

Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 6:30-8:40pm

Zoom Recording:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKSHZMGbs5s&feature=emb_title

	Topic
6:30 pm	Zoom Happy Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCC President Lindsey Hajduk welcomed council members and guests.
7:00 pm	1. Welcome/Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom. ● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting on 10/07/2020, Agenda for current meeting). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Arina Filippenko moved to approve, Margaret Duncan seconded. Consent agenda passes. ● Hajduk introduced Executive Board council members.
7:10 pm	2. Brief reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Judy Jessen, Assembly Report (aide to Kameron Perez-Verdia; Perez-Verdia absent as Assembly meeting conflicts with SCC meeting this month) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regarding the vacant seat left by Austin Quinn-Davision's ascension to Acting Mayor; Perez-Verdia consulted with Dean Gates (Assembly's attorney) if the seat could be filled, but the answer is that this situation does not create the kind of vacancy that can be filled. As a result, West Anchorage will only have one assembly rep until a new mayor is elected. Assembly has increased hours for Jessen as aide; should not see a decreased constituent experience. ○ Budget: Outlined budget process. Budget mostly flat. Majority of the budget is funded by taxes; property taxes being largest. 56% spent on personnel; 40% is fire/police personnel. Budget comes along with an increase in taxes (estimated at \$100 per \$350,000 of assessed value.) ○ Alcohol Tax: Begin to be collected February 2021; not listed in budget because tax has not yet been collected. Proposed usage: variety of recipients but dedicating significant resources (\$7.5 million) to Anchorage Health Department as well as Anchorage Parks & Recreation (\$700,000) for camp abatement. ○ Additional resources shared in the chat: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Results to Community Council Budget Priority Surveys ■ Operating budget ■ Capital Budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Enterprise and Utility Budgets ■ Office of Management and Budget gave a much more comprehensive overview of the budget at a previous work session. That presentation can be found here. ■ Important to note: previous work sessions and meetings can be found on the Assembly’s YouTube, which can be found here. ● Starr Marsett, Anchorage School Board Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparing to open schools. Working on 5 year goals; will be rolling out a draft to the community with opportunity for community feedback; plan to meet again in January to revise goals. Must turn in a budget to the Municipality by the end of February. Estimating to receive more COVID-19 relief funds, but unsure of timeline. On November 18 from 5:30 to 7pm: virtual session for community members who are potentially interested in running for school board. Please contact Katy Grant for more information (grant_katy@asdk12.org) ○ ASD Calendar, link to School Board Serve Training Event ● John Johansen, Airport Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revisions to COVID-19 travel restrictions; no longer need 2nd test when you arrive in Alaska. Airport still operating at about 50% of normal passenger traffic; cargo still up significantly. Looked into by Peggy Auth to investigate campaign signs located within the airport right-of-way along Lake Shore Drive; will be more diligent next election to make sure signs are removed. ○ Stan Jones: asked question about erosion along coastal trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johansen: Airport worked with a consultant; projected runway itself might be impacted in 15 years. The Army Corps of Engineers will move ahead with a feasibility study; trying to get it into the federal budget (has so far not been successful.) Total project design & construction is estimated at \$48 million. ○ Peggy Auth: inquired about projects on west side of runway near Jewel Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johansen: Projects are complete now; dealing with drainage issues as well as installing a new security fence. ○ Karen Button: Inquired about progress on collecting de-icing chemicals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johansen: Hasn’t been a specific project to collect de-icing chemicals. One year ago, the Airport obtained an updated discharge permit associated with de-icing. One part is to address the impact on the intersection between Point Woronzoff Drive/West Northern Lights. Continually looking at ways to reduce de-icing and lessen impacts.
7:35pm	<p>3. Special Topic: Anchorage Zoning Districts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tom Davis, Senior Planner for city to discuss proposed text amendment changes to R-4A zoning districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The text amendment does not change zoning boundaries. Goal is to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment and to allow districts to be more flexible. Flexibility will allow for a wider variety of mixed-use construction. Originates from Anchorage 2040. Ask for comments back to the Planning Department by December 11. (anchorage2040@muni.org) ○ R-4A Zone Mixed-Use Text Amendment Muni Website

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Voiced concern about losing housing (cited loss of hundreds of trailers in Midtown; near SCC boundary). Inquired about how amendment is not leading to less housing? Inquired about differing types of commercial industries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Davis: Regarding housing, R4-A is different from commercial zones, ensures minimum amount of housing (20 dwellings per acre minimum). Some incentives for commercial uses require applicants to provide even more density for housing units. Allows for a more flexible zoning district, Planning Department believes that districts will still provide enough minimum housing. For restaurants, encouraged to look at the website to learn more about the differing uses. ● Paul Berger: Owns a mixed use property in Spenard; noted that there is a proposal in assembly to increase restrictions in codes; inquired if there is a movement to reduce restrictions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Davis: One of main goals of rule change is to increase flexibility; amendment will also make it easier to read and use the code.
7:50 pm	<p>4. Decision Topic: Proposed re-zone from R-4M to R-4A (Property is located at 36th & Arctic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● J. Jay Brooks: Spoke to history of developing properties in Anchorage; unsure of exact plan, but knows that moving to R-4A will allow for complexity that allows for properties to be competitive in the long run. ● Jerrod Dunbar: Inquired about size of apartments at Turnagain Crossing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brooks: Shared history of development. Goal was to develop a coffee shop; but Turnagain Community Council wanted a sit-down restaurant; went back to Kaladi Brothers to make plans for a restaurant. Properties around it have been re-built. 6 units (650 square feet each); high occupancy, less turnover. ● Paul Berger: Inquired about cost per square foot and if proposed project could be higher density. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brooks: \$200,000 per unit; return is about 6.7%. Noted that this is a moment in time where this works. Because it is mixed-use; it is difficult to finance; could do 75 units; but the reality is you might not be able to financially pull it off; want to build decent density. ● Action Item: Draft resolution SCC 2020-01 in support of Midtown Center LLC and Midtown Center II LLC application for zoning map amendment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Arina Filippenko moved to approve, Paul Berger seconded. Consent vote; Resolution passes.
8:07 pm	<p>5. Education Topic: Spenard Road Rehabilitation (Project overview from 30th Ave. to Minnesota Dr.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean Baski, Project Manager with Department of Transportation: Project nominated by AMATS (joint group by state/muni); federally funded project with match from DOT and Muni. Will have survey crews out in the next months gathering data. Minnesota intersection is only in picture because of minor pedestrian improvements in the area. Have only been permitted by the federal government to begin environmental gathering. Project construction will not start until at earliest 2025. ● Brooks: Inquired about integration with Chugach Way

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baski: Typically on linear projects, do not integrate into side streets because funding is targeted at main thoroughfare; making sure that access is provided. ● Button: Inquired about consideration for round-a-bouts to reduce congestion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baski: can certainly look at intersection improvements; round-a-bouts are on table. We tend to look at round-a-bouts first due to proven statistics about why they make sense, also negative impacts. ● Berger: Inquired about the West side of Spenard in terms of impact on parking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baski: Too early to answer that; blank slate; looking at impacts. ● Irene Persson-Gamble: Inquired about viability of pedestrian crossings at round-a-bouts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baski: Evidence of one lane round-a-bouts being safer; overall really good track record with improving safety (believes there has not been a single fatality at round-a-bout in Alaska.) ● Apollo Smalls: Advocates for round-a-bouts; originally from Jacksonville, Florida, where they are putting in a lot of round-a-bouts; especially nice for bicyclists and pedestrians. ● Everyone can joy the Virtual Anchorage Transportation Fair to learn about all the projects going on in Anchorage.
8:25 pm	<p>6. Special Topic: Traffic calming survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: introduced survey regarding traffic calming needs for future SCC resolution ● Traffic Calming Survey Link
8:30 pm	<p>7. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stan Jones: Advocated for repairs/improvement at Northwood Park; viewing decks rotting away. Voiced uncertainty about the next step. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hajduk offered to follow up with Jones regarding path forward and potentially working with Anchorage Parks & Recreation. ● Berger: Encouraged new attendees to introduce selves. Encouraged residents to contact assembly representative(s) regarding options for special election. ● Persson-Gamble: Inquired about audit committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Filippenko: Committee will have something more substantive next month.
8:40 pm	<p>8. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encouraged attendees to email SCC at spenardcc@gmail.com to add topics to future agendas. ● Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2; moved to adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Thomas McGrath moved to approve. Irene Persson-Gamble seconded. Meeting adjourns.