

Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:30-8:30pm

Link to meeting recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKOeQN1OV4M&feature=emb_logo



Minutes

	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 12/02/2020, agenda for current meeting.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Motion: Thomas McGrath moved to approve, Peggy Auth seconded. Consent agenda passes.• Hajduk: Reminded members and guests of SCC protocols. Reminded all of goal of mutual respect. Noted that SCC is a neutral, non-partisan organization, and does not endorse candidates. Explained that SCC has removed the private chat feature within Zoom in order to avoid side-bar conversations that detract from participating in meetings. Shared that during the December meeting, an attendee was livestreaming the meeting to their personal facebook account. To respect people's privacy, please do not live stream our Zoom meeting, but encouraged attendees to share login information as anyone is welcome to join via Zoom.• Hajduk: Shared that all current members of the executive board are interested in running for re-election, but noted that she did not want to discourage anyone who is interested in running. Encouraged interested candidates to contact SCC president via email before the end of the week. Reiterated 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 (including today's meeting).
7:14pm	2. State Legislator reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Mia Costello: Invited attendees to virtual constituent meeting on January 20 at 6pm (will advertise on facebook page and email newsletters.) Shared phone number (907-269-0117) and attempts to call back that same day or as soon as possible. Shared that she has started a work group on teacher retention and retirement, which will be bringing forth recommendations to the legislature. Shared that she hopes to be the chair of the Labor & Commerce Committee, and would like to continue on the Education Committee. Working on the expansion of the South Air Park, while economic development opportunities are appreciated we also want to ensure that neighbors have input. Highlighted the upcoming Sand Lake Community Council meeting on this topic. Has asked DOT to prepare a traffic study (unsure if that will go through) but plan to put in a capital budget request.• Representative Harriet Drummond: Noted that there was a scheduled House Finance Committee meeting featuring a presentation on the Governor's budget by legislative finance's new director on 01/06/2021; but that meeting was postponed. Noted

	<p>uncertainty around organization/majority, hope to continue as chair of the Education Committee as well as member of the transportation committee. Noted that she will continue to keep an eye on options to improve Spenard’s streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tahnee Seccareccia: Inquired about adequate sidewalk clearing; noted that on state-owned roads, roads are cleared but not sidewalks. Recommended clearing one side of the sidewalk at least so that pedestrians can be safe. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drummond: Responded that she will bring the issue to DOT when they make presentations to the transportation committee on budget issues. Agreed that the city does a much better job and is more pedestrian focused.
7:22 pm	<p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anchorage School Board Report, Starr Marsett: Shared that the ASD has begun the COVID vaccination process, currently vaccinating school nurses and special ed staff, and will offer it to the general public. ASD will begin to offer covid testing (both asymptomatic and symptomatic). Expecting COVID-19 relief funding. State of Alaska will likely get \$159 million, the state can keep 10% of those funds which can then be divided among Tier 1 schools. Funds can be used through September of 2023. Outlined school reopening beginning January 19 which will include Pre K-2nd Grade (and potentially 3rd graders in combined classes) as well as self-contained special needs programs (including Whaley School.) Will also include select students who need extra support in small group classes for middle and high schools (5.5 hours each day, with Wednesday being online learning.) At the beginning of 4th quarter, middle and high school students will return to in-person school. Responded to a question about ice rinks at schools; noted that rinks that already had outdoor lights were selected. Preparing to present board goals to the legislature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amber Glassner: Shared that her family is choosing to not be vaccinated and voiced concern about her children not being allowed in school or being bullied. ○ Marsett: Noted that ASD cannot require vaccines, will continue to mitigate risks for those individuals as long as there is a risk. Noted that the school board will not tolerate bullying. ● Airport Report, John Johansen: Shared that they are preparing for a busier 2021 summer season; may not be screening folks at that time depending on DHSS’s guidance. Encouraged residents to stay off seaplane base as it is not a community access area. Commented on upcoming Sand Lake Community Council meeting and responded to Senator Costello’s traffic study noting that the developer will be required to complete a traffic impact analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peggy Auth: Asked if there will be additional meetings (aside from Sand Lake Community Council) so that all 3 community councils’ members can attend. ○ Johansen: Responded that current developments are private developments, and clarified that the public meetings in the past were in response to master and expansion plans. Airport is not planning any public meetings associated with these private developments. ● Assembly Report, Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared that Sand Lake Community Council passed a resolution in response to airport development. Outlined that EO 17 (“easing up” order) began on January 1, eased up some restrictions and kept some restrictions in place to prevent the virus from reaching the previous extremely high levels. EO 17 will remain in place until modified. There was a great deal of consultation with CHARR, more than 100 business owners, as well as public health professionals. Measures are:

	<p>epidemiology, health care capacity, and public health categories. Still all in red, but health care capacity is improving. New federal aid bill will include additional rental assistance; \$25 billion is total funding (Anchorage will receive a large chunk of that, and should be receiving funds directly). Continue to fund projects which came out of the original \$156 million in original CARES funds. Shared program that began at the end of September called the COVID-19 Peer Leader Navigator Program which has assisted 605 individuals in accessing information. America’s Best Value Inn is no longer being considered for transitional housing, but the muni is actively working to identify an alternate location in the same general area (same situation for the Alaska Club on Tudor.) Golden Lion has been purchased, RFP in process and security is already there. Property could be operational as soon as the end of the first quarter of 2021. Trying to internally fund body cameras for police officers. As co-chair of public safety committee, listened to a presentation about incredible work being done on missing and murdered indigenous women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pamela Raygor: Inquired if city’s health department is providing COVID vaccines to seniors. ○ Perez-Verdia: Responded that he believes so, but will look into it and confirm.
7:45 pm	<p>4. Decision Topic: Process to potentially appoint a representative for West Anchorage seat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perez-Verdia: Explained that at the last assembly meeting, two members brought forth a last-minute resolution to appoint a temporary West Anchorage assembly representative; resolution failed. After the meeting, met with these members to learn their perspective and then took the lead on the proposal and met with municipal attorney. In City Charter, there is a specific definition of a vacancy. The situation of a mayor stepping down, and an assembly member ascending, is not considered a vacancy. Originally thought that it would require a charter change to alter this (which would require a vote of people.) New strategy would be to add a section to the Municipal Code to cover this particular situation to allow for assembly to fill this seat temporarily (all normal abilities & powers, but cannot be chair or vice chair.) As soon as the acting mayor’s term is complete, they will resume the assembly position and the temporary assembly person will step down. ● Hajduk: Shared that members had earlier brought up the possibility of appointing a temporary West Anchorage assembly member while acting mayor is serving. ● Perez-Verdia: Shared that the Municipal attorney, assembly’s attorney, and one of the head attorneys at the Department of Law all agreed on the interpretation that the City is not required to have a special election, but it is an option. Based on that interpretation, the assembly then voted to not have a special election, and instead decided to wait until the regularly scheduled election. This resolution speaks to how to fill this type of vacancy when it happens; separate from the question as to whether assembly should have a special election. The plan is to bring this for consideration on 01/12/2021. If it passes, will follow current code on how vacancies are filled when assembly seats are vacated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drummond: Shared history of her being in the same position as Perez-Verdia due to the election of Senator Begich to the U.S. Senate. In early January, was able to serve dual-member district independently by using assembly aide funds to have two separate aides and was able to make it work. Disagreed with desire to have a special election.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McGrath: Commented that Ira Perman has previously served in the assembly in a similar capacity, also recommended Bob Auth. Noted that there qualified people readily available, recommended that the SCC endorses people. ● Motion: McGrath moved to approve Seccarreccia seconded. Resolution passes 11-1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Resolution Amending Municipal Charter ● Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seccareccia: Shared that she was speaking as an individual, encouraging support of resolution. Believes that this is a fair way to do things, and covers bases if this incident were to occur in future. ○ Hajduk: Outlined process for voting; SCC treasurer created google form and placed that into the chat. Reminded of voting eligibility. ○ Berger: Asked about the process for recommending names for temporary seat. ○ Perez-Verdia: Responded that the ultimate decision is the Assembly's, but noted that recommendations either from individuals or specific community councils are encouraged, noted that it makes the Assembly's job easier. ○ Berger: Recommended adding to resolution to put in two names mentioned by McGrath (Ira Perman and Bob Auth) as part of resolution. ○ Hajduk: Noted Raygor seconded Bob Auth, asked if he accepts. ○ Bob Auth: Declined nomination. ○ Hajduk: Noted that Perman was not on call either. ○ Berger: Noted that time was of the essence, asked if Perez-Verdia could bring names forth later. ○ Perez-Verdia: Verified that this resolution would be voted on 1/12/2021. Noted that he can accept names later, does not have to be on a formal resolution. ○ Hajduk: Encouraged members to consider the resolution as it is, and that at a later time, the community council can bring names forward (not part of resolution) but could be accompanied. ○ Seccareccia: Did not think it was proper to nominate certain people tonight, did not want to counter certain nominations. Recommended that someone from the executive board could be part of the conversation to make sure that our council is served by these conversations. ○ Perez Verdia: Outlined process; there will be a public announcement, application (time to submit applications), interview, and a process of procedural rules leading to the vote to fill the seat. There will be time for the council to recommend folks. ○ Jerrod Dunbar: Asked about timeline; recognized that assembly members are really busy but noted difficulty in contacting reps and how it would be nice to get a 2nd assembly member in as soon as possible. ○ Perez-Verdia: Responded he was uncertain about the exact timeframe but application would have to be open for 5 day. Shared that he feels the same way and wants this to be done as soon as possible. ○ Hajduk: Resolution passes, encourage members to email SCC with recommendations, may be able to revisit at February meeting.
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8:05 pm	<p>5. Decision Topic: Traffic Calming Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Presented traffic calming resolution. It was based on feedback from a community survey. Shared that intention would be to put forth a list of projects to the Traffic
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	<p>Calming Coordinator with Municipality. Municipality can then set up speed studies and recommend solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: Raygor moved, Margaret McDonagh seconded. Resolution passes 17-0. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Traffic Calming Resolution
8:08 pm	<p>6. Education Topic: Spenard Road Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean Baski, DOT: Invited members to review the website and attend open house on January 28 (information on website) and will also record sessions so members can attend later. Project will go from Minnesota to Benson, DOT project in cooperation with the Municipality of Anchorage. It is a federally funded project. Even though it is a Municipality of Anchorage roadway, DOT runs federal projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Spenard Road Rehabilitation ● Hajduk: Inquired about winter road maintenance, how to advocate for more funding. ● Baski: Responded, noting that he is with the highway design section and maintenance division takes care of maintaining roadways. Noted that currently, 99% of projects are federal projects. There is a capital improvement budget side and operational budget; operational budget is state-funded. Noted that when state fiscal reductions come to the department, go straight to maintenance division. Noted that department does a lot with very little and there is a system of tiers for prioritizing roads. Municipality of Anchorage has 4-5 times the amount of operators and equipment as the state. ● Seccareccia: Inquired about pattern of businesses plowing snow back onto sidewalks (or it is plowed so high it falls back into the sidewalk area), impeding work done by state; inquired about process to fine those property owners. ● Baski: Responded that DOT has the right of way decision; responsible for enforcement. Do have the ability to send letters to property owners with the threat of the state removing barriers and fines. Noted that it often does not come to that.
8:22 pm	<p>7. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dora Wilson: Introduced self as candidate for the school board. Running because she believes she can bring a needed perspective to the board. Shared that she raised three children who went through ASD and is also a therapeutic foster parent. Worked with the School Business Partnership Program as board member, co-founder of AK Hopes and Dreams which provides youth leadership opportunities. Prioritized career & life readiness. Encouraged members to check out the website and reach out via phone: 907-884-8584. ● Berger: Invited members to come support the Carousel Lounge which is now open. Shared that they have had inspectors every night and inspectors are happy with performance. Shared that they now have 3 employees; down from original 16. Encouraged members to support local bars and restaurants. ● Dia Matteson: Introduced self as owner of House of Harley Davidson on Spenard and own some property in Spenard. Was on the council many years ago. ● Hajduk: Non-motorized plan is out and open for public comment by March 5th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Non-Motorized Plan ● Eric Salinger: Thanked everyone for a positive meeting, noted it was his first meeting. Introduced self a public interest attorney and shared that he recently purchased a home in Spenard and feels like it is a wonderful community.

8:30 pm

8. Adjourn

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 3rd
- **Motion:** Thomas McGrath moved to adjourn Peggy Auth seconded.