

Northstar/ Midtown Community Council minutes
September 2003

Wednesday, September 24, 2003 7:00 pm- 9:25 pm at Northstar Elementary School library.

In attendance:

7:05 meeting called to order by Sam Rose, NSCC chairperson

7:20 Agenda approved

7:21 Police report- Sgt LeBlanc.

APD working on a Task Force for prostitutes and johns. Barbara Pepek asked specifically about targeting johns, as she has been mistaken for a prostitute on the street in front of her home twice in the past year.

Sam Rose asked about how to get a homeless camp area near the Duck Pond brushed out.

Sgt Allen is the APD person handling homeless/public inebriate problems

Community Service Officers (CSO) will be sworn in so they may write parking tickets again.

August crime reports number 442 incidents. More because of expanded boundaries. Lots of shoplifting calls, Wal-Mart catches a lot of them. Big excitement was a meth lab in a trailer park. Not much in the way of personal assault, break-ins, or car thefts in our area.

7:30 Northstar School- Myrna Moulton, principal.

The school passed 20 of the 32 areas mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Police are now on the school grounds and have proved helpful. A bad guy was swearing at the children. He was arrested because of this program. Officers also do truancy/Wellness checks through this program.

Construction is done for now. The school has a new roof. Heating/ air systems are up for redoux next year.

Bonnie Jack sent a message from Fay von Gemmingen that we can help support the schools through our purchases. One such program is www.escrip.com. Others include Campbell's soup labels, Betty Crocker points. Myrna reported that a donor gave \$1000 to the school. She will buy library books with it.

Opportunities to volunteer at Northstar school include reading to kids and tutoring.

7:45 Updates on AWWU Spenard Road and DOT projects

Todd Carroll from AWWU reported that the water main on Spenard Road has been repaired and paving will be completed soon, weather permitting

Mike Mitchell has been working with DOT and the Muni to make sure that the striping is returned to the more pedestrian-friendly way it was done as part of the Duck Walk project. He says there is a possibility they can add bike lane diamonds to the 'walking' lane.

7:50 6-plex between W 25th and Culver Pl. 8 residents of Culver Pl attended. Fran Elam spoke for the group. They are angry that they were not given any right to know about or comment on changes to an R-4 property that was addressed on 25th Ave. The address has been changed to Culver Place and building has begun on a six-plex unit. The rest of Culver Place is zoned R-1 (single family). The property is within the Clayton

subdivision; Culver Place is in the Romig Park subdivision. This is possible as there is no 24th Ave, the subdivisions were laid out before city platting controls were in place. The area is an older pocket neighborhood; many residents have lived there for 30-50 years. They are concerned that increased traffic will change the character of the block. There is concern also about the ability of the fire department and other emergency services to respond to the building in a timely manner. Fran Elam states that the builder admits that he changed the address/access to the property in order to make his building more attractive to buyers and increase the value of the units. He also acknowledged that their property values/ saleability may be reduced due to his development.

They have met with the builder and city ombudsman, but no progress has been made. The permitting/zoning laws did not call for public review in this case. Dan Sullivan said there is legal recourse if the development de-values their homes. The residents would need to hire an attorney and go through the civil process.

8:45 Assembly report.

Doug Van Etten reported that a web site/ email notification system for zoning/ platting changes is being tested.

Dan Sullivan noted that notification for building permits across the board would not necessarily be helpful. There are too many and many of them are not of concern e.g. a kitchen remodeling or a new roof line.

He spoke about the proposed site condo ordinance and noted that it would not apply to the Culver Pl units, as they are not site condos.

The budget shortfall is about 30 million.

9:00 meeting extended for 10 min. Sam Rose called for the extension, Mr. Nash moved, Mike Mitchell seconded.

9:03 Legislative Update. Les Gara spoke about the fiscal gap. It is estimated at 1 billion dollars

9:05 Antenna Farm. Dirk Sisson and Barbara Hood from the Basher CC spoke against the proposed antenna farm on the hillside. In favor of the development was Charlie Forbes, representing the developer, Joseph Henri.

B Hood said that the planning dept has cancelled hearings on the issue without proper notice. Property values/ assessment issues and the attractiveness of the hillside are at issue. The antennas will be visible across the city from the 7 acre site. There will be (9) 200 ft towers and other structures on the farm. The property must be rezoned in order for the antenna farm to go forward.

Charlie Forbes said this was a good location for an antenna farm, as it is at the top of the ridge. The trees must be removed from the site in order to create the antenna farm, as the signals are essentially 'line of sight'. The site would be for TV and other signals going out of Anchorage. The site would not be used for cell phones.

9:25 meeting adjourned.