

APRIL 2004

Introductory comments and call to order by Chairman Auth occurred at 7 pm.

Legislative Teleconference

The legislative teleconference was cancelled. Senator French was in a committee hearing, as were Reps. Croft and Berkowitz. The legislature was trying to wrap up last minute business before the Easter Break (Friday April 9th thru Tuesday April 13th).

Minutes and Agenda Action

The Agenda and Minutes from the March Council meeting were accepted as presented.

Assembly Reports

No members of the Anchorage Assembly were available at the beginning of the meeting. The Municipal Elections were held the day before and the new member for the Spenard Seat D is not yet determined. The Assembly Report was deferred.

Fish Creek Projects

Deferred to following the Anchorage Roads Coalition

Anchorage Roads Coalition – Presentation by Frank McQueary

The Anchorage Roads Coalition made a presentation on Context Sensitive Design, which focused on fitting roads to their environment, rather than modifying the environment to fit the road. Their contention is that smaller, slower, more scenic roads can get the job done, with less intrusion into the neighborhoods they are meant to serve. The group formed about 2 years ago in response to proposals to widen Strawberry Road. The group expanded its focus since as news spread about similar design problems and neighborhood concerns. Other road projects with similar design issues include the Old Glenn and Upper DeArmoun.

A Powerpoint handout was provided to the attendees and is available from SCC officers for those who could not make the meeting.

Context Sensitive Solutions is a model for transportation project development that has recently received much discussion and broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints and opportunities in a larger community setting. MOA/SOA endorses the Context Sensitive Solutions approach for all projects, large and small, from early planning through construction and eventual operation.

This means that MOA/SOA employees working on projects and facilities should:

- Engage from the project's inception with representatives of affected communities,

including elected and appointed officials and a widely representative array of interested citizens.

- Assure that transportation objectives of projects are clearly described and discussed with local communities in a process that encourages reciprocal communication about local views and needs in the overall project setting.
- Pay attention to and address community and citizen concerns.
- Ensure the project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.
- Context Sensitive Solutions is a process that places a high value on seeking and, if possible, achieving consensus. MOA's belief is that consensus is highly advantageous to all parties and may help avoid delay and other costly obstacles to project implementation.

They asked for a motion of support at our April meeting. To that end, they proposed the following resolution:

Resolved that: Whereas the citizens of the Municipality/State have found their ability to participate in and influence the planning functions of the Municipality and the State to be inadequate we request that the Mayor/Governor adopt the following policy and require that MOA/State planning organizations adhere to it:

New Executive Order for Context Sensitive Solutions

- This new Executive Order directs MOA /SOA employees to implement Context Sensitive Solutions tools on all department projects.

A motion to support their proposed resolution was made and seconded after some discussion over the accuracy of the data presented and whether such a motion was supporting more bureaucracy by adding another layer of oversight. The motion passed by a 6 to 4 margin.

Fish Creek Projects (revisited)

Dan Billman and Bill Spencer from HDR made a presentation to the SCC regarding the planned activities on the Fish Creek project. The main purpose of the areawide plan is to reduce water in the Minnesota right-of-way causing downstream flooding and erosion. Funding is already in place (\$2.6 million) thru bonds and grants to perform the work.

This project has been in planning and development since 1989. Generally, the planned work includes culvert repairs, new road signage, storm drain relining, some man-hole replacements/additions and a diversion storm drain around Spenard & Minnesota. In the 2005/06 year, another project is planned near the Willow Street outfall. Signage

work will accompany this project as well.

During discussion, members mentioned the DOT projects in the Minnesota/Spenard/36th area and requested that work be coordinated if possible.

Spenard Banner Project: Kristen Hately

Kristen provided the council an update on her progress in working with Willowcrest and Northwoods Elementary school children to design a banner for Spenard. The plan is to have both schools separately work on banner designs that represent the community of Spenard. Individual banners would be judged by a group and passed on the SCC for final approval. To reward the efforts of the school children, a potluck would be planned.

A banner committee was formed to assist Kristen. The members of the committee are Kristen Hately, Peggy Auth, Sam O'Connor, and Bill Evans. Cost estimates to create final banners for display were in the range of \$500 to \$700. The SCC Treasurer offered the idea of approaching Pepsi to actually create the final banners.

Capital Project Survey

A questionnaire from the Municipality on ranking capital projects in the district was distributed. Since the Spenard Community Council boundaries have changed twice in the last year, about half of the capital projects are no longer within our boundaries. These projects were identified with the help of Tom McGrath and others at the meeting and an amended list of projects was left for us to consider. Some members wished to proceed with prioritizing the list, but ordering of the projects was tabled until the May meeting.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Committee – Peggy Auth

Peggy provided an update on the Maple Ridge hearing. Twenty to twenty-five neighbors attended the last hearing, with roughly 20 able to testify. The Assembly voted 8-0 in our favor against the developer's request. Thanks to everyone who took the time to testify.

Dr. Green and his son have both been fined for the activities at 2806 Aspen. Extensive renovation of the property is necessary to comply with building codes. There are issues regarding size of the space taken up by the business also. Spenard Coffee is said to be suing the Green's over competing uses of the property.

Community Planning is contacting neighbors of the Pink Hotel. The purpose of the contact is to find possible connections between the site and local drug use. The National Guard is in the final stages of taking down the old structure. If everything

goes as planned, the Pink Hotel will no longer exist by the time of our next meeting.

Public Safety Advisory Commission – Sam O'Connor

The next meeting is planned for April 13th at 9th and Klein; 6 pm. The focus will be on Reka violence.

The Pizza Olympia fundraiser could be used as a model project for other community fundraisers. To follow up from last month, the Paradise Hotel meeting led to interest from them in placing web camera nearby. Two cameras would be better than one, especially if pan, zoom and tilt functions can also be incorporated. West 30th is still the primary location in mind for a web cam site. Treasurer Alan offered to build brackets to support the web cams. Final locations have not been determined. The Assembly grant cycle is coming up soon and this project may be one to include for Spenard.

Sexual Assaults Downtown

APD met with the Westside Community Patrol and notified us that there has been an increase in sexual assaults downtown. Word on the street is spreading that APD is watching more closely. A recent sting operation on West 30th led to the arrest identification of six prostitutes; five were arrested.

Pink Apartment Building

A letter was written, as directed, by Sam O'Connor to Carmen regarding the nature of drug activity calls at this location. Discussion followed related to whether or not the issue is "dead". Lt. Noseworthy has stated it is no longer an issue, but, Sgt. Lacy is working to renew the issue. At this time, the situation is still "evolving".

Old & New Business

Brenda Smart, Vice Chair, announce that she is resigning her position on the SCC. She will also no longer be the SCC delegate to the Federation of Community Councils. Brenda is moving to the Sand Lake area. Brenda also reported on the last FCC meeting. Harriet Drummond is no longer the FCC chair. A new slate of officers has been elected. The annual survey for FCC still needs to be accomplished as well as resolving budget issues. Thanks to Brenda for her service to Spenard.

Discussion followed Brenda's report regarding an interim Vice Chair. Kirsten Hately was appointed until next month when we will have a special election.

The Governor's Office wants SCC to reaffirm previous resolutions related to tearing down two deteriorated buildings. The motion that was offered was approved. The reaffirmation will be written up and sent to Linda Schaeffer at the Governor's Office.

A reaffirming resolution was also requested related to engineering/design support for

the proposed 36th to Spenard 1-Way project.

Assembly Report – Dan Sullivan

A special Assembly meeting will be held April 8th at 5 pm. The topic is limited to liquor license renewals.

The union representing MOA employees has agreed to waive a COLA in favor of a new long term agreement. The 5 year agreement would provide 15% increase overall adjustments over the term of the agreement. This issue will most likely be a special topic at the April 20th Assembly meeting.