

SACC *South Addition Community Council*

MINUTES -- Thursday, November 20, 2008 -

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 by President Kathy Weeks

Agenda and Minutes for Oct.16 meeting were approved as drafted. Some reports were deferred until after the 9th Ave project discussion.

Reports

- A. Police/Fire Report - No report
- B. President's Report - _Deferred (see below)
- C. Treasurer's Report - Balance \$2,790.71 reported by Kathy Weeks
- D. Assembly – Patrick Flynn, flynnp@muni.org
- E. Federation of Community Councils – No report.
- F. Assembly Report - Les Gara Rep_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

II. Old Business

A. 9th Ave Project Phase I L Street to Cordova

Steve Kari of USKH, Mark Kimerer of Land Design North, Inc. and Dave Gardner, MOA, reported on the current status of the 9th Street project. Steve Kari spoke to questions and concerns raised by SACC members:

-Mature trees will not be removed near the tennis courts; the walkway between the berm and the tennis courts will remain, but the berm will be continuous and two of the three walkways that connect that walkway are slated to be removed. Comments were made that if those walkways are removed, people will still walk that path, because it ends at D Street, which ends at the 5th Ave Mall. This part of the design may be changed based on these comments.

- Master plan calls for maple and weeping birch, flowering crabapples, and some aspens, not chokecherries. Elise Huggins suggested that weeping birch not be used due to problems with low branches hanging over sidewalks and requiring pruning. She also noted that the current plan calls for 2.5" diameter trees, but she suggests 3-4". Fran Durner reported that for the museum, 3-4" trees have been specified and found in Talkeetna.

- Question was raised about timing of traffic signals. Traffic dept is in charge of timing signals, and questions about this should be raised with that department.

- There was a question about including access to A/C power as part of this project. The response was that it is not a part of this project, but the Parks Department is addressing the need for electric power on the parkstrip. Light poles on the north side will have outlets for decorative lights. The veteran's memorial will have power, and there may be power available on the south side.

- It was clarified that 5' of the parkstrip on the south side of Delaney Park will be removed for roadway. Much discussion ensued.

- A question was raised about bus traffic, and whether traffic will be delayed by busses stopping where there is a single lane. The response was that busses in some locations will in fact delay traffic.
- It was clarified that the third turn lane will not go the entire length. There will be 4 lanes from E-A Streets.
- A question was raised about whether detour routes during construction are known. They are not.
- A question was raised about why road money is being used for work within the parkstrip. The response was that the walkway is used for pedestrian transportation and therefore an appropriate use of transportation funds. Other examples were given of similar funding.

Conversation continued about the size of the roadbed, and questions were raised about the need to remove 5' from the parkstrip.

Patrick Flynn read from the minutes of the last SACC meeting regarding timing for road bond projects as they relate to the 9th Avenue project. He said that the SACC could make a formal request that the east end be completed first so that concerns about the west end plan can be addressed.

A motion was made by Dale Nelson and seconded by Lanie Fleischer, and a resolution was unanimously passed as follows:

SACC resolves that:

Whereas the current design of the 9th Avenue Reconstruction Plan for the west section between L and Cordova includes serious unanticipated encroachment into Delaney Park; and

Whereas, the current project as proposed needs considerable refinement to preserve the park and its uses;

Now, Therefore, SACC members ask that the western portion of the 9th Avenue project from L Street to Cordova Street be deferred and made Phase II, rather than Phase I, and we encourage that the Cordova to LaTouche portion proceed as Phase I forthwith.

It was noted that the Urban Design Commission will meet on January 14 to discuss the Delaney Master Plan and the 9th Avenue Reconstruction. SACC members will meet prior to that meeting to discuss concerns, and are encouraged to attend. Meeting date and location TBA by e-mail to all in attendance and others on the e-mail list.

Assembly Report - Patrick Flynn: Mr. Flynn stated that the budget is moving forward. Mill rates will be issued in the spring, he anticipates that taxes may go up slightly. He reported that all of the recent Municipal Bond Issues were sold and are now available through brokerages.

Mr. Flynn reported that since Mayor Begich will be resigning to become the US Senator for Alaska, according to the Municipal Charter, the Mayor's office shall be filled with the Chair of the Assembly. This is unprecedented, and the Assembly is meeting to discuss whether this is interpreted to mean the current Assembly Chair, or another member, should there be another election for Chair prior to the Mayor's resignation.

Legislative Report - Les Gara: Representative Gara reported that the sidewalk between the Anchorage Pioneer's Home and City Market has been repaired in response to requests from the APH residents. He described recent work of the legislature including a conference on foster care. He reported that 38% of foster children end up homeless. He stated that the legislature is trying to address the lack of primary care physicians for Medicare patients. He explained that Federal law prohibits supplementing Medicare payments, so the legislature is looking into other possible solutions including providing funds to physicians who accept more Medicare patients. He reported that the legislature's bipartisan coalition is no more, and is now split along party lines. There are efforts to form another bipartisan coalition. He said the legislature is focused on a gas pipeline, and on renewable energy plan, including a Fire Island wind farm. He noted that the state has great potential for hydro and thermal power generation. A question was raised about the amount of energy raised by the Fire Island Wind Farm. A member responded that each turbine will generate 1.5 MW, for a total of 30 MW to start, with the possibility of increase in the future. He reported that a Renewable Energy Fund has been created. Representative Gara can be reached at Rep_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us

Capital Improvement Projects: President Kathy Weeks encouraged SACC members to put forth any desired CIPs. Rep Gara clarified in response to a question about municipal and state funding, that SACC should request projects they want regardless. He reminded us that Governor Palin last year vetoed projects that appeared to be aesthetic in nature. President Weeks asked about members' interest in alley lighting, and stated she will look into whether there are any requirements for it.

Title 21 and lot coverage:

- Title 21 is in the process of being adopted. Chapter 3 is scheduled to be addressed at the Assembly on December 2, but will likely be postponed until Dec 16. Chapter 7, which covers landscaping, lighting etc, will be addressed by Planning and Zoning on December 8, in the Assembly Chambers.

- President Weeks reported that she spoke with Tina Brooks, Municipal Zoning Planning Reviewer, and reviewed plans for several structures that have been recently built in the neighborhood. All met the requirement that the structure must be <40% of the lot, with one exception. Pres. Weeks reported that she has recently learned that there are two types of zoning variances granted. The first is the sort which requires a public hearing, and upon which SACC has the opportunity to comment. The second is an administrative variance, which can be granted after the fact, by the head of planning and zoning, pursuant to Municipal Code 21.15.012. An Administrative variance can be granted in limited circumstances, and can only be granted for specified percentage overages. An example of this is the duplex at 13th and G. (Language and chart attached.)

Alley Paving was discussed briefly and deferred to the next SACC meeting.

Community Comments: None

Elise Huggins moved to adjourn, Dale Nelson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:15

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Jamieson, SACC Secretary

Next Executive Committee Meeting: December 4, 2008, 6:00 pm at Pioneer Home

Next General Membership Meeting: December 18, 2008, 7:00 pm at Pioneer Home