April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

- i. Proposition 4 (handout). This proposition is dealing with repairs, renewals, and equipment. The estimated project costs for proposition 4 total \$36,380,000. This project includes districtwide security upgrades, fire sprinklers, roof replacements and repairs, heating system conversion, mechanical upgrades, heavy equipment upgrades, minor building renewal projects, and others.
  - 1. Local tax impact is as follows for this proposition. Estimated annual tax increase for every \$100,000 of property value to retire debt is \$5.16 with state reimbursement (subject to annual legislative appropriation) and \$14.64 without state reimbursement. State reimbursement for this project stands at 64.8%
- ii. Proposition 5 (handout). This proposition is dealing with major construction and renovation. The estimated project costs for proposition 5 total \$95,830,000. This project includes renovation, construction and site acquisition of high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools districtwide (as outlined in the handout).
  - 1. Local tax impact for this proposition is as follows. Estimated annual tax increase for every \$100,000 of property value to retire debt is \$16.34 with state reimbursement (subject to annual legislative appropriation) and \$38.56 without state reimbursement. The estimated annual increase in tax cap for every \$100,000 of property value to pay for operation and maintenance costs related to the proposed capital projects is \$9.79. State reimbursement for this project stands at 64.8%.
- iii. Proposition 6 (handout). This proposition is dealing with the Administrative and Training Facility. The estimated project costs for proposition 6 is \$30,000,000. This project would create a centralized Administration building for the ASD. The ASD are currently looking at several sites, but, are concentrating on the old Kmart facility near the Northway Mall which is a 14 acre site that would enhance the neighborhood and spur retail and other positive activities in the area
  - 1. Local tax impact for this proposition is as follows. Estimated annual tax increase for every \$100,000 of property value to retire

debt is \$26.33 with state reimbursement (subject to annual legislative appropriation) and \$65.27 without state reimbursement.

- b. For more information on these propositions, please contact the Anchorage School District (348-5156) or visit the ASD Web site @ [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org).**
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**V. Appearances – Art Weeks of the Anchorage Library**

- a. Encourages the Downtown Community Council to support Proposition 15 (handout).
- b. This is an Areawide Libraries project that would cost approximately \$7,670,000. This would fund library upgrades in the Loussac Library, replacement of the Girdwood library, acquisition and construction of the Chugiak Branch library site and continued development on the Muldoon Community library.
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**VI. Appearances – Shawn Snisarenko of Anchorage Tomorrow**

- a. Educates the DCC on Road, Drainage, and Recreation Bonds (handout).
- b. The road bond includes 54 projects in the Anchorage service area. This covers the Anchorage Municipal Road Match Funds. There are three projects that directly affect the downtown area.
- i. (1) on the map handout which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue surface rehabilitation to Post Road to Reeve Boulevard. This will include pavement overlay, curb repair / sidewalk repair, and lane increase if possible.
  - ii. (54) on the map handout which is water quality upgrades on Downtown storm drain outfalls which dump into Ship creek.
  - iii. (23) on the map handout which is the E Street corridor. This will be a total reconstruction of E Street with street enhancements for pedestrians and aesthetic improvements. This will essentially be a new “Main Street”. This project is estimated at 2.4 million, \$400,000 for design efforts.
- c. There are two Park Bonds – Proposition’s 13 & 14.
- i. Proposition 13 essentially is a project to protect and maintain what we already have. Improvements would be made to the Anchorage Football Stadium (lighting and seating). Roof and floor safety improvements would be made to the Greenhouse. Parks & Recreational Maintenance Equipment would be maintained. There would be upgrades to swimming pool facilities and there would be continued development to the Muldoon Community Recreation Facility. The total for this project is \$4,020,000.
  - ii. Proposition 14 is a project to invest in the future of current recreational projects. This would include improvements to parks and nature trails. Rehabilitation of hockey rinks, open space acquisition, Campbell park parking and improvements. Projects to affect downtown would be the new Skateboard Park Facility at \$370,000 and Town Square Park pavement / brick replacement at \$130,000. The total cost for all projects under Proposition 14 is \$4,335,000.
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**VII. Appearances – Brian Vanderwood of Solid Waste Services, Refuse Collections**

- a. Many residents are not taking pride of ownership in their areas by misplacing their refuse. There are costs and resources expended in picking up refuse when it is not presented in the proper manner. The Downtown area has particular problems with refuse that are next to impossible to fix such as low lying power lines, inaccessible roadways and blocked refuse. It is important to educate and stay aware of what we can best do to keep the problems under control.
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**VIII. Appearances – Deirdre Phayer of Covenant House Alaska (CHA)**

**a. Requesting a Letter of Support from the Downtown Community Council for their request for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).**

- i. Informational Handout provided for Review by members and officers of the DCC.
  - ii. Covenant House Alaska intends to apply for funding through RFP 24-GP003 Community Development Block Grant Program Capital Projects. CHA would like a Letter of Support from the DCC to apply for the “renovation” projects at the CHA Crisis Center located at 6<sup>th</sup> & F Street. Below are the projects. All projects are eligible for funding and meet the criteria established in the RFP.
    1. Exterior front and side landscape of the building. Both areas are highly visible to pedestrian traffic and haven’t been developed to accommodate seasonal landscaping at this point.
    2. Interior remodel of entryway and intake area.
    3. Replace interior windows in the lounge area of shelter to conform to current universal design standards.
    4. Exterior design of “back enclosed courtyard” to accommodate youth wishing to enjoy the outdoors, but to still be in the safety of the enclosed shelter area.
    5. Replacement of the boiler / ventilation system. The current system is over 30 years old and is inefficient and costly to repair.
  - iii. Paul Nagle makes a motion to provide a Letter of Support from the Downtown Community Council in support of Covenant House’s application for funding through RFP 24-GP003 Community Development Block Grant Program Capital Projects. The move was properly seconded.
  - iv. **The motion to grant Covenant House Alaska a Letter of Support from the Downtown Community Council for capital projects at the CHA Crisis Center as described above has been approved unanimously.**
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**IX. Old Business – Deirdre Phayer**

- a. Nothing new to report on any of the existing items.
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**X. Committee Reports**

**a. Anchorage Downtown Partnership – Becky Beck**

- i. Business communities have been addressing crime.
- ii. Education series to include: private persons arrest, personal assault protection, crime prevention.
- iii. Dealing with panhandling – education to business owners.
- iv. Fur Rondy was a success!

**b. Federation of Community Councils – Kim MacBeath**

- i. Absent -No new business to report.

**c. Membership – Craig Cook**

- i. Absent– no new business to report.

**d. Liquor Licences – John Pattee**

- i. Absent - no new business to report.

**e. Zoning – Paul Nagle**

- i. The Alaska Railroad put out a RFP to buy 12 acres west of the convention center.
  - ii. There will be lots of applications to build a new convention center.
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**XI. Annoucements / Neighbor Comments / Agenda Suggestions – NONE**

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**XII. Meeting Adjournment – 7:00 p.m.**

**The next DCC Meeting will take place on April 1, 2004, at 5:30 p.m.  
at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art**