

Spenard Community Council

Spenard Recreation Center - 2020 W 48th Ave,
Anchorage, AK 99517
Wednesday, March 4, 2020 @ 6:30pm-8:30pm



Minutes

| Time | Topic |
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| 6:30 pm | <p>1. Networking - meet and greet/coffee and cookies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for the cookies, Peggy Auth! |
| 7:00 pm | <p>2. Welcome/Call to Order: Lindsey Hajduk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting, Agenda for current meeting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Tom McGrath moved to approve, Jed Smith seconded. Consent agenda passes. • Introduce new Executive Committee and Guests • Neighborhood & Community Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andy Holleman: noted he is running for re-election for school board seat. ○ Zane Miller and Stephanie Miller (new to area): introduced themselves as first time meeting-attendees; voiced concern about suspected drug-dealer on their street. ○ MaHogani Magnetek: announced suspension of campaign for Assembly seat and thanked Austin Quinn-Davidson for support given today via Facebook post; excited to come back to attend meetings as community council member. ○ Tom McGrath: reminded about vote by mail; cited low voter turnout and encouraged attendees to vote by mail. ○ APD Sergeant Ken Bushue: Provided stats on calls for service in Spenard for past 2 months: 1,832 calls, highest area for calls is Carrs-Aurora Village (67 calls). For questions/concerns, residents can reach out directly to Officer Bushue (prefers email): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contact information: kbushue@muni.org, 907-786-8723 ○ West Anchorage Candidates Forum: March 19th @ Spenard Rec Center beginning at 6:30pm. Hosted in partnership with Turnagain, North Star, Sand Lake, and Taku-Campbell Community Councils. |
| 7:17 pm | <p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austin Quinn-Davison: Assembly will vote on school district's budget on March 24. Noted that she co-chairs health policy committee with assembly |

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| | <p>member Suzanne LaFrance; provided prevention information about COVID-9 virus: http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional discussion on Aloft hotel (36th & C Street) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Peggy Auth: Cited loss of hundreds of units of housing in midtown (closure of Plaza 36th trailer court) by years of commercial rezones. ■ Question is if luxury hotel is best use of limited funding? (Hotel will likely be used primarily by wealthy out-of-towners rather than housing to meet local need). Made appeal to Spenard/Midtown Assembly members, mayor’s office, and planning department. ■ Austin Quinn-Davison’s response: Area would need to be rezoned for housing; city cannot tell land-owner what they need to be building rather than a hotel--but noted this is part of a bigger issue regarding adequate housing; cited another tool the Muni could use: Reinvestment Focus Areas (RFAs.) ● Anchorage School Board Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andy Holleman: Discussed upcoming \$83 million bond package and estimated property tax increase evaluation (\$6.85 per \$100,000) and backed up coronavirus travel suspension by superintendent. ● Airport Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ John Johansson: Seeking input from community on community outreach plan, deadline for comments is March 17. Addressed question from last meeting regarding if travelers flying regional carriers will be required to have REAL ID; still does not have a full answer but hopefully will have an answer next month. ● Spenard Cannabis Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jed Smith: Noted upcoming community & economic development committee on March 6; one item on agenda is “Top Shelf”--retail facility in Spenard as well as updating muni code regarding Cannabis. |
| 7:45 pm | <p>4. Special Topic: Anchorage Public Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Library Director Mary Jo Torgeson: Discussed online library resources as well as decision to halt fines. Provided information about Proposition 7 which would benefit Chugiak-Eagle River Senior/Anchorage Senior Center as well as Loussac/Mountain View libraries. ● Discussion on unsafe bike parking and difficult/unsafe outdoor book return--library director noted that these are known issues. |
| 7:52 pm | <p>5. Special Topic: Spenard Corridor Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joni Wilm (Senior planner with AMATS): Cited nationwide movement to combine transportation and land-use planning, with Spenard Corridor Plan being Anchorage’s first transit-oriented plan to do this. Spoke on Reinvestment Focus Areas (RFAs) and noted that the planning department believes Spenard may be a perfect place to roll this out. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Joni recommended that she and Thede Tobish will return on April 1 SCC meeting (prior to April 14 Planning and Zoning meeting). ○ Recommendation to create committee for SCC comments. SCC president gathered names of potentially interested committee members. |
| 8:03 pm | <p>6. Special Topic: Zip Kombucha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Melissa Branch: Request change of conditional use permit to convert their food production conditional use approval to a brewery approval (now that MOA allows breweries as a conditional use in the B-3 district). She noted that although Kombucha is non-alcoholic (fermented sweet tea), they may be creating hard, alcoholic Kombucha with the permit change. |
| 8:09pm | <p>7. Special Topic: Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● http://www.mtp2040.com/index.html ● Bob Auth: Consensus from SCC work group is that the plan is heavy on high-volume road projects and light on pedestrian access/safety, bicycle infrastructure, and public transit. Some highlights our work group supports these road projects: two Spenard road projects, one from 31st to Minnesota, and the other from Minnesota down to Northwood; potentially allows someone to walk safely along the whole length of Spenard Road. Goal to “humanize” Minnesota; functions as inefficient freeway and not serving people who live and work there very well, like lack of sidewalk maintenance in winter. Noted that comments are due on March 9. ● Joni Wilm: Noted that new MTP 2045 will start next year (occur every 4 years), hope to start public review of Non-Motorized Plan in April (bicycle, pedestrian, and trail plan combined), noted that she was happy to present on that plan. Goal is to dial down on bike/pedestrian/trail improvements; big piece of that is winter maintenance issues. |
| 8:19 pm | <p>8. Special Topic: \$50 Gas Card giveaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Winner: Andrew Olson. |
| 8:30 pm | <p>9. Adjourn: Lindsey Hajduk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: Move, Tom McGrath, Second: Peggy Auth. Meeting adjourned. ● Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 pm |

To add agenda items to future meetings, email SpenardCC@gmail.com