

Spenard Community Council Minutes  
September 1, 2004

**Call to Order**

The Spenard Community Council began its September meeting with approval of the minutes from the August meeting and amendment to the original agenda, adding an Announcement period at the beginning of the meeting.

**Announcements**

35<sup>th</sup> & McRae Project: Brian Looney, CRW, announced there will be an upcoming public meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Turnagain Elementary. All members of the Turnagain and Spenard Community Councils are invited to attend. Depending on weather, a walk through of the project area is planned for 6:15 pm that evening with the main meeting set for 7:15 pm. A newsletter explaining the planning process is set to come out next week to residents in the project area. A website will be available soon, HYPERLINK "http://www.35thandMcRae.com" [www.35thandMcRae.com](http://www.35thandMcRae.com) to keep everyone updated on project plans and progress.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Opportunity Fair: Contact is Gail, Fair planned for Spenard Rec. Center on September 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 2 pm.

AkPIRG is planning an open house for September 3<sup>rd</sup> at their downtown office, 507 E Street, Suite 213.

ISAFE America is planning an internet safety town meeting at the Spenard Rec. Center on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

Villa Nova, recently reacquired by George Chrimat, has applied for a liquor license transfer. The restaurant located in the strip mall on the Northeast corner of the International and Arctic intersection, is no longer within the SCC boundaries. This item will need to be taken up by the new Midtown Community Council.

**Assembly Reports**

Pamela Jennings presented the Assembly report for this month. Chairman Traini was also in attendance.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) will be a busy time for the Assembly. The following issues are planned before the Assembly:

Anchorage School District – school bonds are on the agenda at the next meeting. The bond package will be in two forms; one from the School District and another version from

Chairman Traini. The difference between the proposals is that Mr. Traini proposed dropping the non-reimbursable items from the bond package. The primary pitch for the Muldoon Middle School and the Major Maintenance package has focused on State reimbursement of 60 or 70 percent of the costs. Some of the School Districts proposed projects do not qualify for School Debt reimbursement, so Mr. Traini stated that his version would eliminate the possible misperception by the public that all of the bonds would be subject to reimbursement.

Dog control – reauthorization of dog parks is up for a vote.

Child Care licensing – new regulations compliant with State regulation are on the agenda; changes will likely lead to slightly higher child care costs (in the \$6-10/month range) due to changes in insurance requirements and student/caregiver ratios.

Habitat for Humanity is planning 10 or 12 units at 32<sup>nd</sup> and Spenard. Habitat was recently in the news regarding acquisition of the property.

The Assembly chair commented about the recent Fire Department shut down of 4619 Spenard Road. The location is across the street from the Millennium Hotel and housed the Alaska Visitor's Center and an espresso shop. The site suffered from multiple fire code violations and presented a very public safety hazard.

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

This topic was a continuation of last month's discussion. The municipal traffic engineer was invited to speak to the council but deferred to the State Dept. of Transportation. Scott Thomas, from DOT, provided us with a history of the intersection and options that could be explored.

Scott works for the DOT division that is responsible for all of southcentral Alaska. He explained that the Tudor Wilson/Cambridge intersection has been studied on 3 separate occasions. Most of these studies appear to have been prompted by requests from the public. The traffic studies were conducted in 1988, 1997 and 2001. The most common accidents at the intersection appear to be angular crashes and left-turn crashes. Crashes at this intersection had dipped to less than 5 per year from 1999 through 2001. Accidents at this intersection are currently about 30% above average for intersections of this type.

He did say that based on new Federal Regulations, the Tudor Wilson/Cambridge intersection does appear to be approaching the conditions in regulations that would prompt a review, but it is not there yet, based on data through 2002. The municipality has recently received the latest 2003 accident data, but DOT would not officially receive the same data until sometime next year. Scott mentioned that he would request data specific to this intersection in order to begin an earlier review of the problems.

Two different issues appeared to be of the greatest concern to neighbors; vehicle traffic control and pedestrian access. This intersection had received state funding for a light in

1991. At the time the funding was received however, the School District opposed a lighted intersection because students would use the crosswalk instead of the elevated walkway to get back and forth across Tudor.

Mr. Thomas discussed the volumes of traffic that transit this corridor. Currently, 24-25,000 vehicles per day pass this intersection. Signal from Minnesota to the Seward Highway along Tudor are synchronized. Options that can be explored by DOT include making the intersection a right turn only intersection (puzzle-piece left turn), complete blocking with a median across Tudor, left turns off Tudor to Wilson and Cambridge but no crossing traffic, and improving visibility on the south side of the intersection by clearing foliage (brushing) to the west and east of the Cambridge side of the intersection, and finally, a lighted intersection with synchronized timing.

Scott provided his phone number, 269-0639, and Jerry Reed's (the Anchorage Superintendent at DOT Maintenance) 338-1432 for those that have other questions. Righting a letter to both requesting brushing assistance at the intersection was discussed and the letter will be drafted by the SCC Chair.

#### **Pop Carr Skating Rink Proposal**

This item was deferred. No one was available to address the proposal at this time.

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

It is once again time for the Assembly to address half of the 440 outstanding liquor sales licenses. Two issues were of particular concern: the Bear Tooth parking situation and the Buckaroo Club.

The Bear Tooth has not yet completed the landscaping and renovation of their parking lot. Last year, Assembly member Faye Von Gemmigen, made a specific point of requiring the owners of the Bear Tooth to post a bond after several delays in their parking lot improvements. At this time, we have heard that the owners of the Bear Tooth have pulled their permit request, possibly delaying the project another year. Consensus of the SCC was that Bear Tooth is exactly the kind of business Spenard wants to see, but, their licenses should not be renewed if they do not comply with their obligations.

The Buckaroo Club's license is not part of this year's renewal list. However, requests were made from the SCC that the owners be invited to address the Assembly regarding concerns.

#### **Prosecution of Prostitution Cases**

Senator Hollis French provided a brief background report to follow up on discussion from our April Council Meeting. Hollis has drafted a letter to the municipality requesting that all of the like cases involving prostitution and related activities be handled by a single DA, as opposed to being spread across all of the prosecutors. The municipality has agreed with the

request and has begun to assign all of the cases to DA Nick Spiropolous. Nick was not available to attend the SCC meeting, so Hollis asked that the council provide time next month to discuss the progress on prosecuting these cases.

### **Committee Reports**

Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Sam reported on the current hot spots: Jefferson & Minnesota is the site of major drug trafficking activity; the area of 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> & Arctic is seeing increased gang activity and prostitution; the Long House (off Wisconsin near the Lake Spenard) is where "John's" are taking prostitutes and the owner's know it; Royal Suite Lodge was recently the scene of a stabbing, and the Chelsea Inn (Spenard and Lois) continues to be problem.

Sam also gave us an update on the VIPS (Volunteer in Police Services) and Community Patrol meeting that occurred earlier today (September 1<sup>st</sup>). The groups are working together to improve volunteer participation. There are liability concerns about the role that volunteers play in helping APD. Traffic control following an incident was an example that was discussed. The groups hope to come up with a solution that will clarify the role of the Community Patrols and improve safety and volunteer participation.

Reminder: More volunteers are needed for the community patrol. The Westside Patrol recently lost 2 volunteers and is down to a total of 10 active members. Any amount of time that someone can volunteer will be greatly appreciated.

Planning & Zoning Report:

Peggy Auth reported that on the status of the Bart Green properties. Injunctive Relief may be sought to keep him from continuing to operate as he has, but, the process takes along time and may not be completed before he is able to reopen another operation. Mr. Green's properties have been known for noise complaints and other potentially illegal operations occurring in and around them.

Code Enforcement staff is approaching an all-time low. With a retirement coming soon, the staff will be down to just 2 people.

### **Old/New Business**

Nothing was presented at this time. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The next scheduled meeting will be October 6th at 7pm.