

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:15p by Chairman Jason Bergerson. A quorum was established by roll call. Members present were:

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Birchwood	Gail Davidson McCain
Chugiak	Randy McCain
Eagle River Valley	Tom Freeman
Fairview	Harry Deuber
Huffman/O'Malley	Ryan Stencil
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Matt Johnson
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Oceanview	Berni Bradley
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Russian Jack	Dan Delie
Sand Lake	Talbot Chang
South Addition	Bonnie Harris
Spenard	Jason Bergerson
Tudor	Sheli Dodson
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason
University Area	Betty Adkison

The agenda was accepted as printed. Al Tamagni moved to approve the minutes as corrected. June minutes were corrected to show attendance change. June minutes were approved as corrected.

Council sharing followed.

Teri Albrecht reported on the progress of the various road projects. Several of the downtown streets are open with the completion of several construction projects. The E Street project is still behind schedule. After October, projects will wait until next year. Safe Harbor Inn on Muldoon Road is open. It is a non-profit traditional housing program for the homeless, 78% of the occupants are families.

The Anchorage Police Department (APD) is starting a program in Spenard similar to the Fairview program. Sgt. Allen and Lt. Gilliam will set-up the plans. Check with Lt. Gilliam if you want an APD Officer at your meeting. They are working on a plan to have Officers meet with councils quarterly unless there is a problem in the neighborhood. They would like to hear suggestions from the councils. There is some increase in gang activity due to gang members coming here from California.

Assemblymember Gutierrez spoke about the problems caused by the high cost of energy. The Municipality of Anchorage needs a new power plant as well as new equipment for the existing plants. They plan to work with the Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) to build a new plant.

There is a news release regarding bears. There will be a special meeting on September 25th to discuss this issue. The public will be informed about bear problems sooner and the Parks and

Recreation Department will close trails before bears become a real threat. More biologists are needed on staff. Number has not been determined. A pilot program requiring bear proof garbage cans in certain areas is being considered.

Knik Bridge is being reconsidered. Some would rather see the money spent on other projects. The bridge is not well designed and the traffic impact needs to be reexamined.

The windmill ordinance is being studied.

Pat Higgins, from the Anchorage School Board, reported enrollment is up. The cost of fuel is causing people to move in from some of the outlying communities. Enrollment has dropped from last year, but is higher than projected. There is a 2-1/2% reduction in drop-out rate. The Board is working on what needs to be done to increase graduation rates and discourage drop outs. Vocational Tech. needs to be improved. After school activities also need improvement. The school district has added nine new social workers to the High Schools. There are a lot of things on the plate for school board members. Pat Higgins cell phone number is 952-5871. Each school board member has certain schools assigned to them. There is a citizens' complaint form available. Ombudsman can be called as a last resort.

Treasurer's Report. Finance Committee reports the books are set up awkwardly according to Mikunda and Cottrell. They need to be overhauled. The unrestricted and restricted funds need to be kept separate. Next month's report should be simplified. Consortium grants now balance. Each grant is to have a reconciliation done. Some grants have money that needs to be spent so the books can be closed.

Mark Butler reported that we are up to date with grant reports. Five new grants are coming in. They are working on getting all council lists up to date. The FCC Home Page is up to date. Community Patrols are current.

A Communications Committee was appointed by Jason Bergerson. Cathy Gleason moved, seconded by Tom Freeman and passed. The committee is Ed Leach, Bonnie Harris, Talbot Chang, Sheli Dodson. Bonnie Harris will chair.

Fiscal Policy with a recommended set of policy and reporting rules. Al Tamagni moved to approve, seconded by Tom Freeman, staff manager or designee to open all mail, (page 8 and several places). Question called, motion passed with no objection.

We need to have budget for 2009 to Muni in June. Amended budget adds \$55,000. This is added to Muni request but may have to ask for legislative grant. Aside from the \$108,000 from the Muni, there would be a request for a supplemental budget of \$25,000. A combined outreach budget would be \$263,000. The cost of postage etc. has increased. A first class mailing for each council once a year would have an increased cost. Rent could increase also. Bob Churchill moved to approve the total \$163,000. Tom Freeman seconded the motion, which passed.

NUSA proposal needs to be postmarked by September 20. Bonnie Harris moved to approve the NUSA conference application, seconded by Ryan Stencil. Jason Bergerson and Dick Tremaine will be the presenters in Spokane. Al Tamagni offered a friendly amendment to include funding up to \$5,000 for the travel expenses. Bonnie accepted the friendly amendment and the motion passed.

Tom Freeman made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by Betty Adkison, Secretary