

Fairview Community Council
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2007
Fairview Recreation Center

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Board Members Present: Sharon Chamard (Vice President), Dee Kennedy (Secretary), Harry Deuber (Treasurer), Paul Benson (At-Large), Allen Kemplen (At-Large), Lee Ross (At-Large)

Other Persons Present: Dan Loring, Mrs. Wheaton

There was discussion about the format of the upcoming follow-up meeting concerning public inebriates. Paul Benson said he thinks a six-hour long meeting would be better, because three hours is not enough time. Allen Kemplen said we need to think about the purpose of the meeting. We would need a lot of structure to make the three hours productive. People want to translate their frustration into action. People who come to the meeting will be familiar with the issue. We could give each group three to five questions to answer in as much depth as possible. At the end of the session we could then develop action steps to follow-up on. These would be specific action items with the people who've stepped forward to take point on them. Allen added that he would like to see a change in the management policy for release of people from CSP. Sharon Chamard referred the matter to the Neighborhood Plan and Public Safety Committees to work on developing the workshop agenda and purpose.

Sharon reported on a meeting she and Darrel Hess had recently with Tyler Robinson at the Department of Neighborhoods, wherein they discussed the possibility of developing a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy for Fairview. Dee Kennedy raised concerns about these strategies, as they often lead to a lack of affordable housing and increased property values and taxes.

Sharon reported on two meetings she and Lee Ross attended at the state's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives office regarding the issue of food distribution from the back of private vehicles. In these meetings, various strategies were discussed to have this activity, which largely occurs on V.F. Grace's property at 13th and Gambell without their permission, brought to a stop. Sharon also reported on meetings the Public Safety Committee has had with APD Lt. Garry Gilliam concerning the new problem-oriented policing unit which will soon be operating in Fairview. Allen Kemplen said he wants to encourage this new APD unit to get behind road improvements scheduled for 13th and Gambell.

Lee Ross mentioned some improvements that V.F. Grace has done—cleaning up graffiti, removing a trailer under which chronic inebriates used to sleep, and paving a parking lot.

Dee Kennedy asked about the status of the PENCO application. Sharon read the Advisory Committee's conclusions from the recently-released Department of Environmental Conservation's document.

Mrs. Wheaton asked what happened as a result of the council sending a letter regarding the parking situation and the widening of Chance Court between Medfra and Nelchina. Allen Kemplen said he hasn't heard anything back, but he talked to Anne Brooks, and she said the possibility of locating parking to the south of the apartments on the south side of the street would be best taken up with Russ Oswald. The group decided to follow-up on this letter.

Allen Kemplen reported on his recent meeting at the Aviation Technology Center at Merrill Field

regarding the federal evaluation of Alaska's airspace. He talked to them about noise from Merrill Field, and asked them to develop more stringent departure procedures for planes taking off to the west and turning south. The planes are turning before they have reached 900 foot elevation, which means they are turning too soon. Allen said he will bring contact information and bullet points to the general membership meeting and will encourage people to write letters to the FAA urging them to remove flexibility from departure procedures. He will also introduce a resolution at the meeting.

Allen said that he request for proposals document for the Highway-to-Highway has been released. Bids are due by the end of October. The municipality has signed a memorandum of understanding with the state regarding joint management of the project and commission of a citizens and highway users committee. The schedule for the project calls for the statement of needs and purpose to be finalized by July 2008. This is crucial to the neighborhood because it establishes what will happen in the future—the framework upon which everything will be built. We could slide back if the purpose and needs doesn't include strong comments about the need for economic development above the covers.

There was some discussion about the observer slot on the RFP review committee that has been offered to someone from the council. The Executive Board recommended to the President that Noel Rea be replaced on this committee.

Allen Kemplen said that the ability to redevelop Gambell and Ingra really requires land use development. The neighborhood needs much more than will be able to be done by a road contractor. We need a separate pot of money to look at redevelopment of our community center. It will require investment from the private and public sectors, and venture capital. To get this money, we need a good game plan. We need to move forward on a parallel path with land use development. To get citizens and policymakers behind this, we need to sell them a positive vision—redevelopment of the road section so it is a vibrant commercial district. A possible source of funding for this might be the HAND Commission and the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy.

Harry Deuber gave the Treasurer's Report.

Harry gave an update on Fairbanks Park. The municipality has submitted a request to vacate the right-of-way to build a fence on the south side of the park; it should be installed next summer.

Dan Loring said that he has been working for DOT on maintenance of some of their properties. He has put new fences around the Green Connection office building to deter the inebriates. This property will be the headquarters of the Highway-to-Highway project, and Chris Cole, an architect, has been hired to redesign it so it will be representative of the project. Several people from the board volunteered to assist in the committee that will decide on the redesign. Dan also said that Bob Wright from DOT is looking for property managers for the properties they have acquired in Fairview. The CHDO at Shiloh was suggested. Dan said he would contact them.

Dan said the Education Committee will be meeting on October 29th at 6 pm at the Rec. Ctr. He reported on his on-going efforts to get graffiti removed from the grounds of Fairview Elementary. The School District maintenance department has agreed to allow volunteer graffiti busters to remove the graffiti.

Dan said the spruce trees on 15th Ave. are dying, and we should look into getting some new trees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Vice President