

Spenard Community Council Minutes

January 5, 2005

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its January meeting with approval of the minutes from the December meeting. The meeting started a few minutes late to accommodate invited speakers.

Assembly Reports

Dan Sullivan and Pamela Jennings presented the Assembly report for this month. Dan Sullivan reported on the two Assembly meetings that were held in December (the 9th and 16th). The Assembly finished up work on the property tax exemption. The plan involves providing a property tax exemption of up to the first \$20,000 of assessed value or 10% of the assessed value of owner occupied residential property. The question to approve this new exemption will be on the April Municipal Election ballot. Mark Pfeffer has requested a 'deteriorated property' designation for property in the area of the proposed Muldoon Town Center. This relates to another part of the same law (HB 241) that passed the legislature this past year that increased the optional local property tax exemption.

Work still continues on defining the process for appealing Planning and Zoning determinations. There is no increase in appeal fees. A separate effort is underway to increase fees at Merrill Field that is strongly opposed by lessees. Finally, a meeting was held with the Legislative Caucus at the King Career Center to review priorities for the new legislative session.

Pam Jennings also provided a report of Assembly activities. A joint meeting of the Anchorage and Mat-Su Assemblies was held January 5th. Discussion items included a cooperative service authority that could save the Municipality several million dollars. The Knik Arm Bridge Authority is requesting economic modeling work related to a proposed ferry terminal at the small boat harbor. The ferry's would be similar to LST's and would hope to be in service by 2007. Another item that will be on the April ballot will be the Museum Expansion. Many think this is a good deal, getting \$100 million museum expansion for the price of \$1.5 million in annual bonding expense. Pam reported that she will not be able to attend the next couple of Spenard Community Council meetings while she participates in the Citizens' Academy.

Chelsea Inn Update

Sam O'Connor reported that things aren't getting any better, in fact they're getting worse at the Chelsea Inn. We may need to look into using the Nuisance Law the Rep. Rokeburg sponsored a few years ago.

The prostitution continues to be observed around the Inn from 8 pm until 5 or 6 am. Recommendation were presented to invited APD officers to an upcoming SCC meeting or talk specifically with Tony Henry or Chris Sims of SWAT. Chairman Bob Auth will also contact Chuck at the Chelsea Inn and remind him that his promises from a few months ago aren't holding true.

Proposed Assisted Living Home Ordinance

Doran Vaughn provided the members of the SCC with an overview of the draft ordinance that is scheduled to go before the Assembly on January 10th. He has been working with concerned citizens to rewrite the draft ordinance from last year and correct certain areas that conflicted with existing case law, specifically certain discriminatory portions. Doran said that he has worked with the ARC, Hope Community Resources, Assets, and AARP on the proposed revisions. The main issue to is provide compliance with the Fair Housing Laws.

There are 277 Assisted Living Homes (ALH) in the Anchorage area. Of the total, 260 of the ALH's have less than 5 residents. Seniors are served by 171 of the homes, and Developmentally Disabled are served by 160 of the homes. Only 17 homes currently have 8 or more residents.

Doran provided a great deal of additional information to the council and he plans to come back and provide an update on the Assembly work session at a later time.

Amendment to By-Laws

Tom McGrath is working on this issue. The primary changes involve reflecting the SCC boundary changes into our by-laws. The plan may include referencing the municipal ordinance instead of narrating the complicated boundary description. This would also allow us to reflect any future boundary changes without amending the by-laws. A report will be made to the council in the near future on our progress.

Upcoming Election – Board members

Sam O'Connor has once again been volunteered to chair the nominating committee. At this time, the existing slate of officer is willing and able to continue in their positions. The present slate of officer is provided in the new Spenard Newsletter.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

Peggy provided us an update of the work that is planned on the Northwood Drive Extension. This is a \$7 million bond package that has already been approved. We are working with Steve Noble at Dowl Engineering. 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. This will be a two year project once it begins.

February 1st is the next Citizen's Advisory Council meeting. The SCC will also hear a presentation at the February meeting. Traffic calming in the areas of 45th, 48th and Aspen is an issue that could be addressed also if excess dollars become available in redesigning the Northwoods project.

The Maple Ridge project was voted on last month and the vote went 8-0 against rezoning. Peggy is checking on the appeal process, but at this time it looks like the 20 day appeal period has lapsed.

A final thank you goes out to ML&P and Pam Jennings for their help with the Banner replacements along Spenard Road.

Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Sam reported that since it's getting colder, everyone should check their fire alarms, smoke detectors and CO2 detectors. Recent fires have occurred in our area at a couple of apartments and they didn't have alarms.

Also, the community patrol has a website everyone should check out: www.communitypatrols.org. This isn't just for the Anchorage Community Patrol program; it also provides information about several others across the State.

There are plans to use \$100,000 of Homeland Security grant funds to focus on disaster planning and preparation through the community patrols. An old People Mover bus is being set up for

transporting personnel and stretchers and they are planning to update the equipment inventory also. The new goal is to visit every community council meeting and accumulate a list of interested volunteers.

The Chelsea Inn remains a problem as reported earlier. The trailer court at 3007 Arctic, space # 39 is no longer a problem, but space #67 has become a new problem.

The web cam is still in the works. We need to figure out the appropriate height to mount it and complete the Policies and Procedures that were discussed at a previous meeting.

Old/New Business

Randy Sweet from Habitat for Humanity has asked to be part of our next meeting agenda. He has draft designs to show us related to the project planned at the 32nd and Spenard site. Also, Teri Horton has recently been hired as the new Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity in Anchorage.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be February 2nd at 7pm.