

Spenard Community Council  
May 5, 2004

### **Legislative Teleconference**

The Spenard Community Council began its May meeting with the final Legislative Teleconference. Senator Hollis French provided a summary of a number of bills related to victim's rights, violent crimes compensation for victims, and underage alcohol purchase penalties that have passed the legislature this session. We also heard the status of the "underage stripper" bill that is currently in the Senate Judiciary committee awaiting action. Hollis also provided us with details of the Bond Package that had passed the House but is now held up in the Senate. Local schools are slated for some maintenance funds; Lake Otis and Tudor upgrades are hoped for along with other transportation projects. Reps. Croft and Berkowitz were not available, having just been called to another evening Floor Session.

A brief Q&A with the senator dealt with a broad range of topics. The present form of the "underage stripper" bill has been watered down since its original form in the House. One member spoke in favor of the Governor's POMV plan with a 50/45/5 payout provision and a Constitutional spending limit. The status of the municipal election bill that Sen. Ben Stevens amended to apply only to Anchorage's mayoral election was also a topic of interest to many members. The bill that would create a Gaming Commission was also discussed; it has passed through the House and is in the Senate for hearings in Judiciary and Finance. Finally, a bill that would require standardized training of security personnel is attracting some attention. This issue has been in the news recently related to the incident at Chilkoot Charlie's.

### **Assembly Reports**

Chairman Traini and our new Assembly member Pamela Jennings provided the Assembly report this month. Two items of interest on the agenda for the May 11<sup>th</sup> Assembly meeting are the clarification of the cemetery decoration policy and the Title 17 Doggy and Kitty ordinance. The Municipality's website [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org) has been updated to allow direct links to the full text of ordinances by clicking on the title as it appears on the Assembly agenda. Dan Sullivan and Dick Traini just recently returned from Juneau where they had been lobbying on behalf of the Lake Otis/Tudor road project and a number of other municipal funding requests. Next year a new waterline section will be installed in the Bragaw right-of-way as the first step in completing the project. The new road will be built over the top of the waterline.

Pamela Jennings reported on the municipalities bond refinancing that had been taken up during their last special meeting. City garbage rates are going up. Those who use the muni's garbage service will now be paying twice as much for having half as much refuse picked up.

Chairman Traini also reported that if the Municipal Dividend option passes the legislature, Anchorage hopes to use such receipts for property tax relief. The Anchorage port has been designated a strategic port and will be instituting new security protocols with staffing provided by the Coast Guard. June 1<sup>st</sup> the new "John" law takes effect.

Council members expressed concerns to the Assembly members related to speeding in the neighborhoods and loud car stereos. There are noise ordinances on the books but they are difficult to enforce. Traffic calming projects have also been a priority for a long time.

### **Airport Development**

Diana Rigg, the Airport Planning Manager, presented information on the Master Plan process. April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> were the last meetings of the technical committee and the public advisory groups. A series of handouts were provided and are available from the SCC if anyone is interested.

The Master Planning process involves five main steps: (1) Inventory of general aviation activity, (2) demand forecasting, (3) establishment of facility requirements, (4) development of alternatives to meet demand, and (5) financial plan development. The next public meetings will be held in September or October with a goal of drafting alternatives by January 2005. Diana can be reached at 266-2544 for those with questions about the process or those interested in participating in the public involvement components.

We also heard more concerns about airport noise. A website will be available soon. An Environment Assessment will be done as part of the Master Plan. Members also pointed out the importance of the Spenard Beach to our community. The Lake Hood facilities are being looked at separately from the Steven's International Airport planning process.

### **Northwood Drive Update**

Steve Noble, Project Manager from Dowl Engineering, provided an overview of the Northwoods project. Geotechnical work has been slow due to the presence of peat in the area. In some areas the peat is 21 feet deep. AWWU is working on shear breaks in many of the utilities that have been caused by the differential freeze/thaw problems associated with the thick peat layer. The Citizen Advisory meetings will restart again after the Dowl report is presented in late May. Best case, road work should begin in 2005. Some utility relocations may be necessary and peat removal is still a critical issue to address.

Site plan approval for the project is expected to be at the 95% design level by Fall. Traffic calming is part of the design work all along Northwoods including a redesigned raised crosswalk at the Aspen intersection. The current speed limits are at 35 and 25 mph along Northwoods and may very well change to 30 mph in conjunction with the traffic "choker" design. Members expressed appreciation to Dowl for incorporating the many local comments into the design.

Harding/Van Buren improvements are currently on hold due to lack of funding. Tudor/Harding geometry issues are also being worked on. Realignment at this intersection is an important piece of redirecting truck traffic away from the residential neighborhoods. Questions about the projects can be directed to Dowl Engineering at 562-2000.

### **Quieter Homes Project**

Theresa Maser and Michael Hoteling provided us an update of the Quieter Home Project. The project is directed at the residential homes built prior to 1998 within the 65db contour around the airport. In the Spenard area, 108 homes have been identified as qualifying. The goal of the program is to reduce noise to 45 db or below in addition to an overall reduction of 5db. The Pilot Phase of the project involved 28 homes in May 2003. Phase IIA and IIB are set for this summer. Average noise reduction in the homes addressed in the Pilot Phase has been from 3-15db reduction by room and an average noise reduction of 6 db.

Phase III of the project will continue in the summer of 2005. Fifty one additional homes are included in the plan. Questions about this project can be directed to Paul Rosol (C&S Engineering Inc.) at 561-0064 or HYPERLINK "mailto:prosol3@cscos.com" [prosol3@cscos.com](mailto:prosol3@cscos.com).

### **Vice Chair Election**

Kirsten Hatley was elected Vice Chair of the council following a motion and unanimous consent. Kristen replaces Brenda Smart who resigned last month.

### **Capital Projects Survey**

At last months meeting, the list of potential capital projects was provided to the membership for prioritization. For those who have participated in the council, most of the projects are not new. Motions were made and passed relating to local projects and setting a priority list. A motion was also passed to send a new letter to State administration related to our capital project priorities. A motion to remove the International/Spenard interchange from the priority list also passed.

The Project Priorities List is as follows:

- Van Buren/Harding upgrade
- Spenard Road reconstruction
- Lois Drive – Northern Lights to 36<sup>th</sup>
- Fish Creek improvements
- 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Upgrades
- Sisterhood Park
- Soccer field rehab
- Wilson Park

Minnesota Park (sound deadening similar to C Street)

### **Committee Reports**

Peggy Auth provided the Planning & Zoning report. A request was made to send a letter to Mayor Begich, Carma Reed, the National Guard, and the newspaper thanking everyone involved in the Pink Hotel demolition project. Code enforcement issues were discussed related to the increasing presence of sandwich boards and balloons that are junking up the neighborhoods.

Northwoods Park will be undergoing some renovation. The interpretive signs that had molded over from years of neglect are being removed. Wheel chair access will be provided at both of the viewing platforms near the pond off of 47<sup>th</sup>. Thinning out the trees is also planned to afford increased viewability and safety around the park. A mid July start for some of the work is planned with other work being coordinated with the Northwoods Drive improvement project next year.

Sam O'Connor reported that there are two new hot spots: 3540 Nebula and 3508 Wyoming. PJ's owner intends to lease the lot next to his property and clean it up and landscape it. He is looking for ideas. Bike Patrols have just started up again. APD only had 2 units assigned to downtown so the Westside Patrol assistance is really needed. The Trail Watch program needs volunteers. There is very little training required for the volunteers and it provides an added measure of safety for everyone. Please volunteer or pass the word.

### **Announcements**

Citywide Cleanup week is May 2-9. Birchwood and Windemere residents will be working with Willowcrest students cleaning up Pop Carr Park and the road sections surrounding the neighborhoods (area bounded by Arctic, International, Tudor and Minnesota). A neighborhood potluck is planned for this summer.

Dog Park lovers are warned that Connor's Lake is off limits because of the loon population. A request had been mentioned to fence off part of Spenard Beach for a dog park. Members were opposed to loss of the beach and approved a motion expressing the "sense of the council" opposing such a proposition.

A motion was made to address the election law changes proposed by Sen. Ben Stevens. Several members felt that it was necessary to make a statement to our legislators that changes to local election laws are not the state's business. Others felt it is very important that the SCC not take a position on an issue that has clearly become very partisan. A large factor in our community council's success has been to refrain from partisan positions and work with both sides for the benefit of Spenard. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.