



Spennard Community Council

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 6:30-8:40pm

Link to meeting recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y06VvrsRu-k&feature=emb_logo

Minutes

Time	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 01/06/2021, agenda for current meeting.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Motion: Thomas McGrath moved to approve, Peggy Auth seconded. Consent agenda passes.• Hajduk Introduced executive board.• Peggy Auth: Shared that she was inspired to speak after the Holocaust Remembrance Day Memorandum came before the assembly; also shared context of recent anti-semitic actions in Anchorage. Reminded members of goal of kindness & compassion for everyone in our community; noted that we are stronger together. Cited February as Black history month; asked to remember contributions that Black leaders & community members have made. Reminded attendees that there is no room for anti-semitism or sentiments that are against any group; noted that there is a place for everyone here.• Irene Perrson-Gamble: Cited "Woman in Motion" documentary film about the work of Nichelle Nichols. Shared greatness of movie and story.
7:10pm	2. State Legislator reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson: Encouraged members to listen to floor speech on Black history month. Shared that the senate has been organized with a Republican majority; looks forward to working together on behalf of constituents. Shared information on "Turning Pain into Progress" (set of bills on police reform.) Noted that group sent draft of bills to Anchorage Police Department and other agencies; gathered feedback and integrated changes into bills. Shared committee membership in Community & Regional Affairs as well as Commerce Committees (as well as Ethics Committee alternate.) Outlined goals for Democrats in senate. Shared ways for residents to get involved (gavel & gavel, facebook, and monthly newsletter; encouraged residents to sign up for monthly newsletters.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Link to Senator Gray-Jackson's Floor Speech• Senator Mia Costello: Praised Senator Gray-Jackson's floor speech, encouraged attendees to listen to speech. Shared that she is serving as majority whip, chairing the Labor & Commerce committee, also a member of the State Affairs committee and member of House & Social Services committee. Labor & Commerce meets Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays from 1pm to 3pm. Shared that there is an app where residents can track bills (get alerts on bills.) Noted that committee is still hearing from the administration on the State of Emergency status (SB56.) Alerted members that

	<p>Senate passed a resolution that will allow the legislature to meet online if they are not able to meet in person. Shared office phone number (907-269-0117) and encouraged folks to contact her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Shared concern about the relocation of municipal snow dump; asked if Senator can work to bring groups together to come to a solution that could keep the current snow dump and save the \$460,000 needed to relocate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costello: Offered to make a call to see if she can bring groups to the table; noted that she has seen the need for better communication between community and airport. Shared that she has drafted legislation (not introduced yet) that would create a community board that would be made up of representatives from community councils surrounding the airport so they can be in direct communication with each other. ● Representative Harriet Drummond: Shared that when she co-represented West Anchorage on the assembly with Matt Claman; Claman created an airport communications committee. Believed that it included representatives from community councils. Shared that she does not have much to report as the House has still not organized. Noted that while Senate has passed bill on remote meetings, House has not yet and since they are a bicameral legislature; both chambers have to pass a bill to change the way they operate. Shared COVID-19 protocols.
7:28 pm	<p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assembly Report, Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared that on February 1, Emergency Order No. 18 came into effect; strategically eases COVID-19 related restrictions on certain sectors and activities. Shared information about CARES Act funds. Outlined that municipality will receive \$35 million from federal government and will go straight to municipality rather than the state. It is much stricter than previous funds (only to those renting, not to home-owners.) Shared that municipality began accepting applications on 02/03/2021 for grants to businesses that rely on tourism. Noted that for hospitality relief, businesses that received funding in the first round will automatically receive a second round of grants. For child care assistance, full \$10 million has been allocated. No update on recently acquired properties (Alaska Club and America’s Best no longer being considered.) Shared update about potentially filling vacant west side assembly seat; noted that ordinance discussed in January has been postponed indefinitely. Assembly members have gone back to the drawing board to find a solution; may need language change in charter as a long-term solution. Outlined effort to adjust emergency orders into ordinances (“EOs” to “AOs”). Proponents note that if emergency declaration is ended, there may still need to be ordinances as pandemic mitigators. Noted that cost of body cameras will be put to the voters as a special levy. ● Seccareccia: Shared concern about number of cannabis licenses in certain areas (cited numbers of licenses in certain districts; high number in Spenard/Midtown versus very low amounts in Chugiak/Eagle River as well as increase since 2019.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perez-Verdia: Offered to set up a meeting to move forward. ● Anchorage School Board Report, Starr Marsett: Shared information on the return to in-person learning. PreK-2 began on 01/19/2021 (also cited the small amount of middle/high school students who were struggling with online learning.) 10 schools who asked for 3rd-6th graders began school on 02/01/2021; rest are scheduled to

	<p>return to school on 02/08/2021. Noted that she believes it has been a good move; noted that there have been a few classrooms that have been isolating. Clarified that there have not been any COVID cases in the classroom, but families are reporting contact with confirmed cases. Shared the goal is to have the rest of Middle School/High School students back for 4th quarter. Budget will be coming before the assembly at beginning of March. ASD was looking at a \$20 million deficit; have been able to move \$26.5 million into a grant received for 2021-2022; expecting about 75% who left the district to return, which will raise student count. Not concerned about this next year but 2022-2023 may be different as ASD is using federal grants to support salaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Airport Report, John Johansen: Invited members to read update posted on the SCC website. Noted that airports are expecting a busier summer season; trying to accommodate increased traffic with social-distancing. Shared understanding that airport offered to lease snow dump property to municipality at fair-market rate; shared belief that the municipality did not want to pay the appraised rate for municipal snow dump. Noted that the FAA requires charging fair market value. Cited previously referenced airport communications plan; noted that they gathered input from surrounding community councils. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to West Anchorage snow dump proposal ○ Bob Auth: Shared that he was part of the communications committee which resulted in a communication plan (one of the pieces is that airport representative attends local community council meetings.) Noted that the purpose of plan was not to engage on issues but rather to provide communication between groups. ○ Johansen: Noted that name of plan was changed to community outreach plan and directed people to website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to airport community outreach plan
7:50 pm	<p>4. Decision Topic: SCC Executive Board Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk reminded attendees of candidate and voter eligibility. ● Each present candidate provided a brief candidate statement. ● Results (bolded names retained seats) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President- Lindsey Hajduk ○ Vice President - Irene Persson-Gambel ○ Treasurer - Arina Filipenko ○ Secretary - Meg Mielke ○ Auditors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Peggy Auth ■ Julie Leonard ■ Tahnee Seccarrecio ■ Amber Glassner ■ Jerrod Dunbar
8:10 pm	<p>5. Cannabis Committee: Green Degree’s Cannabis Bar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jedediah Smith, Cannabis Committee: Committee established practices for reviewing new applications which encourages the creation of neighborhood responsibility plans.

Reminded attendees that CCs do not approve or deny license requests only advises the assembly.

○ [Link to neighborhood responsibility plans](#)

- Kerby Coman: Introduced self and business which has requested a cannabis license within Chilkoot Charlie's (2435 Spenard Road, part of Swing Bar.) Shared that he lives in Wasilla, but parents-in-law live in Anchorage and own a nearby business; Green Degree has 3 retail locations in the valley, looking to expand into Anchorage. On the Marijuana Control Board agenda for possible licenses (one in Northway, a village along highway.) Shared three year operating experience, have not had any major issues. Commended the neighborhood responsibility plan and shared business's history of community involvement. Noted that they also promote a recycling program where consumers can bring back trash, businesses recycles items, and customers get rewards on a points system.
- Hajduk: Noted that draft document is on website and is standard neighborhood responsibility plan; noted that business will engage with council and cooperate with law enforcement. Shared that Coman added recycling information and agreed to participate in community clean-up. Referenced question in chat if license has gone before assembly's economic development committee.
- Coman: Noted uncertainty about entity he met with, but noted that he is in communication and compliance with all proper channels prior to approval from AMCO.
- Amber Glassner: Asked to clarify proposed location/relation to other current businesses.
- Coman: Clarified that this proposed location will be first in the Anchorage market.
- Hajduk: Referenced question from chat regarding conflict between bar/cannabis. Also repeated question from chat about on-site consumption .
- Coman: Responded that the businesses cannot be connected entry wise; there will be no access from the bar into the retail store. Also noted that the licenses cannot overlap each other. Shared that there will be zero tolerance for on-site consumption; have a great relationship with Koots management.
- Seccareccia: Cited concern about Chilkoot Charlies location (and regular issues); inquired what plan for hours of operation would be (to overlap patrons) and voiced concern about people potentially getting drunk at Chilkoot Charlies and then going to get high at Green Degree.
- Coman: Noted that dispensaries are required to not sell cannabis to anyone who is under the influence of alcohol. Noted that they have been doing this at current locations already; noted that there are multiple existing cannabis locations within walking distance of proposed location.
- Shigenori Fujimoto: Asked to clarify address of proposed business.
- Hajduk: Clarified proposed address (2435 Spenard Road.)
- Glassner: Asked if proposed license is for on-site consumption.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coman: Clarified that it is a dispensary only. ● Pamela Raygor: Asked if Coman’s relative has a cannabis business in Spenard. ● Coman: Clarified it was a non-Cannabis business. ● Hajduk: Summarized points of concern and encouraged integration into the neighborhood responsibility plan. ● Coman: Noted that he thinks the plan is great for ensuring accountability. ● Smith: Shared that Marijuana Control Board is considering an increase to edible potency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to public notice about potential change
8:20 pm	<p>6. Education Topic: Northwood Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth, draft letter to request tree planting from Parks and Recreation: Shared history of Northwood Park (as nature walk for nearby Northwood Elementary which lacks a large outdoor space) and noted that the park has been neglected. Goal is that Northwood Park will be put on the list for replanting either this summer or next summer. ● Consensus approval.
8:25 pm	<p>7. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared information about West Anchorage Candidate Forum, virtual planning meetings on Mondays at 5pm; invited members to get involved. ● Renee Whitesell: Introduced self as Dowl employee, working on Chugach Way area transportation elements report (between Arctic and Spenard Road.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Chugach Way development ● Rosemary Borchardt: Shared concern about allowing transitional housing in B3 zones; noted that there is a meeting in March; urged people to provide feedback. ● Alisha Hilde: Introduced self as Anchorage School Board member, running for re-election on Seat C. Reminded folks that there will be 4 seats on ballot. Described self as an attorney, focused on cost, benefit analysis. Shared her involvement in the move to multi-year bonding so there will not be bonds on the year this year. ● Glassner: Noted that there is public testimony on AO-21-13 (turning EO into temporary AO.) Encouraged people to speak out (regardless of opinion); noted that we should be supporting those who have disabilities and those who have non-verbal communication who cannot wear masks. Advocated for no vote on SB 56 (extending COVID-19 disaster declaration.) ● Kelly Lessons: Introduced self as school board candidate for Seat B (one year seat). Shared that she is a parent and has been working with ASD to expand recess and lunch (co-founder of “ASD 60” initiative.) With support of community members, got a wellness pilot established; were seeing significant results prior to COVID shut down. Emphasized the importance of school board leadership. ● Seccareccia: Shared work with Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness. Encouraged folks to gather information about potential re-zone and ask questions. Provided ACEH website and email(ACEH.org Email - Secretary@aceh.org)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hajduk: Would like to convene work group to come up with draft comments about non-motorized plan; invited members to join.● Peggy Auth: Thanked Hajduk for leadership; encouraged folks to be involved in work groups.● Hajduk: Shared plan to move Spenard palm tree from present storage location back to its original location on Spenard Road. Shared that Cindy Berger (owns property where palm tree originally stood) has agreed to take on remodeling, moving, and incurring necessary expenses. Goal is to install palm tree in summer or fall of 2021.
8:40 pm	<p>8. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 3rd● Motion: Perrson-Gamble moved to adjourn, Peggy Auth seconded. Meeting adjourns.