

South Addition Community Council

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2008 - 7 PM,
Anchorage Pioneers' Home, 5th floor

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

I. Agenda changed to move reports to after New Business.

II. New Business:

A. WildFin, Seafood Grill and Moose Bar, LLC new alcohol conditional use for 517 W. 7th Ave. # 100: Hearing Jan. 6, Case #. 2009-001 Robert McCormick spoke on behalf of the Wildfin, which will be located under the new Linnay Pacillo Parking Garage. He stated that it will be an upscale seafood restaurant. Construction has been delayed, and the opening may be a year away. They are seeking approval for the transfer of a liquor license for this establishment. Bonnie moved to support this transfer, Paul Seconded, and the motion passed 8 in favor, 3 abstentions.

B. Alaska Railroad new Office and Retail Complex: Planning and Zoning hearing Jan. 5, 2009 Michael Philp, 265-3958 philpm@akrr.com Mr. Philp, Project Manager, presented information on this project, which will renovate an existing structure built in 1932 and used as a storage shed, into a commercial mixed-use facility. It is expected to be completed in 2009, and currently has three planned tenants, with room for more. The Railroad is working with the State Historical Preservation office, and aiming for LEED certification as a 'green' building. He provided written materials with plans and photographs.

C. Valley of the Moon Park: Land Status and Funding: Mark Butler, Federation of Community Councils Manager, came to speak on behalf of the North Star Community Council. Mr. Butler reported that Rep Mike Doogan asked for \$750,000 for renovation of the park; Gov Palin vetoed \$250,000 but \$500,000 was appropriated. Additionally, a park bond issue recently passed, and there may be additional matching funds available. He noted that Rep Doogan also worked to obtain funding to repair the stairs at I Street, which have been repaired. He further reported that a parcel of private land was recently donated by Alfred Gay to the MOA for the park, but it is separated from the rest of the park land by a parcel owned by the Greater Friendship Baptist Church. The Church's parcel is currently assessed at \$317,700. He stated that he has learned that the MOA does not plan to change the zoning of the donated parcel to parkland at this time, and that there has been some discussion of attempting to either use the aforementioned funds to purchase the parcel, or trade land with the church so that the park land would be contiguous.

Lanie Fleisher moved and Bonnie Harris seconded: That SACC work with North Star Community Council to acquire the church's parcel of land to add to Valley of the Moon Park.

7 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions. Motion passed.

Laura Bottger moved and Bonnie Harris seconded: That SACC work with North Star Community

Council on a public planning process for Valley of the Moon Park. 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion Passed.

Bonnie moved and Lanie seconded: That SACC should write a letter thanking Mr. Gay for his generous donation. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Butler also reported on the Spenard Road project, in particular a bike and pedestrian path planned for the Romig Hill portion of Spenard Road, from Hillcrest north to West 19th. He said that the overall project design has been improved and they are working to avoid the problems of the Arctic Boulevard project, including construction delays and poor traffic patterns.

D. Crystal Plaza, LLC at 845 F and 529 & 535 9th Ave.: Jan. 5, 2009 hearing on 50 space parking garage President Weeks reported that she has spoken to the builder. This project has been put on hold indefinitely due to the poor economy. She noted that since the project is not in SACC's boundaries, we will not be notified when the hearing is re-scheduled. Lanie suggested that we use this time to be proactive and compel the builders to comply with the downtown plan, which would restrict building in that area to under 3 stories.

OLD BUSINESS:

E. 9th Avenue Project—Phase I: L St. to Cordova: Urban Design Commission (UDC) Hearing January 14, 2009 at 6 PM at Loussac Library in the Assembly Chambers.

F. Delaney Park Master Plan and Veteran's Memorial Project: UDC Hearing January 14, 2009 at Loussac Library in the Assembly Chambers.

These two items were discussed together.

Lanie reported that since the last SACC meeting, she has been reviewing the plans, and believes that the 9th Avenue project will not negatively impact current uses of the parkstrip, and that it will result in more useable space. There was discussion of the ball fields, and questions raised about whether they will have adequate space. Paul stated that there does not seem to be much of a public process. President Weeks reported that she went to the Planning and Zoning office and was shown what she was told was the final plan that can be reviewed at that office, but copies are not available and the plan is not posted on the MOA website. It was noted that the project representatives who attended the last SACC meeting, agreed to return with clearer plans for further review, but did not. There was general agreement that the process has not allowed SACC to have an opportunity to review the final plan prior to the UDC's next meeting, at which the final plan is to be reviewed. Dale stated for the record that historically, individuals who serve on the Urban Design Commission do not participate in public presentations for projects they are involved with financially, and recuse themselves from any review as part of the UDC. He expressed concern that the packet of plans at this meeting had no date on it. It was expressed that since the 9th Avenue and Delaney Park Master Plans impact each other, they should be considered together by the UDC.

Dale made and Laura seconded a motion as follows:

Resolved, that (as to the Delany Park Master Plan and 9th Avenue Project) South Addition Community Council respectfully requests that the Urban Design Commission defer action on approval of the areas from Cordova to L, and proceed on the area from Cordova to LaTouche.

9 in favor, 1 abstention, motion passed.

G. WiFi at Pioneer Home: Update by Paul Provencio. Funds are in place from Conoco Phillips, GCI has donated internet connection to the building and Gateway donated a computer. They now have approval to test the building for technical requirements for wireless. This is a project of SACC, to thank the Pioneer Home for allowing us to meet there.

Reports

A. Police/Fire Report: No Report.

B. President's Report – Kathleen A. Weeks, kweeks@alaska.net No Report.

C. Treasurer's Report – Doug Johnson, lindoug@ptialaska.net No Report.

D. Assembly – Patrick Flynn, flynnp@muni.org Mr. Flynn reported on activities of the Assembly, including recent passage of the budget and labor contracts. He stated that rising property taxes are a concern to many, but few support reducing city services. Based on citizen comments, he is considering introducing a bill for a sales tax on non-necessities, although he stated that he does not support such a tax, since it is regressive.

E. Federation of Community Councils – Paul Provencio or Bonnie Harris No Report.

F. Legislative Reports – (Les Gara, Johnny Ellis, Mike Doogan, Lindsey Holmes, Hollis French) No Reports, No legislators in attendance.

G: Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2008 with two changes: *Under II a (second bullet) "Master Plan" to be replaced with "Planting Plan" and at the top of page 2, "Delaney Park" to be replaced with "9th Avenue"*

IV. Community Comments – 3 min. maximum

Martin Rudolph Bruggeman spoke:

1. Mr. Bruggeman reported that upon entry into the MOA Health Department building, citizens are photographed without their consent, and required to provide their social security numbers in order to receive services. He has asked that this policy be reviewed by Health and Social Services
2. Mr. Bruggeman expressed concerns about pedestrian safety issues at N and 13th, and at L&5th, where he has encountered many speeding vehicles, not obeying stop signs and endangering pedestrians. He urged SACC to take action on these **matters**.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Jamieson, SACC Secretary

**Next Executive Committee Meeting FRIDAY January 2, 2009 at 6PM at Pioneer Home;
Next General Membership Meeting: Thurs. 7:00 pm, January 15, 2009 at Pioneer Home.**