

Sand Lake Community Council Meeting
Monday, September 11th, 2023 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Meeting called to order by Steve Gervel 6:44pm.

Moment of silence for 9/11 and pledge of allegiance.

Motion made to approve 05/08/23 meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved.

Motion made to approve 5/22/23 special meeting minutes. Meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report from Matt 6:45pm

- Correct banking admin access has been approved.

Senator Claman Update 6:48p

- Legislature passed a budget that does not overdraw PFD or savings account. Includes a \$1,304 dividend.
- Senate Bill 58 passed and Senate Bill 48 passed. Digital copy of update will be posted to FCC website.

Representative Andy Josephson 6:51pm

- He is our new representative after re-districting.
- Work consistent of research, reading, writing and connecting with constituents.
- He has a bill that says if someone assaults another person in the presence of children, it will be a state offense rather than a city offense.
- He has another bill regarding human rights. Human rights commission does not have jurisdiction over non-profits. His resolution will help 40,000 in non-profits to enjoy protection of human rights code.
- Has a bill for peer support. Example: If a police officer has a traumatic experience and wants to talk to a counselor, a designated third-party officer could have a conversation with them.
- Defined benefits. There is a bi-partisan interest to restore traditional pensions to public employees to help retain employees.

Steve Gervel Read Representative Tom McKay's Notes 7:14pm

- ~\$1,300 PFD in October.
- Since he is from energy sector, he is working on Cook Inlet Gas Supplies and Renewables for State of Alaska.

Assembly Report from Anna Brawley Update 7:16pm

- **The Port of Alaska.** It is owned by the Municipality. The cement side is operating. The petroleum side is under work. The administration building is being rebuilt.
- Rebuilding both of the cargo terminals. Currently working on the design of the terminal. The port is in a unique place with a lot of tides and cold climate challenges.
- The design of the first terminal for container shipping has been decided. The basis of design is set.
- The tariff surcharge is being updated at the port. The port is self-funded other than government money. The tariff will help pay for the upgrades. Currently at \$1.5 billion but likely will go up.
- Approving the funding for body cams for Anchorage Police Department. Taxes have been collected overtime and currently in a reserve fund.
- **Transportation Safety:** Working on increasing transportation safety in our city. Ordinance was passed to increase bike safety. Changing rules and defining bike safety. Shifting to design updates so people are more safety aware. A protected bike lane is being piloted. A bike lane with physical barriers near Pine Street and Russian Jack. May add to more places next Summer. Downtown is a potential future spot for protected bike lanes.

- **Homelessness:** voted for \$230,000 for public safety funding for homelessness. There will be dedicated police presence. It will also help outreach workers get into camps easier to help the homeless.
- Funding emergency cold weather shelter: Looking at housing people in hotels and warming center. Also looking at possibility of another congregate shelter for people who may not do well in a hotel. The Assembly's job is to approve and provide the funding while health professional execute the plan.
- We do not have funding in our budget to pay for a shelter. Currently looking at sustainable funding options.
- **Housing:** Housing is very difficult for people to afford. Higher interest rates make it harder for people to buy homes but also for developers to get funding. The cost of materials is high. People buying to flip into rentals has also been a challenge.
- Improving infrastructure costs. If you need to put in new roads, sewer system, and other things for code.
- Changing zoning codes that are making it harder to build apartments and duplexes. Allow people to build additional building on their property. H.O.M.E. initiative. Housing Opportunities Matter for Everyone. Public hearing on the 26th of September.
- Health department has over 30% vacancy. Police Department is understaffed. Animal control center also has vacancies.
- Property taxes are going up because overall property value is going up even on older homes.

Anchorage School Board - Kelly Lessens 8:14pm

- Rotating into the Dimond area schools. School Board Members rotate areas. Full bus transportation is in place.
- Paying attention to chronic absenteeism. Children missing 17 days or 10% or more of the school year.
- Currently focused on a lot of planning. THE BIG FIX. K-3 English & Arts Curriculum. PLC Professional Learning Communities. Delaying studying by an hour to allow teachers to develop.
- Rolling out Academies in High Schools in partnership with organizations like Chamber of Commerce, AEDC, etc. This program is for workforce development.
- ASD is focusing on aligning resources for Math, Reading, and Career/College readiness.
- ASD is short in many areas. Made progress in transportation but struggling in student nutrition and teachers.
- Signing retention bonuses and other benefits to keep employees.
- There is a Controversial Committee to review topics community member have issues with.

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Report 8:33pm

- Airport team out of town. Visit the airport website for information.
- Community member Sylvia and her husband Mark Panzarella who lives on Tanaina shared her concerns about PFAS in her household well water with the North Link Aviation development happening. She is noticing more activity in the new building development which is getting closer to their home. She shared concerns on who will be responsible for protecting their water or connecting them to city water. Her husband suffers chronic health conditions from being exposed to agent orange while serving in Vietnam.

Other Business 8:55pm

- Capital improvement project ideas need to be submitted to Municipality by May. There is an editable document on the FCC Sand Lake website to include your own ideas for capital improvements.

**Meeting Adjourned Motion by Steve Gervel. Seconded by Robert Hayes. Adjourned.
9:05pm**