

Minutes of the North Star Community Council
Wednesday, February 25, 2004, 7-9 p.m.
North Star Elementary School Library

7:00 – Call to Order
7:01 - Introductions
7:05 - Approval of 02/25/04 agenda
7:06 - Approval of 01/28/04 minutes

Reports and Presentations

7:17 – Assembly – Dick Traini and Fay von Gemmingen

Many bonds were passed at the last Assembly meeting. This is the last year that the state is expected to guarantee any bonds. It is important to get the bonds passed this spring.

The Midtown Community Council is now official. The boundaries are from Fireweed Lane to International Airport Road and from Arctic Blvd to the Seward Hwy. Barbara Pepek remarked that for many years Northstar CC has represented both sides of Fireweed Lane even though it was not within its boundaries and would continue to do so. Bonnie Jack expressed extreme displeasure at Midtown being awarded the south side of Fireweed Lane from Arctic Blvd to the Seward Hwy.

Those caught soliciting prostitutes will begin forfeiting their vehicles beginning the first of June.

An ordinance requiring CO detectors is in the works.

The municipality is fighting SB 260, a bill which gives more seats on the AMATS board to state representation.

7:25 – North Star Elections – Barbara Pepek is the new Chair, Mike Mitchell continues as Vice Chair until a replacement can be found, Kattaryna Stiles is the secretary, and a treasurer is needed. Harriet Drummond is the Federation delegate. An alternate delegate is needed as well.

7:27 - School Board - Tim Steele and Jake Metcalf

Also spoke of the bonds on the ballot.

The school board lobbied in Juneau to get more money and help dealing with PERS and TERS issues.

7:33 - Treasurer's Report – we have \$598 plus \$100 in checking.

7:35 – Legislative – Materials passed around sent by Senator Johnny Ellis.

7:43 – Northstar Elementary School – Myrna Moulton, principal

The school is celebrating Dr Seuss' birthday with many activities this week.

Testing under the No Child Left Behind Act went well. Northstar had 100% attendance.

The principal made many phone calls and got kids to appreciate the importance of taking the tests. Two kids stand out as exceptionally conscientious. One child suffered a broken elbow on the playground, but told no one as he didn't want to miss the test to go to the hospital. He was able to make up the test later in the day. Another girl, who has been taught at home due to a serious illness, was brought to the school so she could take the test.

Student turnover has improved over that past few years and is down to 60%. Students still are largely from poor homes or are homeless and/or are ethnic/linguistic minorities.

7:50 - Alaska Railroad Whistle Noise Reduction System – Stephanie Wheeler

Improvements continue. Several stretches are now double-tracked. Federal dollars are bringing the system up from the fifties-era state it was in. The airport extension is now open. Intermodal station for Ship Creek is in the works; plans for Wasilla and Palmer

Intermodal Commuter rail service are also in the works. A citizen's group is pushing for the Valley area.

Our area is part of a test to reduce the sounds from train whistles at grade-level crossings. One test is of barriers to prevent cars from going around the gates when they are lowered. The trains are allowed to not use a signal if these barriers are in use. Another is to use directional whistles/horns that focus the sound at the traffic, making it quieter in the surrounding area. The ultimate solution is to eliminate grade-level crossings. We need to call SOA and AMATS concerning monies (federal) for these improvements. www.alaskarailroad.com for more info.

8:00 - Solid Waste Services – Alley Refuse Collections – Brian Vanderwood

Injuries to workers are very high, especially in Anchorage's alleys. In our area there are problems in the commercial alleys with trucks needing to back into dead-end alleys. Dumpsters are put in the right-of-way or plowed in by the city. Please put garbage near the curb and clear snow in front of garbage cans. Use several garbage cans rather than lots of little bags and don't make them too heavy.

8:30 - Westside Community Patrol Update – next meeting is on Monday, March 1 at 7 pm in the Paradise Inn.

8:35 – Five candidates are vying for Fay von Gemmingen's seat. Two came to introduce them selves – Woody Sanders and Sherry Jackson.

8:45 – "Secret" meeting will be at the Yummy Bakery/Tofu House restaurant on Fireweed Lane at 11:45 for lunch

9:00 pm – meeting adjourned.