

Federation of Community Councils

September 20, 2006 Meeting

Minutes

Attendance - Councils

Airport Heights – Mark Fish	Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule	Birchwood – Nanette Belk
Campbell Park – Sandy Traini	Fairview – Justina Meyer	Government Hill – Julie Jessal
Mid-Hillside – Lance Powell	Mountain View – Niki Burrows	Northeast – Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Oceanview Hank Hosford	Rabbit Creek – Dianne Holmes	Rogers Park – Heather Ireland
Russian Jack – Mike Gutierrez	Scenic Foothills – William Theuer	South Fork – Bob Gill
Spenard – Jason Bergerson	Taku/Campbell – Ron Jordan	Tudor – Sheli Dodson
Turnagain – Cathy Gleason	University – Betty Adkison	
CC Center – Deborah Bauer	& Ed Leach	
Mayor – Mark Begich	Mayor's Staff – Teri Albrecht	Assembly – Ken Stout
Elmendorf AFB – Bill Day	APD – Sgt Cindi Stanton	

The Chair Justina Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. The Agenda was approved unanimously. Dianne Holmes asked that Council Sharing be moved up in the meeting while the Assembly Representative was present. Chair Meyer suggested that if anyone had comments for the Assembly Representative that they give them at the end of the Assembly Report.

The July Minutes were approved without any corrections.

Mayor's Office - Teri Albrecht announced that the Mayor's Diversity Week is coming up beginning with a diversity dinner on October 6th. Tickets are \$50 each and the proceeds go to Chugach Alaska Corp., Bridge Builders and Nine Star. Individuals recognized for their commitment to diversity were Alaska Federation of Natives President Julie Kitka, and Liz Posey, retention coordinator for African American, Hispanic, Asian, International and Native American Student Programs at UAA. She encouraged everyone to go as the proceeds will go to charities. The Mayor will also be holding Town Hall meetings using the new audience response system they have purchased to get immediate ratings on topics discussed - the audience members will be able to vote for or against issues discussed on the spot. They will be able to rank area-wide CIP projects.

Introductions were made around the table.

Mayor Begich read the Proclamation making October Community Council Awareness Month. He hopes it will spur more people to participate, and he will encourage participation through his weekly newsletter. The input from active citizens helps make a better Anchorage. Debbie Bauer, Community Councils Center Manager, presented a picture of the New York skyline before 9/11 and one of the Statue of Liberty. He then took comments and questions from Council representatives.

Dianne Holmes (Rabbit Creek) stated that 660 senior housing units plus other large developments are going in on the Hillside. Residents are concerned about the increased traffic demand on Goldenvue. This doesn't fit in with the Anchorage 2020 Plan. The Mayor replied that under the current Title 21 it is allowed - it is PLI land, which allows even higher density. Down zoning falls under the law of public takings and is not allowed.

Paul Laverty (Government Hill) brought up the Knik Arm Crossing EIS and the detrimental effect on Government Hill. The Mayor stated that he has told the planners that they cannot dump that traffic onto the A/C couplet and that it becomes a DOT project when it hits the shore.

Bob Gill (South Fork) is concerned that on pages 78 & 80 of the LRTP, South Fork was the study area, but there was no representative of South Fork Community Council included in the discussion.

Cathy Gleason (Turnagain) expressed disappointment that the HLB Commission didn't even consider the comments made by the Turnagain Community Council before they took a vote on the Work Plan and passed it. It appears to be a done deal before the public hearings and testimony is just a formality. He told her he appreciates the hard work she does and suggested that she get their comments in to Robin Ward prior to the meetings.

Assembly Representative Ken Stout reported that the recently approved Parking Meter Ordinance raising the parking tickets from \$10 to \$20 is up for revision. Assemblyman Sullivan wants to change it back to \$10 or \$15. He stated that it is hard to give a definitive report on the doings of the Assembly as things change weekly. Traffic Calming has been approved for Russian Jack. They are also dealing with redistricting. The budget hearings will be coming up soon. Make your Assembly representatives aware of projects you want funded. They have no way of knowing unless you speak up. Debbie Bauer presented him a model car to welcome him to our meetings because he collects real cars - he said cars are his passion.

APD - Sgt. Cindi Stanton thanked the Council representatives for requesting that she be brought back as the APD rep - without our requests, she wouldn't be back. Chief Heun would like to come to our next meeting with his staff to answer questions and give us an idea of his plans for the department.

ASD - Tim Steele reported that to date they have 49,042 kids in school - 300 less than projected so far. Elementary enrollment is down, but Middle and High School enrollments are up. Special Needs teachers are still needed. The budget is in the Administrative Committee hands. It is important that people get involved in the budget process. That is how he got involved. The first meeting will be at Wendler on September 28 at 6 PM - check the Web page for more information. The PERS and TRS was increased only 5% in prior years. As we now know, they need a major increase - to go up to \$83 million to make the fund whole. They hope the State will fund the deficit before they have to give pink slips in March. They plan a Candidates Forum to discuss school issues and will have a lunch with the legislators before they go to Juneau. Cathy Gleason asked if people from the outside looking in come up with good ideas? Mr. Steele replied that there are some things suggested that they can do, but also things they cannot do.

Election of Treasurer - Jason Bergerson moved to accept Lance Powell as Treasurer. It was seconded and approved by unanimous consent. Debbie Bauer then passed out the budget sheet and explained our financial position with a correction to one of the figures. We now have a sublease tenant - Success by Six who pay \$485/mo rent. The report was accepted as corrected.

Debbie then distributed copies of the Community Council Awareness invitation and asked members to pass them on to others. She asked for volunteers to go on radio programs this month to talk about Community Councils.

Council Sharing;

Airport Heights - Traffic Calming is proceeding on 16th Ave. Some concerns were addressed and the project is in progress. Sunrise Drive and Alder Circle - there were concerns on undergrounding the utilities that were address through an ad hoc committee with the Project manager, and the project is near completion. They had a successful June Community Picnic.

Campbell Park - Increase of crime in thee neighborhood. Road conditions - residential streets are deteriorating. AWWU - Cache Drive project is ongoing and they wonder if it will ever be finished.

Fairview – The derelict building on Hyder has finally been demolished.

Government Hill - AMATS is supposed to start the process to amend the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on Oct. 12. This will be a 30 - 45 day public comment process. The amendment is to add the proposed Knik Arm Bridge project to the LRTP. At stake is \$93 million in Federal Highway funding. This amendment will allow for the bridge should. This \$93 million is for the bridge but should it be used for other long delayed projects on the Seward or Glenn Highways (or other national highway system roads)? Provide input to your Assembly members. An approved amendment will mean the Knik Arm Bridge will get the \$93 million. Rejection of the amendment will re-open the discussion of how diminishing Federal Highway funds could be better used on long delayed projects.

Mid-Hillside/East – We want to complete the Hillside District Plan.

Mountain View – Crime is up in the Council area. We need more members in the Community Patrol. POB Montgomery will not do anything that you do not force them to do. Mountain View Drive will be done soon – waiting on curbs to be poured (only two trucks in the Anchorage area can do this).

Northeast – A shopping center is going in adjacent to the Alaska Native Heritage Center. It will be pedestrian friendly. The Wal-Mart rezone is before the Assembly.

Rabbit Creek – Rapid development of land with inappropriate design and drainage standards and with many requests for amendments and rezones that are not in keeping with 2020 policies for southeast Anchorage. Failure to complete and implement the Hillside Plan before allowing development makes the plan useless. The lack of support from the MOA for funding of critical collector roads before high density zoning is built overwhelms the substandard transportation system and drainage of southeast Anchorage.

Rogers Park – Sound barrier work will continue into next year to get two of the seven sections built. The Urban Design Commission advocated preserving trees along Northern Lights Blvd.

Russian Jack – The Council is finishing the work on Williwaw Park playground. Traffic calming on Pine Street and 4th Avenue are complete for the safety of our children. Our big project is the Bragaw Street/Glenn Highway intersection replacement.

Scenic Foothills - Our Council is very pleased with the completion of the sound barrier on the Muldoon/Tudor curve. Beautification was a success.

South Fork - The Eagle River- Chugiak LRTP - the South Fork Access Area was decided on without any input from South Fork members - see page 79 & 80. New subdivision of around 40 homes upper Birdsong wetlands and back park access by those not following signage. Developer will have underground utilities. Street lighting may be an issue. Lower Birdsong residents want locked mailboxes - two people in Upper valley were victims of ID theft of a 26-person ID theft gang. Left turn off Eagle River Loop at Hiland for the Landfill heading South toward Anchorage is starting to get congested, alternate left turn lanes may be required. Three lanes may be required on the Glenn Highway from the Hiland exit to Artillery Road exit (downtown Eagle River). This would help ER/Anchorage commuters and valley commuters.

Taku/Campbell – The Council is asking the State to provide wildlife mitigation fencing and to reduce the foliage that moose browse on adjacent to roads. From 1992 to 2005 there were over 250 moose-auto accidents in the Taku/Campbell Council area. The proposed expansion of the Seward Highway is of great concern. Gang graffiti has increased in the past three years, though people are painting over most of it. There is up to two feet of flooding in the Campbell Creek bike trail tunnel under Arctic Blvd after a good rain.

Tudor Area – The Council will be soliciting door-to-door to urge neighbors to join the council. The crime rate is slowly rising in the neighborhood.

Turnagain - Encourage all Councils to go to the HLB Web site and review the Work Plan. This will go before the Assembly for final approval - FCC will let Councils know when the Public Hearing date is. This is our land and Councils should take an opportunity to provide input. There are HLB parcels west of the airport that are of concern as to future uses. A big thank you to Dave Zaloudck and the Parks maintenance staff for responding to my request to pull dead trees out of Balto-Seppala Park and replaced with live ones in the parking lot area and one other area planted last year. They did a great job and were very responsive. Dave even followed up with a phone call to see if I felt like they did a good job.

University Area - Proposed 86 unit apartment building on Dr. Hines old homesite. This building is too large for this space and will have a very negative impact on traffic on Northern Lights, Wesleyan and other residential streets. Building B is too dense. Streets are too short to be collectors. Rescue Mission is not up to code on a lot of its projects. Stores food in unsafe areas - have mice and pests invading surrounding buildings. Code Enforcement is very lax - no one is responsible for the people who are not allowed into the Rescue Mission at night due to alcohol problems or missing curfew. They become problems to the residents in the area.