

Spenard Community Council Minutes  
November 3, 2004

**Call to Order**

The Spenard Community Council began its November meeting with approval of the minutes from the October meeting and an amendment to the original agenda, changing the order of business to accommodate invited speakers.

**Assembly Reports**

Dan Coffey and Pamela Jennings presented the Assembly report for this month. We were provided an update on the budget process set to begin on Nov. 9. The Assembly plans to request 8 new Police Officers (versus the Mayor's request for 20), funding for the Lake Otis & Tudor intersection and other improvements. The total budget proposal is \$329 million with \$20 million earmarked for salary adjustments and \$11 million planned to cover increased benefit costs. The new revenue from the Tobacco Tax is expected to be around \$8.9 million and is planned to offset the proposed \$20,000 owner-occupied home exemption on property tax.

A revenue package will also be on the ballot for a new convention center in the spring. The plan is to offer \$93 million of revenue bonds that are not taxpayer supported. Instead, the bonds will be backed by revenue from the convention center itself. There are still a number of questions about parking for this new facility that are left to be resolved.

A number of questions were asked by the audience members related to Spenard not encouraging small businesses to grow, Bed & Breakfast exemptions, and a perceived lack of integration between commercial and residential interests.

Additionally, we heard that Planning doesn't have the capacity to update and enforce many of the code enforcement and land use regulations that are on the books. The target is to update these provisions by 2006. The first step is to finish up the generalized land-use maps and later work toward detailed zoning maps.

The E-911 system is still being updated. Some address changes will be necessary to comply with standards and ensure that address are unique.

The MOA's bond rating was recently reaffirmed as AA3. The Municipality has \$1.3 Billion of outstanding G.O. debt and has reserve funds to provide for the debt service coverage.

There have been additional complaints against Chilkoot Charlie's related to their liquor license renewal. The Anchorage CHARR has designed and instituted a standardized training program for bouncers to address the problems surrounding the death at Chilkoot's earlier this year.



Finally, Parks & Rec. is being reorganized to split certain functions between Eagle River and greater Anchorage.

### **Anchorage Municipal Libraries**

Art Weeks, the Municipal Librarian, provided us a presentation on what libraries can do for us. He reported that Anchorage spends more money per capita than any other city in the nation in support of its libraries. Art passed out a brief survey soliciting feed back on library services. The Loussac Library is approaching it's 18<sup>th</sup> year (built in 1986). They are planning to increase bandwidth available to the public to 5 MB and currently offer 60 public access P.C.'s.

### **Tudor & Wilson/Cambridge Intersection**

Deferred

### **Spenard & Benson Building Demolition**

The building has finally come down. Demolition crews completed the work just a few days before our meeting.

### **Funding of Code Enforcement**

There are only 2 code enforcement officers for the entire city. There used to be 6, with one assigned to the Spenard area. There is no money available to solve these problems until the organizational issues are addressed. Many areas have chronic violators that get away without penalties. The goal of code enforcement is eventually to offer a one-stop shop to address all code enforcement issues. One idea that was offered was to put a lien on the property of chronic violators. Another idea involved using the same approach we discussed with Nick (the DA dedicated to addressing all of the prostitution cases) that would involve addressing all code enforcement issues by a single program.

### **Title 21 Update**

Mike Wolski gave us an update on the Title 21 revision process. The process is continuing to redraft the MOA's planning regulations. The public process has gone on for months and will continue. Three modules are being worked on by Planning staff. These get passed on to P&Z and eventually the Assembly. Realistically, there is at least 2 more years worth of public hearing and work before the revisions are ready.

Mike recommended to the SCC that we make some statement officially with respect to the plan soon. Early comments will help in the redrafting process and ensure that issues of concern to the SCC are addressed. The unintended consequences at this point involve high costs of redesign on existing parcels leading to developer's leaving prospective projects because there isn't any margin in the project. Over time, we were told, the rules have swung like a pendulum. At times, the rules have been too restrictive (good development



that is too costly) and at others, too permissive leading to profitable development projects that are truly ugly.

Two issues drive development, The 2020 Plan and Title 21. Currently, these two components are in conflict with each other.

### **Banner Relocation**

An official request needs to be made from an Assembly member to a supervisor at Signal Maintenance to get help replacing the downed banners. Signal Maintenance uses lift trucks to work on the traffic signals but can't loan us the use of a truck and crew without specific permission. Pam Jennings volunteered to make the request on behalf of the SCC.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Sam reported that the old EOC building is being dedicated in memory of Joe Murdy, on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Also, Sam reported that the Volunteers In Police Services (VOIP) program will be meeting with Risk Management's attorney to address liability issues when the program staff assist from the community patrols assist the municipalities police and fire officers at the scene of incidents.

The Chelsea Inn, owned by Sung Su, is again the site of various issues relating to prostitution. The location is Lois and Spenard. Our information indicates this is another property owned by the same person that has the Royal Suite Lodge. A request has been made to invite the owner to attend the next SCC meeting to address concerns about these establishments.

#### Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

Deferred to next month

### **Old/New Business**

Laura Oden has volunteered to help with updating the FCC web site. Pam Jennings asked the SCC is there is a preference in how the Assembly directs funds to address the FCC's mission: Do we want to see the FCC get additional funding for would the council prefer to see some funds come directly to SCC for public information purposes?

Tom McGrath volunteered to compile an electronic version of the current SCC by laws. The boundary definitions need to be updated to reflect the Community Council reorganizations.