

**Spenard Community Council**  
 Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 6:30-9:00pm



Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmGx1tnq6Kc>

**Minutes**

	Topic
6:30 pm	<p><b>Zoom Happy Hour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SCC president Lindsey Hajduk welcomed council members and guests.</li> </ul>
7:00 pm	<p><b>1. Welcome/Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom.</li> <li>● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting on 11/04/2020, agenda for current meeting.)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Motion:</b> Thomas McGrath moved to approve, Peggy Auth seconded. Consent agenda passes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hajduk introduced Executive Board council members and provided overview of Feb 2021 SCC Exec Board elections; encouraged members to consider running for executive board positions. Voting member eligibility: must live or own a business with an address within Spenard CC boundaries and have attended one meeting in the past 12 months.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Link to Spenard CC Bylaws</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:10 pm	<p><b>2. Brief reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson (District I): Priorities: developing a comprehensive and sustainable budget (in order to fund education, medicaid and other services for most vulnerable citizens); constitutionally protecting the PFD; elevating Juneteenth as a paid state holiday. Acknowledges that Juneteenth has been overlooked, hope that this will create a better environment for understanding race in country &amp; state. Final priority is police reform (working on a package of 9 bills with Sen. Begich) using proven policies to reduce police violence.</li> <li>● Assembly Report             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kameron Perez-Verdia: Provided overview of CARES Act Funding. Advertised voucher program for individuals and households for basic needs, \$200 per individual or \$400 per family. No longer pursuing acquisition of Alaska Club on Tudor; administration is working on identifying replacement properties. Still pursuing America's Best Value Inn; cost of renovation came back much higher than expected. Muni is planning to close on Golden Lion. Wanted to clarify a misunderstanding about allocation of \$20 million of CARES Act Funding: this was not additional to the original \$156 million, but was part of original allocation.</li> <li>○ Jason Bockenstedt, Chief of Staff for Mayor's Office: Provided overview of Emergency Order 16 and background in response to COVID-19. EO was in response to COVID-19 rate increases; makes it almost impossible to do any kind of contact tracing. Summarized changes and things that have stayed the same (closure of indoor dining at restaurants, bars, entertainment facilities, and indoor sports competitions). Understand the huge economic impact this will have on the community. Special assembly meeting scheduled for 12/04/2020 to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>re-appropriate \$15 million of CARES Act funding for small business grants. Municipality was able to locate \$15 million because originally the muni had set aside \$12 million for “25% local FEMA match” due to uncertainty of state covering that; now Muni received confirmation that State will cover. Additionally, muni set aside \$3 million for mental health staff to respond to issues; 2021 budget from assembly noted that alcohol tax would cover this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Amber Glassner: voiced concern about EO-16 and how \$400 emergency voucher (that you have to apply for) does not cover the losses from employment. Voiced concern about not getting responses from assembly. Noted co-workers do not know how they are going to make ends meet for the next 4 weeks. She shared her impression that assembly does not care about blue-collar or essential workers and that restaurants are being singled out. Asked how to fix this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Acknowledged that he hears her and has been talking to others with same concern.</li> <li>■ Glassner: Interjected and noted that she has not heard back from Perez-Verdia; cited examples of suicides.</li> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Apologized, noted he did not receive the message. Offered to follow up with Glassner directly.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Tahnee Seccareccia: noted her understanding is that municipal and state governments are doing as much as they can considering funding received; inquired about what is being done and what citizens can do. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bockenstedt: Not sure how much more state officials can do as they are in the same boat as communities; have approved \$1.25 billion dollars. Personally, do not think it is an issue of our specific congressional delegation for additional funding relief, and noted that Alaskan’s federal representation has been great. Hoping that congress as a whole comes together for additional funding soon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Airport Report, John Johansen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reported that they are still battling COVID-19 issues, doing what we can to make the airport terminal as safe as possible. Lake Hood Sea Plane base is iced over, and urged residents to stay off ice as it is not a recreational area. Encouraged use of cell phone parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Seccareccia: voiced concern about not seeing hand sanitizer stations in the testing area.</li> <li>■ Johansen: Admitted uncertainty if testing area has any stations in that particular area; will see if he can get them installed in that area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:35pm	<p><b>3. Special Topic: Priorities for 2021 Alaska State Legislative Session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sen. Natasha von Imhoff (District L): Trying to figure out logistics of transportation to Juneau. Hired private company (Beacon) to provide testing for legislators and staffers. Plan is that the Capitol building will likely be closed to visitors. Will try to pass legislation early to vote or operate remotely if needed. Waiting for Governor Dunleavy’s budget as well as fall forecast. Acknowledged a lot of moving parts.</li> <li>● Rep. Harriet Drummond (District 18): Target is to get the budget done and work on revenue bills. If there is going to be additional CARES Act funding, make sure that it is legally appropriated and funneled through various departments of the states to get to families and people who need it. Uncertainty surrounding Governor’s emergency</li> </ul>

declaration; current declaration will expire on 12/15/2020. If there is a 3rd emergency declaration, it will expire on 1/15/2020 (a few days prior to session.) Hoping to work efficiently, noted that there will be roughly 13 new legislators.

- Rep. Matt Claman (District 21): Biggest issue is the budget; biggest issue within budget is PFD. State does not have money to pay a dividend. If we are going to try to grow the economy, we are going to have to find a way to manage the budget so we can invest in growing the economy. Legislators still trying to organize; proud to have been part of a tri-partisan coalition.
- Rep. Chris Tuck (District 23): Hope that when we legislators travel to Juneau, we hunker down, get work done for 75 days straight. If we are going to close the building down to the public, we need to have Gavel to Gavel (television program covering legislature) running for transparency. We are going to see a 2nd round of CARES Act funding, need to ensure that legislature appropriate funding rather than letting funds go through the Governor's office in an improper process. We need to have a vision about how to use CARES Act funding. Need to make sure education is effective and have to take care of small businesses. Priority is making the legislature more effective, and needs to pass a continuation of a governance bill so the legislature can still operate during national disasters or pandemic. Also want to bring administrative services directors back under offices of commissioners rather than offices of management and budget. Wants election reform bill; this would allow automatic absentee ballots every year unless you miss an election and ability to fix ballots after submitted. Want to do more on pre-K (Alaska Reads Act), constitutionalize PFD, and continue defining benefits for public workers.
- Sen. Mia Costello (District K) legislative aid Katie McCall: Senator unable to join as she has been caring for an elderly friend. Looking forward to seeing the Governor's budget. Council has been putting together guidelines to respond to COVID. Wants to revise the PFD for formula. While the capitol is closed to the public, Sen. Costello is happy to set up phone calls or Zoom calls to talk to anyone.
- Questions/comments
  - Roy Wichers: Voiced his opinion of bad governance; cited concern about shut-downs and lack of PFD.
  - Seccareccia: Thanked legislators and assembly members for prioritizing wellbeing of community. Recognized it is a really challenging time. Wants to make sure that we have a community that supports everyone; not one that supports just those that will survive the pandemic due to having better health.
  - Jerrod Dunbar: Voiced concern about shut down. Reached out to assembly members and medical staff to learn more. Noted that hospital capacity is not the issue but it is rather an issue of staffing; voiced opinion that it is not an excuse to have a blanket EO during holidays.
  - Drummond: Noted comparison between Alaska and Hawaii; Alaska had similar opportunity as Hawaii but noted different outcomes due to leadership in the Governor's office. For staffing: we do have beds, but beds do not do any good without staffing. Alaska requires a lot of traveling nurses and doctors; less available because they are in great demand in the lower 48. Unlike other states, Alaska cannot transfer residents out of state for COVID treatment.
  - Von imhof: Pointed out two immediate issues: pressures in our hospitals as well as Anchorage closing restaurants and bars. Cited Dr. Anne Zink in that people with no symptoms or minor symptoms are infecting many people without

	<p>knowing leading to community spread. Von imhof disagrees with shutting down restaurants (cited Juneau that does not shut down restaurants); thinks that mayor/assembly are making the wrong decisions. Hospitals do have plans for responding to staffing issues; clarified that it is not a sustainable plan (estimates only 4 weeks.) Noted that people need to take personal responsibility and not go out if feeling sick.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul Berger: Introduced self as bar owner and owner of 70 apartments. Cited suicides and loss of employment among those in his circle. Recommendation for Rep. Claman: open the economy up, closed during December while January/February are typically dead months. Think less about CARES and think on ground-level about letting individuals work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Claman: Voiced concern about cultural unwillingness to wear masks and social distance. Was disappointed in the Mayor's decision to enter another hunker down. Knows that it is not simple, but we do give authority to municipalities. Not a fan of taking away municipal powers, want to give more power to municipalities as they do a better job in responding to issues. Noted that Governor Dunleavy did not work with the legislature to allocate funding; voiced opinion that previous funding was dispersed poorly.</li> <li>■ Berger: Shared opinion that government should be closest to governed; thanked many attendees and mayoral candidates attending the meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Peggy Auth: Advocated for nonpartisan redistricting board to combat rampant gerrymandering; cited number of legislators representing Spenard. Advocated for potential resolution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Drummond: Noted that they did not change the rules in time for the redistricting board that has already been appointed. Noted that 40% of Alaska's population resides in Anchorage, in an area representing less than 1% of Alaska's land, while rural communities are losing population and Mat-Su is growing tremendously. Result is rural districts with lots of land and very few people. Agreed with the statement about Spenard CC not needing so many representatives. Noted that after the census provides numbers, advised all to come together to advocate for more community minded redistricting.</li> <li>■ Claman: Redistricting process is specified in Alaskan Constitution; governor/house/senate/chief justice appoint members. Appreciate frustrations, but notes that odds for changing that are incredibly low. (requires ⅔ vote from House and Senate for constitutional amendment.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:25 pm	<p><b>4. Education Topic:</b> Title 21 homeless and transient shelter changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Francis McLaughlin, Anchorage Planning Department: Shared that homeless shelters are currently only allowed in one zoning district (Public Lands and Institutions district). Facing a crisis where there are not enough shelter beds for those that need them (for example: Brother Francis is down 75% capacity). Propose allowing shelters in another kind of district; best choice is B-3 commercial district. Requires a Title 21 amendment to code. Propose 3 use-specific standards: must be 500 feet separation distance between shelters, located near public transportation routes (unless shelter commits to providing</li> </ul>

	<p>own transportation), and must provide secure storage (including bike parking.) Process takes about a year; will face approval by going before the Planning and Zoning Commission in a public hearing and a separate public hearing before the assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questions or concerns, can contact: <a href="mailto:francis.mclaughlin@anchorageak.org">francis.mclaughlin@anchorageak.org</a></li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPCD/Planning/Pages/Title-21-Homeless-and-Transient-Shelters.aspx">https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPCD/Planning/Pages/Title-21-Homeless-and-Transient-Shelters.aspx</a></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pamela Raygor: Inquired if Planning &amp; Zoning went through process for what this would mean long-term for the city; inquired if this occurred prior to pandemic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ McLaughlin: Planning department researched other communities and looked at best practices. Believe that this is a small but important step. Outlined timeline and options for public feedback.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Dave Bronson: Noted that he had an unrelated question for assembly member. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Encouraged to stay on topic and asked attendee to ask question during neighborhood &amp; community announcements section</li> </ul> </li> <li>● McGrath: Voiced concern about 2nd use-specific standard (exception to public transportation requirement). Shared history that SCF committed to providing transportation; as a result SCF dropped off participants quite a distance away. Urged council to oppose 2nd use specific standard to require shelters be on a public transportation route so that people that are using the facility can get to and from it.</li> </ul>
8:42 pm	<p><b>6. Neighborhood &amp; Community Announcements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bronson: Cited belief that World Health Organization has denounced shut-downs, asked for reasoning behind recent shut-down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perez-Verdia: Offered to follow up with Bronson separately to allow others to share in announcements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Dustin Sherman: Shared that both wife and self survived COVID. Noted that tattoo parlors can spread the virus; inquired why they are open under EO-16. Noted that he does not want to see any businesses shut down. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perez-Verdia: Asked for Bockentstedt to provide more information (however, Bockenstedt was no longer in meeting.) Offered to follow up with Sherman directly.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Berger: Voiced concern about lockdowns and perceived targeting of businesses such as his (cited belief that number of deaths do not warrant policy reactions). Wrote a resolution asking for support of rescinding EO-16 but did not have time to get it on Spenard CC agenda. Encouraged people who are concerned about it to contact mayor and assembly members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Residents can email every assembly member at <a href="mailto:wwmas@muni.org">wwmas@muni.org</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Kim Vandagriff: Shared that she lives near Boys and Girls Club and happy to see building being used so much but voiced concern as a home-owner about parking issues. Noted that there may be parking available at end of the adjacent bike trail.</li> <li>● Perez-Verdia: Apologized if it appeared he was not answering questions, wanted to make sure there was time and space for others to speak. Noted that neither issues nor answers are simple and that he is listening and will bring concerns to assembly. Noted that he is not certain that EO-16 is the right direction.</li> <li>● Mike Robbins: Introduced self as mayoral candidate, grew up in Spenard. Have been making the rounds and attending meetings, this is the most well-attended meeting. Noted that he has a plan to make Anchorage a more prosperous city.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Glasser: Thanked council for meetings. Inquired how to get restaurants and bars open before the end of 4 week shut-down. Shared history of restaurant service. Voiced concern that Table 6 (and other restaurants) might not re-open. Number 1 priority should be keeping restaurants &amp; bars open and that other cities are doing this. Noted that there is mask compliance in restaurants out of respect for people in the community. Urged more love in the community.</li> <li>● Misty Nelson: Shared concern regarding anti-teachers' union sentiment; pointed out misconception that the teacher's unions have too much power and is behind school closures. Noted that while ASD is training subs, there is a limitation to that because they do not want mingling across pods. Shared that if COVID cases are high, ASD staff will then have to quarantine due to exposure protocols.</li> </ul>
9:00 pm	<p><b>7. Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6th</li> <li>● <b>Motion:</b> Thomas McGrath moved to adjourn, Peggy Auth seconded. Meeting adjourns.</li> </ul>