

North Star Community Council

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2003, 7-9 p.m.

Where: North Star Elementary School Library

Who: Anyone who lives, works, owns property, or has a student enrolled in the NSCC area

AGENDA

7:00 – Call to Order

7:01 - Introductions

7:05 - Approval of 11/12/03 agenda

7:06 - Approval of 10/22/03 minutes

Reports and Presentations

Elected Official's Reports

7:07 – Legislative (5 minutes + time for questions)

7:17 – Assembly (5 minutes + time for q & a)

7:27 - School Board (5 minutes + q & a)

7:35 - **Treasurer's Report**

7:37 - **Police Report – Sgt. LeBlanc**

7:42 - **36th Ave.-Arctic to C Street Highway Safety Improvement Program Project**

- Anne Brooks (5 minutes + q & a)

7:52 - **Update on Raising Skirts of Trees Adjacent to Romig Hill**

7:57 - **6-plex between W. 25th Ave. and Culver Pl. – Update**

8:02 - **Romig Park Subdivision Traffic Problems - Update**

8:05 - **Mid-Town Community Council Update**

8:10 - **Boundary Change Update – Outreach to New Areas**

8:15 - **Zoning Report – Liquor licenses: Romano's; American Legion Jack Henry Post #1**

Old Business

8:20 - **Antenna Farm Update – Resolution**

8:30 - **Fire Hydrant User Fee Special Election - Resolution**

New Business

Adjournment at 9 p.m. (unless majority votes for extension)

For more information about North Star/Mid Town Community Council or to receive this agenda by email, contact Sam Rose: 277-6361 or samrose@gci.net or Mike Mitchell: mgm@ak.net



**Remember: Meetings for Nov. & Dec. will be the 2nd Wed.
of the Month
November 12th and December 10th**

North Star Community Council Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2003 7-9 PM
North Star Elementary School Library

Attending: Sam Rose, Mary Jo Robinson, Sam Collier, Grant Walker(AFD), Ken Outten(AFD), Joshua Walker(AFD), Tim Steele, Jenna Gruenstein, Ed O'Neill, Bonnie L. Jack, Pat Henderson, Robby Cox, Fran Elam, Mike Mitchell, Karin Have, Susan Kiely, Susan Fischetti, Kevin Theonnes

Approval of 10/22/03 agenda with addition of Grant Walker from the Fire Department with discussion on Fire Hydrant Tax

Approval of 9/24/03 Minutes

Elected Officials Reports

Legislative

A representative for Ellis & Gara relayed information for contacting those legislators and said that they are looking forward to hearing from constituents.

Assembly

Faye Von Gemmingen & Doug Van Etten

Discussion covered:

Vandalism in West 20th Avenue

Sue Fison retirement

Automatic Planning E-Alerts available for community councils – sign up on www.muni.org/planning/index.cfm.

Assembly action – Property Tax Assessor's office to get a 94,000 transfer to get rolls up to date. Doug Van Etten emphasized the importance of having true assessed value on the records.

Faye said she introduced amendment for popery tax for senior citizens and vets. Outlined those amendments

Approval of U-Med district plan – Van Etten summarized plan

Approval of remote ignition start device

SMG & Sullivan Arena reimbursement

Budget Hearings - Public Hearing October 28th & November 4 in Mayors Conference Room

Fire Hydrant Tax ballot

Funds appropriated to demo Trapline building

School Board Report – Tim Steele

Not in full budget discussion but starting that process. Schools losing kids at PDF time – approximately 300 last count. 26 million dollar shortfall expected. Community Budget committee report due 10/30/03 will prioritize cuts and outline sharing services. Budget expected in January or February. Teachers & Public Employees Retirement fund is the main reason for shortfall due to poor returns on investments. Local governments and school districts that participate have to put in moneys to make up shortfall.

Treasurers Report: Mary Jo Robinson

Checking Balance: 106.25; Savings Balance 522.85

Police Report Sgt. LeBlanc not in attendance – no report

Representative from Murkowski's Office

Susan Fischetti from Governor Murkowski's Office attended our meeting as part of his outreach program. She is attending Community Council meetings looking for comments and suggestions of areas of concern to take to the Governor. Some of the topics she touched on were Resource Development, Energy, Alaska hire issues, and the budget which she noted could be found on-line at the Governor's web site.

"Raising the Skirts" of the trees adjacent to Romig Hill

Raising the skirts of the trees adjacent to Romig Hill-Spenard Road and Chester Creek bike path was discussed with a resolution in support of this project entertained by Sam Rose, motion made by Mary Jo Robinson, second by Bonnie Jack. Sam has been working on this issue and had discussions with Mike Woods at King Career Center and Wes Acree of Muni Parks and Rec. Woods offered to assist with 2 crews for 3-4 days but has to do it ASAP because of other commitments. We need to move on this otherwise they will not be available until spring. We need to define the perimeter to work. Fire Department representatives at the meeting said they would talk to the Chief, as they like to have community involvement and would be willing to assist. The residents in the community council area are also a potential resource for some of the labor this would require. Sam noted that the branches just need to be cut. Ed Oneill of Brown Jug and ARBRA can get us access to a chipper. The chips don't need to be removed, as they will recycle naturally. A number of attendees agree the homeless camps, trash, and undesirable activities will be greatly reduced if not eliminated by trimming the tree skirts. Motion passed unanimously.

Update 6-plex between W. 25th & Culver

Fran Elam presented an update on the Romig Park 8-plex issue discussed at the last meeting. A resolution appears close, Fran is "cautiously optimistic" that it will be in favor of the Romig Park residents. The residents appeared before the Anchorage Assembly and were giving a positive response to their issue. A meeting was set with the MOA and while a resolution did not come out of the meeting, options were discussed and resolution should be forthcoming. Fran will get back to the MOA staff if she hasn't heard anything in 10 days.

Romig Park Subdivision Traffic Problems

Kevin Theonnes, Assistant Principal of West High School participated in this session on the topic of traffic calming in the Romig Park Subdivision. He will be discussing this issue with the APD Resource Officers assigned to West High. Mr. Theonnes said if he is pointed in the right direction he will begin addressing the problem immediately. He invited the neighbors in the area to the school to meet the officers and discuss the problems. Sam O'Conner of Spenard Community Patrol expressed concerns about this being a short term fix with turnover of students, staff, etc. every year and made the suggestion that 23rd be designated a one-way street.

AWW Project Update

This project is completed but the pedestrian improvements were not included as AK DOT/PF would not coordinate with AWWU while street was closed and blocked off. It was noted that the area is still dangerous for pedestrians.

Midtown Community Council Update

Midtown Community Council formation led by Dan Coffey is on-track according to Sam Rose. The last meeting had 6 residents and 8 business representatives. There is one more meeting on November 12th before their proposal for a new Community Council goes before the Assembly. How this will affect our boundaries remains to be seen. Discussion involved having just completed an exhaustive 2 year boundary review process, it seemed unfair if a new community council that did not participate in that process is given most if not all of the territory designated to us, an existing, active council.

Boundary Change Update – Outreach to New Areas Action postponed

Trailwatch Program

Sam O'Conner said Trailwatch is getting off to a rough start, particularly trying to schedule the 5 groups of "ambassadors." There is reluctance from the groups to schedule specific watch times. Sam indicated they are going to propose a sign-up chart to see if they get some co-ordination with ambassadors on the trails. Training for the ambassadors is scheduled to begin in January.

9:00 Motion to extend meeting to 9:10

Fire Hydrant Tax – Grant Walker

Mr. Walker discussed this proposed tax and what the impact will be if the tax is not passed. He pointed out that the ratio of firefighters to population is less than the national average and especially compared to other cities of our size. Since all firefighters are EMT's and many of their calls are medical emergencies, some concerns about reduction in numbers of firefighters and equipment are longer response time for fires and medical emergencies. Walker indicated that without funding the Fire Department's ability to serve the community will be greatly diminished

November & December Community Council Meetings

Thanksgiving and Christmas are going to interfere with NSCC scheduled meetings. Discussion involved whether to hold the meetings on the 2nd or 3rd Wed. of the months of November and December. The council decided on the 2nd Wednesday of the month since the 3rd might interfere with people's travel plans.

Next meeting will be November 12th and December's meeting will be December 10th.

Adjourned 9:10 p.m.

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Next Meeting Date:
Wed, November 12

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