

Fairview Community Council  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2007  
Fairview Recreation Center

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

**Board Members Present:** Darrel Hess (President), Sharon Chamard (Secretary), Harry Deuber (Treasurer), Dave Brossard (At-Large), Allen Kemplen (At-Large), Lee Ross (At-Large), Benita White (At-Large)

**Other Persons Present:** Paul Benson, Cheri Herrington, Tanya Hickok, Shaun Pfeiffer, Tim Potter

Treasurer's Report:

<b>Beginning Balance 1/17/07</b>		<b>\$6,894.72</b>
<b>Deposits</b>		
1/23/07	Membership dues	\$14.00
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$14.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
1/26/07 #1089	AK Best Water – APD substation	\$15.00
1/29/07 #1088	ACS – Patrol hotline	\$19.31
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$34.31</b>
<b>2/14/07 Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$6,874.41</b>

Tim Potter from DOWL Engineers, on behalf of Alaska Sales and Service, presented a proposal to vacate Medfra Street between E. 5<sup>th</sup> and E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Based on DOWL's traffic studies, Karluk Street will be able to handle the extra traffic. Several months ago, this same stretch of Medfra was closed while Alaska Sales and Service repaired one of their roofs. The DOWL study found that this resulted in an additional three-second wait at Karluk Street for vehicles turning off E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue; this is not a significant difference.

Lee Ross commented on traffic at the E. 13<sup>th</sup> and Medfra intersection. He said he thinks Alaska Sales and Service employees are heavy users of that intersection. He also expressed concerns about test driving being done in the neighborhood, especially along Orca Street. Despite all this, he said he doesn't think the closure of this segment of Medfra Street will impact the area at all. Shaun Pfeiffer, from Alaska Sales and Service, said the new test pattern will not go through the neighborhood. With the closure of Medfra Street, employees will likely come up Karluk Street and turn east on E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Tim Potter asked Shaun where the employee parking is going to be. Shaun said they are still studying that issue, but they will probably have a few parking areas because their campus is quite large. They have to accommodate both employee and customer parking. He added that they have had a crime problem over the past two to three years. The campus has 13 access points and fences that can be knocked down in various places. They plan to put in new fencing that is more resistant to ram-raids. Tim suggested that

there should be more coordination between the Alaska Sales and Service security and the Fairview Community Patrol.

Darrel Hess said he agrees with Lee Ross, and added that Medfra Street should have been closed long ago because it's a dangerous intersection, which he refers to as "Kamikaze Corner." He received no complaints when the street was closed before for the roof repairs, and to his knowledge, neither did the muni. Darrel commented on the upcoming Day of Caring, and said it would show the community that Alaska Sales and Service is a good neighbor if they were to contribute funds to help with the rehabilitation of the adjacent Fairview Lions Park. He added that this would not make a difference as to what the Council decides regarding the right-of-way vacation of Medfra Street.

Allen Kemplen said he has some concerns about the proposal. First, the Long Range Transportation Plan has prioritized the Highway-to-Highway connection, which will result in a significant reduction to traffic volumes along E. 5<sup>th</sup> and E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues. The trends presented in the DOWL study are not straight-line, but right-of-way vacation is forever. It is taking a valuable piece of public land for private use, which may not be in the best interests of the community or the city. Second, there will probably be increased turning movements north onto Karluk Street from E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is a potential for increased accidents there, because the corner is heavily used by low-income residents at Parkview Manor and kids going to the Fairview Community Recreation Center. The proposal is not without its impact on neighborhood streets. These changes are likely to be detrimental. He said he doesn't know yet if these changes are significant enough for the Council to say "Whoa," but he does want to see that the benefits will be equal to the costs to residential areas. Third, during the Day of Caring, a row of trees will be installed along the north side of Fairview Lions Park, explicitly to provide a buffer between the commercial/industrial uses to the north and the residential uses to the south. He said the proposed fence doesn't sound like it will be attractive and friendly to the neighborhood. Fourth, he has concerns about the properties on the north side of E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue east of Medfra Street. They are industrial and need to have vehicular access from E. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If they cannot go that way, their traffic will go on E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This will have to be addressed.

Tim Potter said that the initial plan for the Fairview traffic calming project was to put a diverter at 9<sup>th</sup> and Medfra, but there was strong opposition from the businesses along Orca Street. He said he will get together with traffic engineers from DOWL to address Allen's issues before the March General Membership Meeting. He thinks the Highway-to-Highway project is a very long-term consideration, and no matter what the traffic level is, that corner will continue to be dangerous. Regarding the fencing, Alaska Sales and Service needs it to be secure, that they shouldn't be opposed to consulting the Council on the design. He added that he thinks East Fairview is as dense as it is going to get, and that the neighborhood doesn't need Medfra Street as an access point.

Shaun Pfeiffer said that years ago, the portion of E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue that runs through the Alaska Sales and Service property was vacated. It is now taxable property that doesn't have to be maintained by the muni. He added that changing the location of the parking areas on their campus will make it easier to access the property from E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue rather than from the south off of E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Allen Kemplen said the Council is looking for a sponsor for a gateway sign at the corner of E. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Karluk Street. This would help mitigate the increased traffic flow along Karluk Street, and tells people they are entering a special place. It would be a good gesture on the part of Alaska Sales and Service to consider sponsoring the sign. Tim Potter said there are some opportunities to work together towards a win-win solution.

**Darrel Hess** reported on a number of issues:

- the cost for mailing the Day of Caring postcard was \$1257.50. It had to be sent out by first-class mail to ensure that people received it prior to the public meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- regarding the public hearing on the AMATS Pedestrian Plan, it would be good to invite someone to come to the Council in April.
- the redevelopment of E. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue won't happen until Summer of 2008. But this will allow for more time for public comment this summer.
- the oval plowed around the field of Fairview Lions Park was to remove snow to put on Cordova Street for the sled dog races.
- State Senator Johnny Ellis has introduced a bill (SB 100) to provide treatment for substance and alcohol abuse. It prioritizes treatment for pregnant women and creates a pilot program for a secure treatment facility for involuntary commitment cases. Johnny encouraged Darrel to give testimony at the bill's hearing in front of the Senate Health, Education, and Social Services Committee.
- the list of projects for the United Way Day of Caring has been prioritized.
- the Anchorage Press had an article in the February 1<sup>st</sup> issue that was uncomplimentary to Fairview. Darrel commented on the article in the recent Council newsletter, and issued an open invitation for people from the Anchorage Press to come to a Council meeting.
- the agenda for the March General Membership Meeting includes the annual election of officers; presentations by Tim Potter from DOWL on the Medfra Street right-of-way vacation, Anne Brooks from Brooks and Associates with an update on the 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Terrace Project, and Randy Kinney from Anchorage Tomorrow on the April bonds; and votes on resolutions relating to the Highway-to-Highway Project and the Proposal to Rename Town Square Park.

Paul Benson gave an update on his discussions with the radio station KUDO regarding the possibility of a show focusing on community council issues. The station thinks it is a good idea, and once a month would be good.

Allen Kemplen reported on the recent meeting of the Merrill Field Advisory Commission. Merrill Field is moving forward to acquire the property at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Orca Street.

An update was given on the status of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue expansion. The State is moving forward with this project. They will be putting in a 5-6 foot-high concrete wall to separate traffic from Merrill Field. The sidewalk will be between this wall and the roadway. The pedestrian situation will deteriorate. It was suggested that the Council should ask for a report on the project – where are they now in terms of planning, what is the design, etc? Darrel Hess said these people could be invited to the April Executive Board meeting along with someone from AMATS to talk about the pedestrian plan.

Allen Kemplen asked if any monies have been programmed for the design of Cordova Street. Darrel Hess said he will follow up with Mike Abbott. Allen further suggested that the Council should talk with Johnny Ellis and Les Gara regarding the status of the capital requests for Fairview projects. Darrel said it might be possible to meet with them when they are in town for the constituents' pizza party on the weekend of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Secretary

