

March 6, 2024

Spenard Community Council Monthly Meeting – Minutes

7:01 – Call to order

Motion to approve agenda and minutes – Julie Leonard moves, Matt Duncan second

Introductions of Executive Board

Assembly Report – from Meg Zaletel, read by Sarah Preskitt

Short term rentals ordinance

Minnesota wall – needs community input from Spenard Task Force

Fish Creek meeting

Notes will be posted to the website

School Board – Dave Donley

Changes to school next year – start time changes for next fall, issue of child care shortage

School Bonds in Muni Election

School Board seats in Muni Election

Issues about information on the bonds and the cost is \$50 Million not what is advertised.

Update to elementary schools to create safety vestibules.

Safety exposures all over the ASD, we have been blessed that nothing has happened.

6th Graders moving to Middle School next year! Very controversial.

Closing down schools – maybe up to 10 (target number) – provided the bond passes, school enrollment is down and buildings with only 50% occupancy. Becomes too costly to provide needed services when students are so spread out.

Passed the budget – a more positive process than we've had in the past. Used a better, more open process. Budget issues, the problem of having to do the ASD Budget prior to the other districts across the State and before we know what the Legislature is going to do.

Info Topic: Indigenous Place Names Project: Spenard Beach Park – Cass Frost and Bree Keeper from Huddle, AK

Collaboration of Park Foundation, Village of Eklutna and others – trying to highlight the culture of the Dena'ina people throughout Anchorage

Place Names is a five- year project. Goal to install 32 signs total, so far have installed 4. Just received a grant to pay for the other signs. Starting with 7, one of which is Spenard Beach Park. Will be along the walkway, uniform design to the signs. Meaning, “the lakes that are joined together”.

Park Foundation – 2 grant opportunities open now. Spenard eligible for them if interested.

Will there be landscaping? - Yes, some. Similar to the sign at Muldoon.

Are there any “Adopt a Park” efforts happening? This project is just the sign installation.

Still need approval from the airport, but don't anticipate problems.

Suggestion to include phonetic pronunciation of the name in the sign. Or a QR code that leads to a video where someone says the name correctly.

Info Topic: Marc June – Chugach State Park Service Area Access/road upgrades – Proposition 9 Pave the last part of Canyon Road to the park entrance. It is a four- million-dollar bond – CASA Bond (Chugach Access Service Area). Access to the park is through local roads that aren't maintained. This is the first CASA Bond it is a \$4 million bond and the last on the ballot. Please consider the bond, vote for the bond, use the road after the road is paved and feel proud to be part of the project.

Question – parking problems – what is being done. The Park is expanding the parking lot using State dollars.

Question – is access motorized access only? What about non-motorized access? It is a road; the road will have standards but may not have bike lanes. Creating a properly made road for use.

Decision Topic: SCC Resolution 2024-02: A Resolution on Spenard Road 65% Design – Matt Duncan – all the wishes for standards on how Spenard Road is updated. Hope to slow things down so we can access food and entertainment. Review of the “Whereas” statements. Then went through the “Be It Resolved” statements from the Task Force.

Question – Phil Isley – what data is being used to say Spenard is dangerous? Followed with lots of discussion on the safety of the road. Lindsay Hadjuk redirects – the resolution isn't about whether or not the road is safe, it's about how to design a safe road for our community.

Peggy Auth – NTSB design standards is what we used to guide us on our resolution and on the design that we want for Spenard Road. Thanks Lindsay and others for all the work that they have done to create the resolution.

Resolution Passes 18 to 1

Info Topic: AMATS Fireweed Lane Rehabilitation Project – Morgan McCammon of DOWL - Fireweed from Seward Highway to Spenard. Paid for with federal dollars. At conclusion of project road will be owned entirely by Muni. Same team as from Spenard Road project. NEPA, Nation Environmental Project Act and there is another law that they must follow. Improve safety of the road, to include motorized, active transportation needs, and business access points. Need to have some parts for non-motorized (pedestrian and bicycle). 4 lane alternatives (no build), repaving existing roadway only, 3 lane alternatives to create space for bike lanes and pedestrians, must look at Muni standards too, 2 lane alternatives which will create a lot of space, but questions about business access. Looking first at Arctic to Spenard. Just launching website: fireweedlane.com, 2028 construction on the schedule. More realistic is 2029-2030. Question – is this part of the 5.1 billion from the State. No – through AMATS funding, a block grant. How far out is the funding? They do funding in 3-year blocks, so funded to 2026 for design. Then will need another grant for the actual build.

Question – is there the possibility of a pilot for protected bike lanes? Design funding can be used for this kind of pilot.

Info Topic: Treasurer's Report – Julie Leonard – haven't had a recent audit. Will have a full report at our next meeting.

Decision Topic: SCC Budget 2024-2025 – Very similar to what was done last year.

Question: what is the balance of account? \$23,000-ish.

Matt Duncan moves to approve. Lindsay Hadjuk seconded.
Loads of discussion on Spenard Clean Up and the cost listed for it.
Budget Passes: 18 to 1

Info Topic: School Board & Mayoral Candidate Forum

Friday, March 8th at the Spenard Recreation Center starting at 5:00pm and finished by 8pm.
Phil Isley – upset that he was not included in the forum as a candidate for Mayor. Feels that by only having the top four fund raisers takes a non-partisan election and makes it partisan.

Community Announcements:

Melinda Gant – Anchorage Community Drama Authority – moving forward with a project that impacts three community council boundaries. Requesting for 2 people from cc to be part of the Steering Committee. Second – a grant for Low Loan Streets Façade Program for businesses. Includes security features but also murals. Also covers part of Spenard.

Lindsay Hadjuk – question about Neighborhood Forest Grant for Spenard to plant trees for the Park Foundation. Roosevelt Park, Fish Creek Greenbelt, Geary Park, Old Hermit Park.

Phil Isley – Whole Life Festival at the Coast Inn – this weekend. All kind of alternative medicine services 11am – 5:30pm Saturday and Sunday.

Matt Duncan – SCC Logo – opportunity to get merch to sell. Laura Oates cautions against merch as a money maker.

Sarah Preskitt – Loussac Library – redoing the AK Wing. AK Wing Open House drawings March 20th 4:30-6:30pm in the AK Wing.

Move to adjourn – Irene Persson-Gamble, Matt Duncan seconds – adjourned at 8:29pm

Next meeting: April 3rd, 7pm, Spenard Rec Center