

North Star/Mid -Town Community Council MINUTES May 28, 2003

RECEIVED
Date: 6-20

When: Wednesday, May 28, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Where: North Star Elementary School Library

Mike Mitchell, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the absence of Sam Rose.

Approval of 05/28/03 agenda Ed O'Neill of Brown Jug added, Melonie Rieck also added regarding dumping at community gardens, approved as written, moved by Mary Jo Robinson, second by Bonnie Jack

Approval of 0423/03 minutes Bonnie corrected to read that Fay Von Gemmingen is president of the AML; minutes were approved as revised.

Reports and Presentations

Elected Official's Reports

Assembly Bonnie Jack, on Fay Von Gemmingen's behalf, reminds us that community council boundary changes are scheduled for public hearing June 10 and certain parts of town, i.e., Spenard, will show up in large numbers, so North Star had better show up as well. Fay also asks that if NSCC has any comments regarding the panhandler ordinance, to contact her via email or pass a resolution.

Treasurer's Report Mary Jo Robinson reports \$106.25 in checking, \$479.90 in savings; will probably go down for expenses on Clean-Up Day of about \$150. Dues are \$5 for families or individuals and are due at the start of the calendar year.

Police Report Bonnie Jack reported continuing neighborhood disruptions on Memorial Day night, after midnight, calling three police cars to 1054 West 20th Ave. The residents continue to work on cars on the property, revving engines and pounding out dents at night. The landlord has until June 2 to clear the code violations.

Barbara Smart reports public inebriates camping and sleeping in the park next to Westchester Lagoon, on the Spenard Road hill south of the parking area and bridge. Police were called to attend to a drunk person who was passed out in the woods, they poured out his booze, threw away the bottle, and left him there, on Saturday May 24 in the afternoon. He woke up a few hours later and stumbled off. BJ suggested asking for a case number to be assigned whenever you call the police. There is a case number because you called, and best to call during the day, 786-8900 non-emergency dispatch during the day. According to Ed O'Neill of Brown Jug, Capt., Audie Holloway, 786-8812, Ext 273, is supervisor in charge of homeless camp clean up and Safe Cities, active in Title 47. Sgt. Denny Allen is also a contact for this issue at 786-2693.

Barbara reports also a great deal of one-way wrong way use of Spenard Road, creating dangerous conditions. Be careful going down Spenard Road because you are likely to meet someone coming up!! She says this happens more now that it's summer and confused tourists find themselves going down Spenard, at least ten times a day. DOT made her move her Jersey barriers back from the right of way, and now there is a nice wide spot in the road where drivers can make a U-turn in front of her house and go back up the hill! She wants to provide input to the Spenard Road designers at DOT for the road project planned for completion in 2006. This summer sewer and water will be upgraded in preparation for this project.

Capital Improvement Plan Harriet Drummond The following is what was transmitted to Tim Rogers and Bruce Holmes at MOA.

We looked at all the projects in Assembly Districts 3 and 4 and identified the projects important to the North Star council, whether they are within our current borders or not. We feel these projects all impact North Star in one way or another.

The NSCC executive board ranked them as follows, with no. 1 having highest priority:

1. Spenard Road On-Ramp Reconstruction, Hillcrest Drive to Minnesota Drive (SEE COMMENT ON NO. 5 RE SPENARD BETWEEN FIREWEED AND HILLCREST DRIVE)
2. Chester Creek Trail rehab
3. Chester and Fish Creek Trails Improvements
4. M.E. Sullivan Park Improvements
5. Spenard Road Surface Rehab and Safety Improvements, Fireweed Lane to 36th Avenue (WHAT ABOUT THE SECTION BETWEEN FIREWEED LANE AND HILLCREST DRIVE? THIS MUST NOT FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS IF THE TWO SECTIONS NORTH AND SOUTH OF IT ARE BEING REHABBED!)
6. Arctic Blvd. Surface Rehab, Fireweed to Tudor
 - Fireweed Lane Reconstruction, Spenard Rd to Seward Highway: NSCC supports the need for this project, but not the way it is designed. The business community along Fireweed must have more input during the design process.

(End of submitted CIP comments)

Gordon Glaser explained the problems with the Fireweed project design and fears of business owners along the road that they will lose their parking. Fireweed has the highest number of low-speed crashes in the state. DOT is using NSCC as a cover, claiming we supported the plan, went through the public process, and then will do something else. Until DOT cleans up their act, Fireweed Lane will be low in the priority list.

Muni Spring Cleanup Recap Mike reported a very successful cleanup at Loussac Manor, NSCC provided helmets and other goodies as prizes for the cleaners. There was a lot to do, along the bike trail next to C Street homeless camps with old wet mattresses and mountains of beer cans. Cleaned a wooded lot next to the Community Gardens and found lots of car oil dumped here and other trash.

Ongoing cleanup issues Ed O'Neill of Brown Jug reports on clean up behind North Star school, on the stairs, and near Valley of the Moon Park. Submitted to membership a copy of his email message to the Assembly. Anchorage is 'panhandler central' for the State. Frustrated with lack of action on the Assembly side on this issue. Suggests use of a civil penalty to enforce laws, such as when Brown Jug uses this tool to catch the use of false (under age) IDs and imposes fines. The Assembly needs to pass an ordinance to this effect, allowing citizens or community councils to use this power. \$500 fines will educate the public quickly! The Anchorage Responsible Beverage Retail Association has adopted numerous parks in the area and targeted them for cleanup. Grant funds allow hiring of day labor from Bean's Café to clean up. They do intervention with homeless, post their camps, and clean the camps up after 24 hours. Personal effects collected from the camps are held by the police for 60 days so the owners have a chance to recover their property – it is not thrown away! Discussion followed regarding sales of liquor to street people. When liquor licenses come up for renewal, owners should be

asked how much they collected in civil penalties since their last renewal? This helps cut down on sales to minors and to inebriates.

Gordon Glaser explained issues surrounded commitment of inebriates and lack of beds for treatment. Ed O'Neill says Valerie Andrew at Safe Cities is working on this issue.

Melonie Rieck says the area around the Mid Town Park is also a huge homeless camp area and is very poorly patrolled.

Melonie runs near the Community Gardens on C Street. Waste (black water) was dumped by an RV there last year, the Health Dept. cleaned up. Drivers have created a U-turn in the woods nearby. The city tried to clean it up and leave some big rocks to keep vehicles out, but it doesn't work. The trash in the woods is horrendous: condoms, couch, refrigerator, mattresses. Somehow the drive-in access must be stopped. During the summer months, game players and picnickers use the woods as an outhouse instead of the toilets or porta-potties in the park. Harriet suggested that MOA could install bollards at the woods entrances to keep vehicles out, some removable if MOA needed access with vehicle.

Barbara reports that SWS brought a new trash can and installed it at the locked park gate on Spenard Road hill at the park entrance.

Boundary Change Update Harriet brought out the maps and reviewed the proposed changes. Bonnie suggested sending April's minutes to the Assembly so North Star's boundary wishes can be clarified.

Identifying park development, boundaries for MOA Parks & Open Space Plan Mike Mitchell explained the process that is ongoing. Each CC has received a short questionnaire from the consultant for input. Main qualitative question is: what type of parks and recreation areas are needed in your area? Questions will be sent out to NSCC mailing list in June for residents to address in June meeting.

June Meeting change of location Assembly Conference Room – City Hall, ground floor

Adjournment moved for extension by Harriet for zoning report, no objection.

Zoning Report Harriet is serving on the Title 21 rewrite committee called by the Anchorage Citizens Coalition, to assist the MOA contractor in reviewing their work this summer and fall. This will coordinate with the approved comprehensive plan, Anchorage 2020, that had tremendous citizen input. The MOA is convening no task force on the Title 21 re-write, so the ACC is undertaking this work as volunteers.

Adjournment at 9:04 p.m. by Mike Mitchell.

