

# **DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

## **April 1, 2004**

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**DCC Members Present:** Paulette Houli, Becky Beck, Millie & Robert Renkert, Ron Alleva, James Maurer, Craig Cook, Kim MacBeath

**DCC Officers Absent:** Deirdre Phayer, Paul Nangle, John Pattee, Sister Noreen McPartland

**Guests Present:** APD Patrolman, Derek Hsieh, Tim Burgess, Lynn Godden

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

Order is called: Kim MacBeath, President at 5:35 p.m.

**The minutes of the February 5, 2004 and March 4, meeting have not been presented are not available at this time for council approval.**

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### **Treasurer's Report – Ron Alleva**

As of now, the DCC account is at \$1921.19.

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. New Bank signature cards have been drawn up and need the signature of Secretary Deirdre Phayer in order to add Mr. Ron Alleva as co-signatory.

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### **Appearances – Assemblyman Tesche**

Municipal Elections on April 6<sup>th</sup>, members were reminded to vote

Exciting projects happening Downtown in the next 5 years, worth over half a billion dollars, include:

Park strip development plans

9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rehabilitation

E Street Corridor

New Civic and Convention Center – the bids are due April 6th

Downtown Library

Multi-Modal Transit Center

Ship Creek Center project

Mckinley Building (formerly the McKay Building)

Anchorage Port Expansion

North Ship Creek Project

Common signage will be important.

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**Appearances – Patrolman Derek Hsieh**

Captain Nelson –will attend future meetings of the Downtown, for community liaison. APD has recently formed the new Sexual Assault Crime Prevention Unit in Downtown Anchorage; the unit has been very successful so far. APD is hoping to have foot patrols in the downtown area this summer, and shares our concerns for supporting Downtown businesses. Kim MacBeath stated the Millenium Club has been refused a Caterers permit due to the teen club in the upstairs section of the club, and there are now rumors circulating regarding plans to hold a party with alcohol this coming Saturday, and will be charging a \$10.00 cover charge. APD said they had also heard the rumors and planned to investigate further.

**Appearances – Tim Burgess – Safe Streets, Safe Schools Project**

America leads the industrialized nations in violent crimes, especially crimes involving guns. Alaska has more stolen guns than any other state, and firearm accidents involving teens aged between 15 and 19 are twice the national average. There has also been a recent increase in home invasions in the Anchorage area. A grant has recently been given to the U.A.A. to conduct some statistical analysis. Downtown/Fairview are the highest concentration areas for service calls by the Police and Emergency departments, for gun crime issues. Mountain view and Russian Jack in particular have the most service calls by block. The statistical analysis will focus on the Russian Jack are in the next 90 days, U.A.A. is working in conjunction with APD to put together a model to reduce gun violence. APD is also working with schools as most issues are with young people. A campaign called "not in our school" was recently launched, along with a gun responsibility program involving the issuance of gunlocks.

**Appearances – Beck Beck – The Ship Creek Center**

Mr. Wong is remodeling Ship Creek Plaza on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue into spaces for small businesses to sell local Alaska wares. There have been 50 responses far for the 20 spaces. Aesthetic changes are being made to both the interior and exterior of the mall with hand painted Alaska themes on the internal walls, and a mural on the external walls by local artist "Ziggy" Zigler. There will also be a 3D before and after 1964 earthquake exhibit. Alaska Native Heritage Center will have a gift shop, tourists will be able to purchase tickets, and ANHA dancers will perform twice a day seven days a week either outside the center or inside depending on the weather.

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**Old Business – Kim MacBeath**

The Executive Board of the Downtown Community Council met with Mr. Mark Marlow in March. Mr. Marlow presented his plans for the McKinley Building formerly the McKay building. The Downtown Community Council has written a letter of support for the project to AHFC for the first four floors of the building to be converted into Senior assisted living housing. Mr. Marlow has also applied for FHA financing to convert the remaining area into luxury condos. The FHA financing is contingent upon the AHFC financing.

The Anchorage Museum expansion is moving ahead with a decision now made regarding the final design.

Final bids are due in to the Municipality this week for the new Civic and Convention Center.

**Committee Reports**

**Anchorage Downtown Partnership – Becky Beck**

The partnership safety meeting group met with APD and community businesses and residents to join forces to put an end to panhandling in Anchorage.

Starbucks wants to move into Downtown Anchorage.

Foster a Flower program has been launched. Citizens can sponsor a flower basket or pot to replace the lack of municipal funding this year. The municipality has co-coordinated the program with Parks and Recreation. The roll out is at Russian Jack Greenhouses on 4/2/04

**Federation of Community Councils – Kim MacBeath**

No new business to report

**Membership – Craig Cook**

2004 Memberships of \$5.00 are now due.

Please see Craig Cook to sign up.

**Liquor Licenses – John Pattee**

Absent - no new business to report.

**Zoning – Paul Nangle**

Absent – no new business to report.

**Announcements / Neighbor Comments / Agenda Suggestions**

Millie Renkert talked about the need to encourage membership of the Downtown Community Council, and suggested an article in The Pulse Newspaper. Kim MacBeath is to investigate putting information out about the council in both The Pulse and the Anchorage Daily News.

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Meeting Adjournment – 6.50 p.m

**The next DCC Meeting will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art**