

Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, January 5, 2022, 7:00-8:40 pm

Link to meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3gSgaQ81iw>



Agenda

	Topic
6:30 pm	Zoom Happy Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meg Mielke welcomed council members and guests.
7:00 pm	1. Welcome/Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lindsey Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom.Consent Agenda (minutes from previous meeting on 12/1/2021, agenda for current meeting.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motion: Peggy Auth moved to approve, Terry Kadel seconded. Consent agenda passes.Hajduk reviewed the agenda and introduced the executive board; previewed executive board elections scheduled February 2022 and solicited nominations. Invited attendees to an open executive board meeting on 01/18/2022 to learn more about executive board operations.
7:10 pm	2. State Legislator reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">Representative Matt Claman: Summarized debate about income taxes/spending as well as current redistricting process. Gave preview of ranked-choice voting. Shared that he is introducing HB 60 to allow schools to integrate mental health education into health education.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Peggy Auth: Shared alarm about what happened with firing of executive director of Permanent Fund Angela Rodell; cited concern that it is of a political nature.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Claman: Noted that legislative budget & audit committee is taking up issue, while he does not serve on committee, there is a hearing on that issue scheduled for January 17, and noted he will be following closely.Roy Wichers: Cited concern about Alaska moving from resource state to investment state as well as supreme court deciding that PFD amounts can be varied. Inquired about legislature's excuse for not listening to people.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Claman: Noted that a big part of his job is to listen to constituents; sends out a survey every year, goes door-to-door, and attends CC meetings. Noted that surveys and feedback show that a significant majority of folks in his district agree with what the supreme court has said and that we need to prioritize protecting the permanent fund rather than amount of dividend. Noted that resources have been dwindling for years, used to be 85% of state revenue, now less than 25% of state revenue.

7:20 pm	<p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anchorage School Board Report, Margo Bellamy: Shared that ASD had 83% attendance for students coming back from winter break, noted lower than usual but typically around 90-92% after a holiday. Noted ASD's mitigation plan remains in place and board will reassess before 1/15/22. Cited difficulties around staffing; noted that anyone in Ed Center with a teaching certificate asked to sub in schools. Noted that on Monday 1/3/22, ASD needed 435 subs but only had 338. Urged completion of superintendent search survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to superintendent search survey ● Airport Report, John Johansen: Vaccines still available for anyone at airport; testing only available for ticketed travelers on secure side (available 24 hours a day.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hajduk: Shared question from chat from Judith Conte about why testing outside of security was discontinued. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johansen: Noted that it was discontinued because it was attracting people to the airport who may be infected with COVID; decided it was not safe for passengers and it was preferable for community members to use drive-up options in Anchorage. ● Anchorage Police Department, Officer Jones: Shared he is filling in for Officer Bushue. Noted that there is not much of an update on the Northwood Property; noted that they will continue to cite trespassers (but removal of items is a code enforcement issue.) ● Assembly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austin Quinn-Davidson: Noted that there has been conversation about how to get code enforcement more engaged on Northwood property. Shared that she has been working with SCC to hopefully include West Anchorage items on the upcoming bond. Shared that municipality is beginning reapportionment process; adding another assembly member downtown which will require other adjustments to other district boundaries. Shared items back into the budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to draft reapportionment maps ○ Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared Anchorage trends of increasing COVID-19 cases and test positivity rates. Noted that looking at national trends, likely seeing more Alaskans getting sick in the next couple of months which is going to impact community operations. Noted that police body camera policy work is still moving forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Peggy Auth: Encouraged assembly members to stay through tonight's meeting to hear resolution regarding Northwood property. . ■ Tahnee Seccareccia: Shared frustration for engaged citizens regarding adjusted schedules and late-addition items to assembly agendas; thanked assembly members for showing up continuously. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perez-Verdia: Shared that they are actively working on procedures to address that same issue.
7:44 pm	<p>4. Education Topic: Barratt Inn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● John Weddleton: Shared background to increased homelessness in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. Shared info about contemporary uses of spaces for housing. Shared goal of Baratt Inn being used for folks who are work-ready and transitioning to the next stage of lives; similar to Clare House in terms of a low-barrier shelter. Noted that there will be additional supports such as security. Noted that shelter may be

	<p>operational by March; Rasmusson Foundation is handling purchasing of property.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seccareccia: Voiced concern for resources available for those experiencing substance abuse; noted that Golden Lion was supposed to be used as a substance abuse treatment center and it appears to be used as a COVID antibody treatment center. Noted that she supports Barratt Inn but asked about approach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weddleton: Noted that Golden Lion was purchased through ML&P sale; confirmed that intention was for Golden Lion was to be used as a treatment center—but that mayor had made commitments during the campaign that he would not use property as shelter/treatment center. In the meantime, before it is sold, it is a convenient place for the muni to offer COVID treatment. Noted that substance abuse treatment is something that the city needs to work on—shared belief that alcohol tax should be directed to treatment and direct causes. ○ Sarah Preskitt: Inquired about staffing plans for facilities (i.e., if the city rents rooms from existing hotels and their staff or if they transfer ownership.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Weddleton: Noted that things are changing quickly; noted that for Barratt Inn, the plan is for a nonprofit to manage and rental subsidies could pay for rooms. Noted that there will be some operating costs for muni which will be a new experience. ● Quinn-Davidson: Clarified that this facilitated group was intentionally left small to ease operations so not all assembly members are as up-to-date as Mr. Weddleton.
8:05 pm	<p>5. Decision Topic: 2022 Bond Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Proposed Resolution for Spenard Capital Improvement Additions in the 2022 Bond ● Seccareccia: Shared importance of bond items for pedestrian safety; voiced support of resolution. ● Perez-Verdia: Encouraged residents to vote on resolutions as they are important for the assembly when moving forward on different issues. ● Motion: Passes 14-4.
8:10 pm	<p>6. Decision Topic: Request to send official SCC complaint to Ombudsman regarding Northwood Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Shared ongoing concern regarding code enforcement, noted that SCC has been actively working with assembly representatives and police department for 6 months. Noted that if approved, SCC will be asking the municipal ombudsman to open a file on why there has been no action by code enforcement; cited health and public safety issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to letter to Ombudsman ● Persson-Gamble: Noted that the Auths have a lot of history with work in this community, noted that this issue impacts everyone (including visitors). ● Hajduk: Shared comment in chat from Celia Rozen to suggest editing the letter to encourage a specific action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peggy Auth: Outlined ombudsman process; noted that the ombudsman will begin initial conversations; noted that SCC is requesting that the ombudsman will provide an update on what they have found out (and how actions violate municipal code.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Katy Halford: Shared concern in Wilson Park area (since 2017), cited several addresses in neighborhood which contribute to crime and public safety concerns. Noted that one property was owned by Wells Fargo and was allowed to sit in foreclosure status for 5 years. Shared history of ongoing conversations with the ombudsman, mayor's office, code enforcement, and lack of progress. Theorized that it could be an issue of increased funding to code enforcement or an ordinance regarding foreclosure time limits. ● Hajduk: Encouraged Kate to speak to Peggy Auth as she has a lot of knowledge and can engage the SCC on these processes. ● Judith Conte: Inquired about option of using court system (getting an injunction or other order); shared previous experiences and lack of progress with attempting to work with code enforcement, cited numerous issues throughout Spenard. ● Auth: Shared that she was the chairman of SCC's land use committee for many years, noted that SCC used to have monthly meetings with assigned code enforcement officer to discuss problem properties. Noted that in past 4 administrations (regardless of leadership), it is clear that something has happened to code enforcement's efficacy. Urged assembly members to listen to community concerns and investigate what is happening. ● Perez-Verdia: Praised letter as a good first step for the ombudsman to begin investigation and that could lead to possible assembly work session. ● Motion: Passes 17-1.
8:30 pm	<p>8. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Shared that several trees from Northwood Park fell onto their property and neighboring properties. As a result, many dead trees have been removed. Requested that parks department replant trees in Northwood Park; to be done in conjunction with upgrades to viewing platforms. ● Persson-Gamble: Noticed that in participants list, Alaska News Source is listed; asked them to identify themselves. ● Jed Smith: Shared that Anchorage Folk Festival's annual large event has been cancelled again but will host a house concert on 1/22/2022 that will be broadcast online as well as zoom workshops that day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Folk Festival website ● Phil Isley: Invited attendees to celebrate upcoming world hypnosis day at the Moose Lodge; shared that he has guided meditations every Thursday evening at the ATOM center. ● Karen Button: Shared gratitude for elected officials joining today; especially West Anchorage assembly members and South Anchorage member John Weddleton.
8:35 pm	<p>9. Treasurer's Report and "Door Prize": Local gift card giveaway; Title Wave Books.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Celia Rozen and Amber Glasser are winners!
8:40 pm	<p>10. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 ● Terry Kadel moved to adjourn, Peggy Auth seconded