

SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2003

Laquita from Dowl Engineers spoke on the resurfacing project on Arctic Blvd. There will be a meeting May 21 at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the AWWU conference room to further inform the public.

A motion was made to have no meeting of the council in July and passed unanimously.

There were problems setting up the teleconference equipment with our legislators in Juneau, so we were unable to speak with them this month. Faye Von Gemmingen talked about her visit to Juneau in April and the proposal for new sales taxes statewide. There will be a work session on the new community council boundaries on June 6 with the Assembly hearing on June 10.

Dan Sullivan spoke on the May 13 hearing of the solicitation ordinance. He stated enforcement is needed for safety reasons and the solicitors would be required to secure a bond, wear safety gear and get a permit.

Various topics that came up include: There have been calls to the community council chair on the need for Lois Drive to be included in the next CIP. It is heavily traveled by cars, bikes and pedestrians. There are no sidewalks and it's too narrow for the volume of traffic it's handling every day. There is a meeting on Monday regarding problems with acquiring land next to the extension of Harding Drive. There is a land use ordinance that will allow "Mother-in-law" apartments to be built in R1 residential lands. How will that affect traffic and density?

The strip club issue is still a problem. The age requirement of 18 is legal to work and patronize these places. Questions were asked as to why they are not currently classified under the "adult entertainment" label as are strip clubs that serve alcohol.

The chair is reporting continual problems with the FCC. They are sending out e-mails without the agreement of the community council, they are not allowing the community councils to send out surveys, although we are mandated to do so and they are sending community council newsletters to council members in e-mail form to those that have it, even though they have not asked the members if that is their preference. Let assembly members know if you are concerned that community councils are being prevented from communicating to their members.

Stephanie Wheeler from the Alaska Railroad told the council the first trains will be running on the spur to the airport beginning May 15. There are new double tracks at Campbell Creek and Klatt. Allen Thornhill asked about moving the track to the south of International. Margaret Auth also asked that the railroad work with the DOT to tighten up the left turn lane on International heading west so people cannot make illegal turns on to International from Northwood as a safety precaution.

Theresa Maseur of the airport noise program spoke on the quiet homes program. Questions were raised as to if there were increases or decreases to property values if you enroll in the program.

Dave Diller with CRW Engineering Group addressed the areawide rehabilitation currently happening on the Coastal, Fish, Campbell and Chester trails. There will be a meeting on May 28, 4:30-7 p.m. at the Loussac Library conference room. You can log on to CRWENG.com to see what they are doing.

Susan Brown with A.W.A.R.E. talked about the need for neighborhoods to be prepared for natural and other emergencies. You can call her at 343-6114 to get more information and hopefully, to think about preparing for disasters and enlisting the ideas and support of neighbors.

Dan Coffey asked the council to approve the liquor license for Marah's restaurant. A motion to approve passed unanimously.

The Doo-Dah Parade doesn't seem to be happening this year. No one has stepped forward to do the work and those who have done it in the past are taking a break or passing the baton.

Sam O'Connor gave a safety report. Prostitution is up. Make reports to the police so they are aware of where it is happening and will do more stings. Hot spots are now: Spenard - Fireweed to Wisconsin and on Arctic from Fireweed to Tudor. Minnesota Billiards is still a very bad problem and is negatively affecting its neighbors. Call police dispatch, 786-8900, to report.

Joann Delp presented to the council an ombudsman's report to place a stop sign on 32nd and Willow. A motion was made and passed to support the neighborhood and the report by having two stop signs. It was passed unanimously.

There is a safety issue with the bus stop on Spenard near 36th on "Dead Man's Curve". A resolution was made to ask that the stop be moved to a safer location. This passed unanimously.

New business discussed by the members included: We need an update on Chugach Way and could it be included on next month's agenda? Allen Thornhill wants Chugach Electric to bury their new lines. This is coming up before the Assembly May 20th. He would like to see a consensus of the council.

Motion was made to adjourn and passed.