

## **Spenard Community Council Minutes February 2, 2005**

### **Call to Order**

The Spenard Community Council began its February meeting with a planned Legislative Teleconference. Due to phone problems the teleconference wasn't able to proceed. The Minutes from the January meeting and February Agenda were both approved as drafted.

### **Assembly Reports**

No Assembly members were present to offer an Assembly Update this month.

### **Northwood Drive Project**

Steve Noble from Dowl Engineering provided us an update of the work that is planned on the Northwood Drive Project. This is a \$7 million bond package that has already been approved. Steve said that they are planning to make a presentation to the Urban Design Commission on February 9<sup>th</sup> seeking landscaping design approval. The big issue here is the 21 feet of peat underlying the area. The cost estimates to perform the work have gone up to \$10 million under the original project scope. An alternative is being considered to use piling around the existing underground utilities that could bring the cost estimate back down to around \$6 million. The alternative plan would involve a process called "peat overlay". In the first year of the project, the utilities will be relocated on pilings and the basic road structure will be completed with a temporary covering. In the second year, after a season's settling, the final road grade and repaving would be planned. The engineers have spent a great deal of time looking for a solution like this that will avoid complete excavation of the peat layer.

March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm a public meeting is scheduled at the Spenard Rec. Center to provide additional projects details. At this time, we know that the typical road section will be a 2-lane design with a 30 mph speed limit for the entire distance. Each lane would be 11 feet wide with curb and gutter. One side will have a 5 ft. shoulder and the other would include a 7 ft. wide trail. Traffic calming measures are incorporated into the design also. A unique feature will be the raised crosswalk with in-pavement lighting serving the elementary school. Also, landscaping along the corridor will be significant. A common question from residents has related to burying the overhead utilities. This is not part of the project and if it were, Steve noted it would increase the project budget by a couple million dollars. Also, the configuration of the intersection at Northwood and International will not change as part of this project. It had been looked at a couple of years ago and does not have an economic solution at this time.

Audience questions included a status report for the Tudor/Harding and Harding/Van Buren intersections. Steve said that Tudor/Harding is on hold right now while certain safety issues that have been identified can be resolved. Redoing the intersection design is

estimated to cost \$500,000. The Tudor/Van Buren project is only at the concept level. The cost estimate is too high to pursue at this time.

The Northwood Drive project website will be updated after February 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be available through Dowl's website, HYPERLINK "<http://www.dowl.com>" [www.dowl.com](http://www.dowl.com) under "Projects" "Northwood Drive".

### **Brown Jug Update**

Ed O'Neil provided us an update on the plans to acquire the old Space Station. They are still planning to acquire the property jointly with the owners of the Bear Tooth as discussed at a prior SCC meeting. The old Williams station will be demolished at the intersection of Spenard and Northern Lights. The owner's estimate they are about two weeks away from closing this deal and will seek conditional use permits after the close.

### **Election of Officers**

The slate of officers remains the same. Tom McGrath moved to close nominations and approve the slate by acclamation. Without objection, the following slate of officers was approved unanimously:

President – Robert Auth  
Vice President – Kristen Hately  
Secretary – Jason Bergerson  
Treasurer – Alan Thornhill

### **Habitat for Humanity Update**

Jim Fredrick, the Construction Manager for Habitat for Humanity in Anchorage, provided the SCC a status report of Habitat's work in the community. Over the last 13 years, HH has built 44 homes. They are shifting their focus from building single-family homes to also include multi-family units. The main reason for this is the dwindling supply of single-family, developable lots. Their goal is provide attractive, livable projects of benefit to the community.

In the spring of 2006, groundbreaking is planned for the Spenard/32<sup>nd</sup> project. The large 3/4acre lot is zoned B-3, which requires at least 10 units of density in the master plan. The plan will provide for 12-14 units and they hope to retain the wooded area facing Spenard Road. The properties will be built and sold as condominiums. The development would be classified as site-condos and be covered by the Municipality's site condo ordinance.

Jim provided an early conceptual design for the location and solicited comments. Audience members asked questions about the planned configuration of the multi-family units on the lot and the size of the parking areas.

Jim also mentioned that the Habitat for Humanity Do-it-yourself Center is available to everyone. It is located at 5023 Cordova and markets new and used building materials. Habitat also has a website; HYPERLINK "<http://www.hfhanchorage.org>" [www.hfhanchorage.org](http://www.hfhanchorage.org) for more information about projects and services.

### **FCC Report**

President Auth introduced Sgt. Cindy Stanton, the APD liaison officer to the Community Councils. Sgt. Stanton began her role as the liaison officer in January. The goal of this new position is to assist Community Councils with problems and improve communication. She is on duty from noon to 10 pm Monday through Thursday and plans to attend all Community Council meeting across the municipality. She can be reached by phone at 786-2668 or by email at HYPERLINK "<mailto:cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us>" [cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us](mailto:cstanton@ci.anchorage.ak.us) if anyone wishes to pass along comments or concerns.

Cindy said that she is aware of the Chelsea Inn issue. She has also spoken with Sgt. Sims of the SAU about other problems in our area. Sgt. Stanton provided us with a statistical report of calls in the SCC area for 2004. The majority of the calls are Traffic Accidents (689), closely followed by Thefts (564), Traffic Violations/Incidents (373) and Assaults (343). Over 4300 calls were received in 2004 in the Spenard area. Sgt. Stanton also provided an overview of how sting operations have changed over the last few years.

Questions from the audience related to the shoot-out on Chugach Way, "calls for service" regarding prostitutes in your area, and what's happening with the Nuisance Law. There are changes being looked at related to the Nuisance Law that would make it a more practical tool; primarily the use of civil citations by officers as opposed to the more complicated current use of liens.

In & Out Liquor was mentioned by a couple of audience members as a magnet for inebriates. A request was made that APD attempt to watch this location for violations of the liquor sales laws. The status of the Chateau on Minnesota was also a topic. At this time, it appears that the Chateau may be shut down for a long time since both Federal and State investigations are ongoing.

Bob also reported on the last FCC in mid January. The Municipality has reinstated funding for the FCC of approximately \$100,000 subject to the FCC and Muni working out a relationship with the Community Councils. The proposal at this time includes the Community Council being required to have certain items included in their by-laws; possibly including financial reporting annually to the Assembly. The FCC website has not been updated in some time and continues to be an issue.

### **Committee Reports**

Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

Deferred.

### Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Sam provided a rundown of the current 'hot spots' in the SCC area. Chugach Way had a shoot-out about a week ago in the area of the L&L and Kathy O trailer parks. There has been a lot of traffic in and out of these locations. The lesson with the most recent incident is that even when APD officers are patrolling the area an incident can still blow up. All residents should call in suspicious activity.

North Star and West 30<sup>th</sup> continues to be a problem with prostitution and drug traffic. A request has been made to block the street located by Channel 11 and AWWU. Certain problems always come up when a street is requested to be blocked off permanently. A recommendation was made that the SCC should talk to Terry Albrecht at the Municipality about the process for solving these problems. Usually the Fire Dept. has concerns about emergency vehicle access and local residents will express concerns about general access. The biggest issue is the illegal activity in this area and how to reduce it.

3007 Arctic (the trailer park) is still a problem. Sam reports that a Mr. Hung is the owner. As has been mentioned the last several months, drug traffic and prostitution traffic have been increasing in this area.

### **Old/New Business**

A request was made that a Candidate Forum be provided at the March meeting for aspiring Assembly candidates.

Also, Don Smith came to speak to the SCC on behalf of a local property owner, Ersin Aygun. Ersin has previously addressed the council about plans for a car rental business on south side of Spenard Road near Gwennie's on the large lot that used to be a trailer park. Mr. Smith asked to be added to the March agenda to help Mr. Aygun readdress his development plan.

### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm.

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