

SACC *South Addition Community Council*

Minutes, May 17, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Minutes from the April 19, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

II. Reports

President's – Bonnie Harris:

- a. The Department of Neighborhoods has a housing survey form (handout).
- b. The AMATS Technical Advisory Committee proposed 2006-09 Transportation Improvements Program Plan is up for review with comments due by May 30, 2007.
- c. Proposed changes to Title 21 will include the distance between halfway houses, this is an issue that could affect SACC and will be on the June agenda.

Treasurer's report – Doug Johnson: The current balance is \$1,375.78.

Assembly – Allan Tesche:

- a. Assembly issues are quiet, Allan provided information on the following legislative action: MOA did okay in the State budget process. PERS/TERS action taken. Action on municipal assistance and revenue sharing. MOA will use the state dollars to reduce property taxes. Expect to see residential tax bills go down. The PPT tax on oil production was reviewed, but no action was taken, the Senate Finance Committee held it back. The Ethics Reform Bill was passed. The Governor's Gas Inducement Bill was passed.
- b. Locally, community councils need to get their Capital Improvement Lists in by July 12 so they get on the Mayor's budget, which is presented to the Assembly.
- c. Naming Towne Square Park after Ruth Moulton will be before the Assembly June 12. All but two community councils have responded favorably to the idea. The goal is to also acknowledge early garden club efforts to create the park. Share suggestions or comments by calling Allan at 276-3284.

Police and Fire:

Sgt. Denny Allen (his hours: Monday through Thursday noon to 10 p.m.) had the following to report:

- a. Homeless camps should be reported to the non-emergency number at APD. **(786-8900)**
- b. It is illegal to panhandle and illegal to give to panhandlers. Homeless people use the money to buy alcohol.
- c. Traffic unit is up to 12 officers including motorcycles.
- d. Use the MOA web site for complaints, complaint forms in upper right hand corner.
- e. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) convention is in town. It includes delegates from 70 countries, with about 600 participants. Call APD if you see any strange or suspicious activities. Some organizations follow the IWC who are not community friendly.
- f. In response to a question regarding crime statistics in SACC, Sgt. Allen wondered if there wasn't something more productive APD could provide (*SACC wanted crime trend updates*).
- g. Members brought up gang activities and the "Spring Cleanup"; illegal parking of vehicles on the lawn at the park strip; trail safety; and park strip events where music is excessively loud.

III. Old/New Business

- a. Salmon Sunday Race - a race August 19, 2007, sponsored by the Anchorage Running Club. It is the only large race that starts and finishes in Downtown Anchorage. Requests that SACC members to help at a water station from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Valley of the Moon Park. The race gets 800 local and 200 outsider runners.

- b. 9th Avenue Traffic Update – Steve Kerry of USKH updated the SACC on the project, which started in 2001 as a simple pavement improvement project. It is now a complete reconstruction, which could include a portion of the Park Strip. **Go to 9thavenueproject.com for more detail.** Mr. Kerry provided a brief overview of the project, which will connect Downtown to Fairview to the Park Strip. He discussed taking 20-feet out of the north side of the Park Strip to use for planting, lighting and a sidewalk. A member questioned whether the existing sidewalk is in the right-of-way. Mr. Kerry was not sure. Another member questioned the importance of the planted median and noted that it can not be used for activities whereas the width of the Park Strip is needed for activities such as football. Mr. Kerry noted that the planted median would only take the same space as required turn lanes and that the losing the planted median does not reduce the width of the roadway due to required turn pockets. Members noted that the Park Strip is already narrow and trying to put roadway elements in the Park Strip will make it narrower. Someone questioned whether the sidewalk in the Park Strip was an encroachment. Other questions related to snow storage and how landscaping and snow storage will be dealt with since MOA Maintenance does not like planting strips adjacent to roadways. Is it possible MOA Maintenance will want snow storage adjacent to the road moving landscaping and the sidewalk deeper into the Park Strip further reducing the width of the Park Strip? Mr. Kerry will look into right-of-way documents to determine where the new sidewalk would be in relation to the Park Strip boundary. Members question the sidewalk width on the north side and whether that could be narrower now noting when development occurs, the developers should add to the width as part of their development plans. Concerns for increased traffic on 10th Avenue were voiced. If traffic slows or is impeded on 9th won't there be a tendency for drivers to use 10th asked a member? Another questioned whether a traffic analysis had been performed. Mr. Kerry confirmed that lanes would not stagger as they do on Arctic. Mr. Kerry will return in September to provide an update.
- c. Lower Chester Creek Revitalization and Fish Weir – Doug Johnson (SACC's representative) reported that sewer line work is continuing. West 11th Avenue traffic is heavier and this will continue into August. The Lagoon is lower by two feet through August. There will be 3 to 4 bird monitors to see if this is affecting habitat. The nesting area of Red Neck Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*) is of concern. The last committee meeting was May 6. Doug also attended an Urban Design Commission meeting where the Commission approved the initial concept. Doug stated: the design includes a smaller footprint with a 20 to 30-foot bridge; the existing radio antenna caused the project's reduction; expect more tidal flushing which will change the habitat to more of an estuary type; they hope to begin construction in spring of 2008 with design complete this fall.
- d. Capital Project List – Members ranked capital projects, Bonnie will compile results.
- e. SACC nominations for next year's officers and include: President – Paul Provencio; Vice president – Lisa Jamison, Kathy Weeks; Secretary – Mara Carnahan/Elise Huggins; Treasurer – Doug Johnson; Members at large: Bonnie Harris (also FCC rep); Cammy Oeschli Taylor, Fran Durner;
- f. **Comments**
Albert Whitehead moved a resolution to oppose encroachment to the north side of the Park Strip with the 9th Avenue Redesign Project. He explained that the Park Strip is already narrow and that taking additional land will harm the Park Strip. He wants members to oppose any activities beyond the current intrusion into the Park Strip. After some discussion and attempts at clarification the final vote was 7 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Lanie Fleisher said the Master Plan for the Park Strip will discuss noise and the VA memorial at the June 6 meeting. She noted Friends of the Park Strip is incorporated as a non-profit. She would like to add names to the mailing list and request members contact her if interested. Lanie also noted that a memorial policy is needed. Some members were surprised to learn that the VA memorial has become a full block.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.