

**Minutes of  
Federation of Community Councils Board Meeting  
March 18, 2009**

Before the meeting officially began, Paul Kendall, a candidate for Mayor, gave a brief presentation to the delegates. After Paul's presentation concluded, Jason Bergerson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Roll call was taken from the sign-in sheet and a quorum was established.

Members in attendance;

Basher	Dirk Sisson
Birchwood	Gail Davidson McCain
Campbell Park	Peter Hamlett
Chugiak	Randy McCain
Fairview	Harry Deuber
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Oceanview	Berni Bradley
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Russian Jack	Pat Butler
Sand Lake	Talbot Chang
Scenic Foothills	Lance Pruitt
South Addition	Bonnie Harris
Spenard	Jason Bergerson
Tudor	Sheli Dodson
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason

Others in attendance included:

Joanne Blackburn, Portage Valley CC  
Matt Burkholder, Spenard CC  
Mark Butler, FCC Manager  
Betty Caudle, FCC Staff  
Mark Tanguay, US Census Bureau  
Kim Leming, US Census Bureau  
Lt. Gary Gilliam, APD

The Agenda was reviewed and changed to allow Pat Higgins from the Anchorage School Board to speak first, due to his schedule. Bill Churchill from Rogers Park moved that the Agenda be accepted as revised, Bonnie Harris, South Addition, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Council Center copier was malfunctioning, so meeting minutes from the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were not reviewed and accepted as final.

Pat Higgins thanked the delegates for accommodating his schedule and began his report. He stated that his main topic this evening was the bond initiatives coming up for voters' approval on April 7. He passed around flyers with descriptions of the bond initiatives and explained that the funds generated by the bonds will be used for major renovations to extend the lives of the schools named in the handouts. The school district does budget for routine maintenance projects, but needs the added funds from bonds for major repairs.

Pat noted that \$40 million in bond debt was retired last year and they expect to retire \$45 million in bond debt this year. The projects proposed in the bond initiatives are part of a 10-year capital improvement program, but are subject to changes based on needs and priorities of the school district.

Pat reported that they are beginning to see a difference in the graduation drop-out rate. He also mentioned that there will be a workforce development workshop at the school district offices on Friday, March 20, from 10 am to 12 pm.

Bob Churchill asked if there has been any reduction in vandalism to schools due to the cameras that have been installed. Pat replied that vandalism to schools has been significantly reduced these past years and the cameras have definitely contributed to the better security.

Bob asked if the summer campers have helped. Sheli Dodson explained that during the summer months, people who are visiting or traveling in the summer are allowed to camp in school parking lots to provide extra deterrent to vandals. Pat commented that he was not aware of the program, but he is still learning about the various programs and activities at the schools. Pat concluded his report and Jason opened the floor to council sharing.

## **Community Council Sharing**

### Sand Lake

- They are monitoring the West Anchorage District Plan. There is a public meeting on March 31.
- Part of the community near the gravel pit is on well water. There is funding to study how the pond will be filled, the type of dirt needed to fill.
- The city has approved purchase of land to build the elementary and junior high schools. There are no immediate plans to build the schools, just to purchase and hold the lands until they need to be built.

### Chugiak

- We are hosting a Mayoral Candidates Forum tomorrow night with Birchwood Community Council.

### Russian Jack

- Our last meeting was quiet.
- Presentation and discussion of the bond initiatives took up most of the night.

### Basher

- We are also monitoring the West Anchorage District Plan and will be participating in the March 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- The Far North Bicentennial Improvement Plan is out for review and comments by all of the community councils. April 19 is deadline for public comment.

### Mountain View

- No new issues
- We did lose funding for art on some development projects. Not sure why art was funded in front of the McDonald's, but not for other areas.

### Turnagain

- We are also participating in the West Anchorage District Plan. There is an advisory group meeting on March 31. We question why only two individuals from the community are being allowed on the advisory group. We hope it is a successful plan. We were told that the district plan should be completed by the end of the year.
- Our last meeting was focused on the bond initiatives.
- Lyn Ary Park is going through a master plan process.

### Fairview

- Held our annual elections last month and new board members were elected.
- Small changes were made to our by-laws.

### Campbell Park

- No meeting was held last month.

### Rogers Park

- At our last meeting we had lots of information about the bond initiatives.
- Michelle Westin from the Anchorage Fire Department discussed and updated CPR training being offered to the public. We will probably hold a separate meeting for the training.
- Heard about the 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project, they are going to put a stop light at McGuiness, which is between Cottonwood and Lake Otis.
- Roger Gollub, the physician who died in an accident recently, was a member of the Rogers Park community council. While he was not active with Rogers Park, he was an active volunteer in the community. We, as a council, wanted to recognize his contribution and wrote a letter of appreciation to his family.

### South Addition

- Our regular meeting is tomorrow (Thursday) night
- No new issues
- 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Park Strip are functional. The plans seem to change a lot.

### Northeast

- Our regular meeting is tomorrow (Thursday) night
- We will be discussing the changes to Russian Jack Park. This park means a lot to resident of Northeast Community Council and we are concerned about the proposed changes.
- We will be hearing from the Census Bureau about next year's census.
- Information about the bond propositions will be presented.
- We will be meeting the school board candidates.
- We are doing a site plan review and approval for a beer and wine permit for the Paris Bakery.

### Scenic Foothills

- We had a presentation on the bond initiatives.
- We had a presentation on wetlands and flooding.
- Muni staff did a presentation about rain gardens.
- AT&T wants to install a cell tower within our community council boundaries. We are concerned about adding another tower.

### Tudor

- We held our Mayoral Candidates Forum Monday evening. Using a flag to call time worked well. We did have one candidate who was very disruptive and had to be escorted from the premises by the police.
- Tudor Community Council supported the light at 36<sup>th</sup> and McGuiness. It is to help fire trucks and other emergency vehicles safely negotiate the turn.
- We also heard about the bond initiatives.

### Rabbit Creek

- We had a quiet meeting.
- Hillside District Plan needs to be completed before further developments.
- Title 21 has been going on for five years—it's disappointing that it's much more developer friendly.

### North Star

- We had to recently deal with flooding because of the man-made culverts were  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of ice, so water had nowhere to go during thaw.
- Spenard Road – \$3 million is on the bond initiatives to fund the hill portion of the project. This will provide a separate, protected pathway down the hill.

### Spenard

- We are holding our Mayoral Candidates Forum on Tuesday.
- Public Safety to work with CAP team to clean-up inebriates, increased gang activity and other violent crimes in the neighborhoods. This program is similar to the Fairview program that was successful.
- Spenard Community Council supports the Spenard Road project connection.
- We are also participating in the West Anchorage District Plan. The advisory group meeting on March 31 will be held in city offices on Tudor Road, not within the affected neighborhoods.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Due to the budget cuts by the Assembly, we will present an adjusted budget at next month's meeting. The current contract is fairly standard with two stipulations: 1) no money is to be used for food and beverages; and, 2) hefty penalty for late grant reports.

Any examples of why they made contract changes? The food and beverage stipulation is being applied to all new contracts. The philosophy is that we are providing a service, not accoutrements.

The amounts of our contracts have been stable for the past 11 years. Some on the Assembly want to see us move to sustainability. But that just won't happen. Several of us testified before the Assembly in support of the contract, we mentioned that the FCC is bringing in the Neighborhoods USA conference in 2011, which will bring approximately \$1 million tourist dollars to the city.

### **Manager's Report**

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects list has been released by Project Management and Engineering. The list will go to each community council that has a project on the list. Councils are to provide input to PM&E by April/May so the list can be finalized. The CIP is used to seed funding for project from both the state legislature and through bond initiatives. Mark will be forwarding the CIP to the community councils.

Jason commented that this review needs to happen sooner so the councils will have at least two cycles to review and comment on the project list. There should be some type of meetings held regionally to look at a bigger picture of how all the different projects fit together. As they are presented now, the list makes no sense. In addition, we should be reviewing the CIP list in September/October to set priorities by November so feedback to state legislators is timely and fresh for the January session. As it is currently presented, the state legislators receive information that is a year old and priorities may have changed in the preceding months. The current process doesn't work.

### **Communications Committee Report**

Bonnie Harris referred the delegates to the memorandum prepared by the communications committee and walked everyone through the information. FCC staff will look into submitting meeting notices through the community calendars of local papers, such as *The Anchorage Daily News* and *Anchorage Press*. FCC staff will also work with individual community councils on their communications, whether through U.S. mail or through e-mail. The report recommends that we prepare a protocol for posting documents to the FCC web site and for communications through the FCC.

### **Constant Contact**

Mark Butler began a presentation about the Constant Contact e-mail service. As he passed out handouts, he explained that we were trying to come up with a more efficient way to send e-mails notices and alerts to community council contacts, as well as to save money and staff time in handling e-mails.

By encouraging more e-mail participation, we can also save cost on mailing newsletters through US mail. However, we recognize that we will always need to send some newsletters through the mail.

The main advantage to using Constant Contact will be the way folks can sign up to receive e-mail notifications. Currently, to sign-up for a council's e-newsletter, you have to submit a request to FCC staff. With Constant Contact, council members can sign-up to receive notices, make changes to their preferences, and change their e-mail address. In addition, any failed notices are contained in a report instead of clogging up staff e-mail inbox.

Constant Contact does not allow us to attach documents. Instead, we can provide a link to a document. Therefore, staff will have to post agendas, meeting notices, and other documents on the FCC web site and then provide a link within the e-mail notice. This will help manage large documents or attachments that come from outside sources for those with dial-up internet access. For example, if the city sends us a flyer or notice, they can post the document to their web site and then send us the link to forward to council members.

The sign-up box to receive e-mail is currently on the FCC web site. FCC staff will work with community councils over the next few months to come up with ways that council members can sign up for e-mail notifications.

Currently, FCC staff are working with a few councils to become familiar with Constant Contact features and to receive feedback about the service before enrolling all of the community councils.

Keop Pierce commented that we would want the FCC to maintain control of the community council contact groups because officers are always changing.

Dick Tremaine moved to accept the Communications Committee Report and recommendation of establishing a communication protocol. Bob Churchill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Other Business**

A member of the Portage Valley Community Council was present and mentioned that Portage Valley wants to be kept in the loop about news and activities. Mark Butler stated that he has been trying to reach the Portage Valley council president, but has not been successful to date. The member stated that currently, they only meet sporadically. Jason mentioned that the by-laws of the Portage Valley Community Council should provide a mechanism to call a meeting of the council.

Jason confirmed that Bonnie Harris and Bob Churchill are participating in the NUSA Conference Committee.

Berni Bradley commented that the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council is having trouble opening a new bank account and wondered if anyone else has experienced any difficulty or has any suggestions? Someone commented that she should try a new bank.

Jason stated that per the FCC By-Laws, the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee in March for April elections. No one volunteered, so Jason appointed the current board as the nominating committee. The board consists of Jason Bergerson, Dick Tremaine, Berni Bradley, Betty Atkinson, with Sheli Dodson as the alternate.

Kim Leming from the U.S. Census Bureau asked if she and her colleague, Mark Tanguay, could have a few minutes of the delegates' time to provide an update about the Census. Mark explained that staff will be out in the neighborhoods over the next few weeks to perform address canvassing. They will be going door-to-door to verify addresses. They will hold the GPS unit at or close to the front porch, enter the address and a brief description of the house, such as 1-story, garage on left, and so on. The address canvassing will officially begin on April 1 and should take 8-10 weeks to complete.

For the 2010 census, most everyone will be receiving the short form. For the 2000 census, only 50% of Alaskans returned the census form. After forms are returned, then staff will go door-to-door to write down information in person. It is important to have as complete and accurate a Census as possible because it affects funding for the State of Alaska. Mark asked if there were any questions.

How will we be able to identify Census staff? They will be issued ID cards, have a computer and carrying a black Census handbag. The police department has posters with badge information.

Who will have access to the information? Will our information be on a laptop that will go home and then get stolen or lost? The Census Department has one of the strictest and secure systems. If the President of the United States asked me for information held through the Census, I would be sent to prison and fined \$250,000. We take the confidentiality of the information very seriously. The only information released is statistical data.

What if I don't want someone to come on to my property? Only if there is a federal "no trespassing" sign would we not go to the front porch. We could then obtain the address information from the registration form.

There were no further questions.

Peter Hamlet moved to adjourn the meeting, Pat Butler seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*Submitted by Betty Caudle*