

Fairview Community Council
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2007
Fairview Recreation Center

Meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Board Members Present: Darrel Hess (President), 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: Carla Culbreth, Garry Gilliam, Jerry Jenkins, Claris Syren, Agnes Wheaton

Darrel Hess announced that Noel Rea has resigned from the Executive Board. It was moved by Allen Kemplen and seconded by Harry Deuber to appoint Chris Baker to fill this At-Large position until the March 2008 election. Following a short discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Darrel Hess said he is thinking of restructuring the committees of the Fairview Community Council to have three standing committees: Beautification, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Public Safety. The duties of the Beautification Committee would include: Raising funds to purchase flowers for neighborhood plantings; enlisting businesses, organizations and individuals to adopt and maintain neighborhood plantings; helping to plant and maintain neighborhood plantings through the Fairview Flower Patrol; and other areas to be determined by the E Board and Committee. The Neighborhood Revitalization Committee would be a reformed version of the current Neighborhood Plan Committee, and would encompass the Neighborhood Plan, zoning, Merrill Field, the Highway To Highway and other transportation projects, managing and prioritizing the Council's yearly Capital Improvement Program requests, all Neighborhood Capital Projects, and other areas to be determined by the E Board and Committee. The Public Safety Committee's duties would include working with the Fairview Community Patrol; working with problem landlords in the neighborhood; working with APD, including prioritizing the Council's public safety concerns, and working with APD on strategies to deal with those concerns; reviewing applications for new liquor licenses, and license renewals, and making recommendations to the E Board and Council; and other areas to be determined by the E Board and Committee.

Paul Benson asked what would happen to the Education Committee. Darrel described how both he and Sharon Chamard had recently been approached by the chair of the Education Committee, who expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of attention the Council is paying to education matters in the community. Darrel said he agrees with this assessment, but questioned how involved the Council should get in education given that the Education Committee now has a membership of one and there appears to be no demand from the membership or the community that the Council address education. He added that education is an important issue, and perhaps the proper amount of attention could be paid to it if there was a separate group, unaffiliated with the Council, that could focus exclusively on education. Paul Benson asked if the Federation of Community Councils has an education committee, and Allen Kemplen suggested that the Executive Board communicate with the Federation about the possibility of forming a municipality-wide education committee under the auspices of the Federation to involve interested parties. A motion to this effect was moved, seconded, and approved. Allen Kemplen then suggested that the matter be deferred to the next Executive Board meeting, and that the current discussion be reflected in the minutes, thus giving people interested in the Education Committee a chance to express their views at the General Membership Meeting. Darrel Hess said he has been the chair of the Council for almost five years, and has never had a parent come to the Council to express a concern. Dee Kennedy said she thinks matters related to Fairview Elementary should really be addressed by the PTA.

There was discussion about the Beautification Committee and the need to get more people involved. Allen Kemplen suggested sending out a council-wide mailing to recruit volunteers.

Guest Presentation – Jerry Jenkins, Executive Director of Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

This was a presentation about his plans to build a facility across the street from the Brother Francis Shelter. The facility would provide social services for homeless people, and would serve as a “one-stop shop” for these services. He said he has worked with addicts for over 20 years, and has been in Anchorage for five years. His experience has been that services for consumers are spread all over. This proposed facility, at the corner of Ingra between 3rd and 4th Avenues, will also have a component for those who are mentally ill and for addicts in recovery – psycho-social rehabilitation – that will be what is known as a “Clubhouse.” He added that in a typical year, CSP does 20,000+ pickups. 80% of the calls-for-service in the downtown area are for “man down,” and 100% of those calls are for inebriates. 92% of those inebriates are Alaska Native. The Consumer Web’s Computer Connection at 13th and Gambell serves about 330 unique persons each month, and is used 1,500-2,000 times a month.

Discussion followed. Mr. Jenkins was asked by Darrel Hess if there will be a housing component. He said there would be, but how many depends on how many stories the building is and their funding sources. Darrel asked what percentage of their clients will be chronic public inebriates versus homeless. Garry Gilliam asked if there will be secure housing for Title 47 people. Mr. Jenkins said no. There was general discussion about who would live there, will it be wet or dry housing, the extent to which this would reduce people wandering through the neighborhood, and what agencies will provide services there. Mr. Jenkins said the goal is to get people housed, take care of their basic needs, tell them they are responsible for their lives, and provide some resources. Allen Kemplen said there are two issues: 1) one-stop shop, and 2) location. He said he thinks the one-stop shop idea has merit. However, the proposed location is more problematic. We already have a one-stop shop in Fairview – sleep-off – which brings all these inebriates into Fairview. Providing a gathering spot for people with problems has a real downside. Allen asked Jerry Jenkins what proportion of chronic public inebriates is native (Jerry Jenkins – 92%) and what percentage of the mentally ill is native (Jerry Jenkins – 40%). Allen said given the high proportion of the target population that is native, it might make sense to locate the facility in an area that already has services for natives, such as the Tudor/Bragaw area which has the Alaska Native Medical Center. Allen pointed out another issue—the Highway-to-Highway Connection. The tentative alignment shows the road going right through the property in question. Allen asked if it is good to make a significant investment in a parcel located right there. Jerry Jenkins commented that if the facility were to be placed at Tudor/Bragaw, there would still be people at Bean’s Café. Allen said that people could easily take the bus between the two places. Darrel Hess asked if the proposed facility will bring more people into the neighborhood, and said that according to Anchorage 2020, such services are supposed to be dispersed across the municipality, not concentrated in just a few spots.

President’s Report – Darrel Hess

Darrel reported that he met with Bill Tatum, one of the owners of NVision, an architecture firm, which has recently moved into the office building at the corner of 13th and Gambell. Mr. Tatum said they plan to do landscaping and building improvements, and will be getting the plans for the pending HSIP at 13th and Gambell so that these improvements will complement those that are part of the HSIP. NVision, Carrs Gambell, and Nye Ford are apparently in the early stages of discussion about sharing a security guard.

The Council has an observer seat on the committee that will be reviewing proposals from companies to do the EIS for the Highway-to-Highway. Board members supported the appointment of Harry Deuber to this seat, with Sharon Chamard as the back-up.

There is \$250,000 from the muni to do a project that could be done quickly and make an impact. The Neighborhood Plan Committee suggested that this money be used to refurbish signature fencing elements. There was discussion about going high-end at only a few locations versus refurbishing more elements with a more economical treatment. There was consensus about the importance of prioritizing. Jacques Boutet and the team from DOWL will provide more details for the December Board meeting.

Comments

Garry Gilliam from APD said the CAP Team will probably be increased by two people after January 1st. Writing the SARA project will start after Thanksgiving; Sharon Chamard will be assisting. There are already differences due to the scanning that has been going on. The Department of Corrections is thinking of cutting back on the level of parole and probation enforcement on the streets. There are active investigations going on in Fairview. APD is changing the method of attending community council meetings. They will go to the Federation of Community Councils meeting, but to the others only if there is a specific issue. Fairview is an exception, because there is an active project going on here.

Karla Culbreth from APD reported on the State Troopers' "shoulder tap" program wherein youth ask people to buy alcohol for them. They did this in Fairview and arrested several people, each of whom has extensive criminal histories. It was a very successful program and they will continue using it in Fairview.

Harry Deuber gave the Treasurer's Report.

Beginning Balance 9/18/07	\$5,725.62
Total Deposits	\$0.00
Expenses	
9/24/07 #1116 AK Best Water	\$41.25
10/10/07 #1117 ACS – Patrol hotline	\$19.46
10/10/07 #1119 ACS – Patrol hotline	\$19.29
Total Expenses	\$80.00
10/15/07 Ending Balance	\$5,645.62

Harry made a motion that the Fairview Community Council donate \$150.00 from the Beautification Committee funds to the Charles Benson library fund at Fairview Elementary. The motion was seconded by Allen Kemplen. Following a short discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Lee Ross noted that the vacant lot at 14th and Ingra has been cleaned up, thanks to Dan Loring.

Sharon Chamard reported that she and Lee Ross attended a third meeting of a group brought together to address the problem of road-side food distribution in Anchorage. So far, the group has been able to get all of the people giving food to people on the streets to relocate this activity to Bean's Café. One holdout is a woman who distributes food on the V.F. Grace property at 13th and Gambell. Staff members from the state's Faith-Based and Community Initiatives office are going to attempt to make contact with the woman to compel her compliance. If that is not successful, a more punitive approach will be used.

Dee Kennedy said the Camp Fire program at Central Lutheran is in danger of losing its funding because money was not put into the 2008 budget. AFACT will be holding a public meeting at St. Anthony's Church on November 5th with three Assembly members: Paul Bauer, Sheila Selkregg, and Allan Tesche.

Agnes Wheaton asked what the response has been from Project Management and Engineering at the muni to the letter the Council sent them requesting a delay to the 16th Avenue Terrace project so that her concerns about parking close to her house can be satisfactorily addressed. There has been no response as yet; the letter had not been sent immediately after Mrs. Wheaton's original request at the September Board meeting. Sharon Chamard apologized for the communication mix-up among certain Board members that delayed the writing of the letter.

Allen Kemplen reported that the Neighborhood Plan Committee met with architect Chris Cole about his designs for the renovation of the Green Connection building on 15th Ave. The committee stressed the importance of the building being aesthetically attractive, and that the design include Fairview's signature colors, the name "Fairview" prominently on signage, and light treatments as part of the landscaping.

Allen Kemplen reported on a meeting he and Darrel Hess had with the muni's Planning Department staff regarding parking requirements in Title 21. The staff did an analysis of parking demand in Fairview and found there is less demand than required by code. So they will be considering reducing off-street parking requirements as long as property owners do things to mitigate this (such as trading parking for green space, reductions if parking is off the alley as opposed to in front). The suggestion was also made that commercial parking requirements in place for downtown be expanded to include all of Fairview.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Vice President