

Airport Heights Community Council Minutes

March 20, 2008

Chair Jon Spring convened the meeting at 7:02. Dick Snyder moved to approve the minutes of the January and February 2008 AHCC meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. The Chair requested a change in the agenda order to allow the Assembly candidates to speak first. There being no objection the agenda was revised accordingly.

Assembly candidate Elvi-Grey Jackson spoke first. She discussed her experience and background and reasons for running for the Assembly seat. She answered questions from the audience and made a commitment to attend the Airport Heights Community Council if elected. Dick Traini spoke of his years on the Assembly and accomplishments. He explained that he was awaiting the Alaska Supreme Court decision regarding whether or not he was eligible to run due to term limits.

Representative Sharon Cissna phoned in with a legislative report. She discussed progress in shaping the capital budget. She reported that the Dowling Road extension from Elmore to Lake Otis was a priority. Although Lake Otis Blvd. improvement project did not have funding she was hopeful that the sidewalk improvements component of the project could be included in the capital budget. Representative Cissna also mentioned a number of community meetings that she felt would be of interest to the Community Council. There were no reports from the PTA although Mike Webb, the school principal, was recognized as being in attendance.

Mark Houston delivered the Parks Committee report. The budget for the Gomez Ice Rink Improvements was completed with a total estimated cost of \$200,000. The presence of poor soils could create the need for foundation work which could increase the cost of the project. Mark also reported that an application for a 2008 Challenge Grant from the Anchorage Parks Foundation was being written and was expected to be submitted by the March 21st deadline. He emphasized the need for volunteers.

Vice-Chair Chris Doucette report on the March Federation of Community Council meeting. FCC budget issues appear to be resolved and a new office manager has been hired.

Under community concerns members spoke of more car window breakings on Columbine between 15th and 20th Avenues. There was also discussion of the undergrounding of electric line program and whether additional work would be done in the neighborhood this summer.

James Haslett presented information on the pool bond proposal which is scheduled for the April 1st ballot. He explained that drowning is one of the leading causes of unintended deaths in Alaska. The swimming programs that are conducted in area pools are an important strategy to combat this problem. Most of the high school pools that will be rehabilitated with this bond funding were built in the 1970s. The \$2 million bond issue would be matched by a \$2 million State grant.

Bill Johnson representing Anchorage Tomorrow presented information on the Transportation Bonds that will be on the April 1st ballot. Proposition 5 is a \$44.8 million package of road improvements which includes areawide traffic calming. The 16th Avenue traffic calming project is included in this category of projects. Proposition 6 is a transit and public safety bond proposal totaling \$1.7 million. The transit funds would be matched 4 to 1 by a federal grant. This proposition also includes a new ambulance for the Airport Heights Fire Station. Proposition 1 includes bond funds for a variety of public facility repairs including the Loussac Library, the Museum, and the Sullivan Arena.

Elaine Pratt talked about the Nichols Park Improvement project. The ball field at Nichols Park has been unused for some time. The proposed improvements would be conducted in two phases. The first phase would reclaim the parking areas which are no longer needed for baseball games and seed it. A gate would also be built to control access to the alley on the west side of the park and prevent suspicious activity that regularly takes place there. The perimeter of the park would be further secured with the placement of bollards and boulders along the east side of the park. Trees and landscaping would be added in strategic locations around the perimeter of the park. Phase 2 of the park improvements have not been decided yet but may include recreational ice skating, sled riding mounds or even playground equipment. Elaine and several neighbors have been preparing an application for a \$14,685 2008 Challenge Grant for Phase 1 improvements which is due on March 21st. The grant requires a 50% local match. Elaine reported that she already has a commitment of over \$2,000. She also estimates that there will be a need for a total of 210 volunteer hours.

Dick Synder moved to support the Nichols Park Improvement grant. Shirley Iverson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris Doucette moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Jon Spring, Chairman, in Secretary's absence