

## Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 7:00-8:30 pm

Link to meeting recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoKWT3cDAw0>



### Minutes

	Topic
6:30 pm	<b>Zoom Happy Hour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Julie Leonard welcomed council members and guests.</li></ul>
7:00 pm	<b>1. Welcome/Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lindsey Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom.</li><li>Consent Agenda (minutes from previous meeting on 11/03/2021, agenda for current meeting.)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Motion:</b> Irene Persson-Gamble moved to approve, Peggy Auth seconded. Consent agenda passes.</li></ul></li><li>Hajduk reviewed the agenda and introduced the executive board; previewed executive board elections scheduled February 2022. Invited attendees to upcoming open executive board meetings on 12/21/2021 and on 01/18/2022 to learn more about executive board operations.</li></ul>
7:07 pm	<b>2. State Legislator reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson: Provided progress report of introduced bills; noted that several of her 6 police reform bills have been heard, one of which moved into the judicial committee. Noted that she also drafted bill to make Juneteenth paid state holiday. Noted that constituents can track progress of bills at <a href="http://akleg.gov">akleg.gov</a>. Gave summary of benefits expected for Alaska from recent infrastructure bill. Shared update about redistricting; noted that it pits several incumbents against each other.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tahnee Seccareccia: Shared recent experience of witnessing student walking in busy roadway after big snowfall because sidewalks had not been cleared; voiced concern regarding number of fatalities. Urged dedicated funds for clearing roadways/sidewalks in Anchorage.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gray-Jackson: Thanked Seccareccia for concern, noted situation is unacceptable; noted that staff is taking notes.</li></ul></li><li>Jerri Leonard: Echoed concerns for pedestrian safety; especially on Minnesota Road.</li></ul></li><li>Senator Mia Costello: Agreed with concerns about pedestrian safety; noted that she will call Mayor's office tomorrow. Shared that office gives out reflectors to students. Encouraged attendees to contact her office with questions/concerns.</li></ul>
7:20 pm	<b>3. Brief reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anchorage School Board Report, Margo Bellamy: Noted that next month, meetings will be on Mondays to avoid conflicting with assembly meetings. Shared that board approved proposed bond package 11/17/2021 (over 111 million) includes school</li></ul>

projects/repairs for over 38 schools; package will go before Anchorage voters. Noted that they have begun the superintendent replacement process; Leadership Anchorage is gathering input.

- Airport Report, John Johansen: Shared recent surge in parking during holidays; advised folks to avoid parking in parking lot if able to and encouraged use of cell phone parking lot.
  - Bob Auth: Cited recent Anchorage Daily News article regarding snow dump site; inquired if airport has been in negotiations with city surrounding snow dump site; asked if airport is against sale of site.
    - Johansen: Noted that the airport recently signed lease for 3 years with municipality for use of snow dump site; shared understanding that airport is not interested in long-term lease of property.
  - Hajduk: Shared information from Sarah Preskitt (Anchorage Public Library) noting that folks can access the ADN for free via [www.anchoragepubliclibrary.org](http://www.anchoragepubliclibrary.org) with their library cards.
- Anchorage Police Department, Sgt. Ken Bushue: Provided update on Northwood Property; commented on proposal to make progress using a specific Anchorage Municipal Code (880); noted that plan will not work because an address is required (as well as a dwelling unit.) However, code enforcement is still involved. Shared update from property owner that she was awaiting for temperatures to warm up prior to property clean-up, but noted that Signal 88 Security supposedly does regular patrols (no contacts to police so far.) Noted that he is going to have patrol do regular walkthroughs of property and issue citations for trespassing. Shared contact info and encouraged attendees to follow-up. (907- 786-8723 and [ken.bushue@anchorageak.gov](mailto:ken.bushue@anchorageak.gov).)
  - Peggy Auth: Inquired about how calls are reported when they do not have addresses.
    - Bushue: Noted that they respond in places without addresses frequently but clarified that for specific code mentioned; address is required.
  - Jerry Sparkman: Thanked officers for patrolling 40th, Wilson, and Chugach; noted that they are doing a nice job.
    - Bushue: Noted that addresses cited are working with code enforcement.
  - Hajduk: Shared comment in chat expressing gratitude for increased foot patrols considering recent low temperatures.
  - Sabrina H: Inquired about involvement with code enforcement regarding issues on 40th; noted her perception that both APD and code enforcement are stating that the other side is not responding.
    - Bushue: Noted that either code enforcement can get involved from beginning or at request of APD; noted that in this case, code enforcement got involved first. Noted the difficulty in this specific situation is that there is a resident experiencing mental health struggles and that they are attempting to get issue resolved before moving to next stage; noted that APD is attempting to stop folks going into the building. Encouraged one-on-one follow up.
    - Hajduk: Offered assistance if there is a way to get SCC involved.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Celia Rozen: Voiced concern about level of garbage at Northwood property; asked if the only way to address this is through the property owner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bushue: Noted that APD does not have power to enforce anything criminal on property; noted that it code enforcement's job; and property owner is ultimately responsible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Assembly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kameron Perez-Verdia: Provided update to budget process; emphasized that recently passed budget was only 2nd budget in history of Anchorage to be passed unanimously; then many sections were vetoed by Mayor. Expressed optimism that assembly would override vetoes. Shared info about reapportionment (municipal version of redistricting) and outlined timeline; will go before assembly in February and March meetings; will not be in place before April 2022 elections.</li> <li>○ Geneva Luteria, staff to Austin Quinn-Davidson: Encouraged attendees to provide feedback on budget matters as that does impact how assembly members approach budget discussions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dave Weir: Shared understanding that municipal government has a \$40 million deficit; noted that property taxes have increased 56%. Asked how assembly can justify this/where they can get money. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perez-Verdia: Offered to have a one-on-one conversation; but noted that municipality does not have \$40 million deficit; noted that it is an expenditure that is intended to be reimbursed by the federal government. Noted that budget passed is under the tax cap and it is balanced budget, noted that all expenditures identified have funding sources.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:55 pm	<p><b>5. Education Topic: Parking Code Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elizabeth Appleby, MOA: Reviewed draft of amendments to Title 21 Land Use Planning requirements for parking and site access. Solicited feedback on community discussion draft by 12/17/2021; noted that urban neighborhood contexts are recognized in Anchorage 2040 land use plan and Spenard Corridor Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sarah Preskitt: Asked if draft amendments are available in print anywhere. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Appleby: Noted that they can likely provide printed copies as long as requests are not numerous.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Jerry Sparkman: Asked if changes would apply to residential or commercial properties; asked if that would mean properties could be larger with less parking; asked about benefits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Appleby: Noted it would not apply to single residences or duplexes but would apply to multiplexes and businesses. Noted that this could allow more housing units to be built if extra parking is not required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Dave Weir: Asked if there is discussion about snow storage for parking lots. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Appleby: Clarified that this would not impact snow storage requirements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:12 pm	<p><b>6. Education Topic: New Marijuana License Application</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Laura Cameron; Blüm, LLC: Located at former Dipper Donuts location (1209 W. 36th Avenue). Noted that they are requesting a special land use permit to create edibles; and in the long-term would like to also do extraction (water-based extraction; uses less chemicals.) Clarified that it is a manufacturing site rather than storefront; do not anticipate major construction. Goal is to open in quarter 1 of 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Shared that conversation can be incorporated into future Memorandum of Understanding.</li> <li>○ Peggy Auth: Inquired about potential odors from extraction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cameron: Noted that odors are associated with the growing process; noted that extraction would be odorless. Volunteered that in the former Dipper Donuts operation, the previous issue that came up was with noise and that is already on radar to reduce noise.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Seccareccia: Expressed disappointment of another cannabis business in Spenard; wants to see more business diversity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cameron: Clarified that there will be no marijuana associated advertising on front of building. Noted that because the space has a large kitchen and there is a front entry-way, there is an opportunity to open up a small breakfast/lunch spot to sell pre-made goods.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:25a pm	<p><b>7. Decision Topic:</b> Beartooth Parking Rezone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL: Shared that Moreland Properties, LCC (owner of Bear Tooth) is seeking a rezone to allow a single zoning district across its entire property. Shared timeline and solicited feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bob Auth: Voiced concern that this is speculative, noting that if this is approved and all parking is shifted to B-3; Bear Tooth can do whatever it wants with parking without review of SCC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chmielowski: Noted that there are different ideas for what will be done; noted that parking will still be needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Peggy Auth: Noted that if outdoor dining is expanded, it is hard to imagine it would not reduce amount of parking. Cited concern for those living in the area and increased safety concerns for pedestrians.</li> <li>○ Sabrina H: Agreed with Auth; noted that the Muni's parking requirements might be reduced. Cited Rustic Goat's parking issues and negative impact on neighborhood; encouraged further discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chmielowski: Shared that Bear Tooth parking meets Title 21 amendments and would still need to; noted that there have been talks about adding in an outdoor dining space that would impact 3 spaces--may have to look at reducing number of seats in theater or other space.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hajduk: Shared discussion in executive board surrounding resolution; introduced resolution (clarified that voting for resolution recognizes SCC's position rather than guaranteeing this will occur), provided summary of resolution and noted that 27th avenue is a priority area for non-motorized transport, noted that resolution cites expectation that if there are further proposed changes to property, Bear Tooth would approach SCC; Matt Duncan seconded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to Resolution Supporting Bear Tooth Rezone</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Duncan: Shared that rezoning could potentially give Bear Tooth more access to financing which could allow for further development of other owned properties.</li> <li>○ Persson-Gambel: Noted that thoughts are mixed on this; noted that parking garage in space may be a good idea—acknowledged Duncan’s points that this may allow for further financing. Advised on making the street a walking/bike district.</li> <li>○ Peggy Auth: Shared concern that there is not a reason identified for need to rezone. Shared history about concerns surrounding needed parking lot upgrades; noted that it took having leverage (liquor license approval) for them to make requested changes.</li> <li>● Sabrina H: Inquired if Chugach Way was going to be discussed as noted in agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Noted that they have asked for an update at the next meeting, but noted that Chmielowski may be able to provide a brief update.</li> <li>○ Chmielowski: Noted that there was a stakeholder meeting a few weeks ago, asked for feedback by 12/10/2021; noted that it is a very conceptual as recommendations will then go to Muni.</li> <li>○ Hajduk: Shared that they presented during October meeting, noted that she has pushed back on timeline based on inability to provide feedback via a resolution and deadline was then pushed back to 12/10.</li> <li>○ Sparkman: Regarding Chugach Way, noted that there are 3 streets between Chugach and 40th that are in a dry water zone and need to be interconnected, had brought this up at the meeting and asked for answer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Chmielowski: Clarified that study is more high-level, does not get into the weeds; noted that details can be noted in study but solutions are not offered; that would come in design process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Motion:</b> Fails 12-9.</li> </ul>
8:50 pm	<b>8. Neighborhood &amp; Community Announcements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Persson-Gamble: Inquired about possibility of in-person meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Noted that executive board has not had a recent discussion; discussed possibility of getting feedback from attendees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:50 pm	<b>9. Treasurer’s Report and “Door Prize”:</b> Local gift card giveaway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arina Filippenko: Noted that only expenditures this month were for gift cards.</li> <li>● 2 \$25 Blue Market gift cards: Matt Duncan &amp; Meg Mielke are the winners!</li> </ul>
8:55 pm	<b>10. Adjourn</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next meeting: Wednesday, January 5, 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Peggy Auth moves to adjourn, Persson-Gamble seconds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>