

## **AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 15, 2009**

**Out North Theater**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Secretary/Treasurer Dawn Scott. Quorum was present and recognized.

Michael Hulzman, Director of Out North Theater, made a brief presentation on the theater and its community based arts program.

Motion was made by Dick Snyder and seconded to amend the agenda, moving the H2H (Highway to Highway) discussion to the beginning of the meeting. Motion to further amend the agenda by eliminating the recess was made by Barbara Riley and seconded. Both motions carried.

H2H: Opening comments by State Senator Johnny Ellis and Anchorage Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson. Senator Ellis stated he was speaking for himself and State Representative Les Gara who was not in attendance. Senator Ellis stated he and Rep. Gara oppose any proposal that would harm the neighborhood. Stated that Campbell Park passed a resolution in opposition to DOT considering any route that would go through their homes; Rogers Park passed a strong resolution in opposition as well. It is their hope that the Airport Heights Community Council will pass a clear resolution. DOT is considering all routes, hoping to get federal funding for traffic relief on the Seward and Glenn Highways. Federal funding requires them to consider all options, some of which are unacceptable.

Senator Ellis urged everyone to send an e-mail, copying him, Rep. Gara and Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson. DOT needs to have residents' opinions or DOT will say that they do not care. The purpose for sending copies to the representatives is that if e-mails are lost, they will have copies so that DOT cannot say they didn't hear from Airport Heights/Eastridge residents.

Comment period on H2H has been extended to October 31, 2009. Letters, e-mails, and telephone calls must be submitted before October 31. Make your voices heard.

Elvi Gray-Jackson said she supports everything Senator Ellis has stated.

Senator Ellis continued, saying Fairview passed a resolution in favor of H2H. Most likely route would be following the commercial pathway. Airport Heights residents need to express their opinions, which would be no to the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue construction that would impact Airport Heights and Eastridge.

Representative of H2H clarified the purpose for documenting homes and properties for evaluation of impacts on said properties.

Anchorage Fire Department, Fire Station 3: Capt. Lopez made brief comments on Fire Prevention Month, stating that residents need to be sure smoke detectors are working, batteries are changed out and to be careful when firing up furnaces and fireplaces. Get ready for slick roads; plan ahead for winter months and winter driving.

With respect to the construction of a new fire station, it will be necessary to tear down the old building and build on the same site. Fire Station 3 will move into the training center for temporary housing during construction.

Review of Airport Heights Community Council Resolution 2009-1, H2H: The following is a summary of comments, proposed amendments and changes to Resolution 2009-1.

Amend the resolution to include “wetlands” in the third paragraph.

Proposed route impinges upon Merrill Field air rights.

“Wildlife habitat” and “wetlands” should be inserted in the third paragraph.

Audubon has identified an open water canal close to Sitka Drive as a bird migration corridor.

Sharon Cissna proposed a redraft of the last paragraph to include the following:

1. Eliminate proposed alternatives that destroy the quality of life and natural, healthy settings in any of Anchorage’s existing communities, and,
3. support solutions to address land use patterns and various transportation alternatives that protect and enhance existing community stability, such as in the community of Eastridge.

Move to approve the resolution as presented. Shirley Iverson seconded the motion.

Motion by Chet Harris to amend the motion to include the wildlife provision, adding a notation regarding a flyway for birds and anadromous streams. Following “habitat of wildlife” (third paragraph, line 2), add wetland corridor, migration of waterfowl, wildlife corridor including a known flyway. There being no opposition, the motion to amend passed.

Motion was made to add a clause on the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue route regarding safety concerns for Merrill Field and pedestrian traffic. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Sharon Cissna moved to insert the language from her draft resolution into proposed Airport Heights Community Council Resolution 2009-1. Motion seconded by Dick Snyder. Discussion that the proposed wording does not serve the purpose of the Airport Heights Community Council resolution as it is too general. Some parts are vague, clouding the waters on the topic at hand, and does not speak specifically to the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue alternative, which is the community council’s immediate concern. Current language is simple and clear.

Motion to amend the amendment was seconded. Motion was made to revise the last paragraph to include paragraphs 1 and 3 from Sharon Cissna’s proposed resolution, followed by the existing statement. Objection raised to the vague language. Amendment to the amendment passed.

Motion on the floor: Sharon Cissna’s original motion. Passed with one objection.

Concern expressed that the second clause refers to only a quiet zone for the hospital. The quiet zone is our neighborhood. Proposed that the words “as well as adjacent neighborhoods” be added to the second clause. Motion made and seconded. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Forsland to state in the third paragraph that the alternative would have a destructive impact on Sitka Park. Motion seconded. Discussion that the word “destroy” would have more impact. Motion denied.

Motion made and seconded to move Sharon Cissna’s input to the end of the resolution. Motion was defeated. Representative Cissna’s wording will precede the original Airport Heights Community Council statement.

Further debate on the main motion to adopt the entire resolution as amended; Barbara Riley called for the question. Vote on the resolution as amended. Motion passed.

Amended paragraphs will read as follows:

“WHEREAS, the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Alternate route would invade the ‘quiet zone’ of the Alaska Regional Hospital as well as adjacent neighborhoods.”

“WHEREAS the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Alternate route would destroy Sitka Park and its natural habitat as a wildlife corridor including a known flyway for migratory waterfowl that is open all year round and anadromous streams, along with the bike trail which is enjoyed not by just the Airport Heights Community Council residents, but by the entire city all year long; and further, that most residents, including many retirees, have chosen to purchase a home in the Eastridge area in pursuit of these amenities.”

“WHEREAS the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue alternative introduces safety concerns regarding Merrill Field air and pedestrian traffic.”

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Airport Heights Community Council requests of the H2H project that they eliminate proposed alternatives that destroy the quality of life and natural healthy settings in any of the Anchorage’s existing communities, and,

IT THEREFORE BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Airport Heights Community Council requests of the H2H project that they support solutions to address land use patterns and various transportation alternatives that protect and enhance existing community stability, such as in the community of Eastridge, and,

IT THEREFORE BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Airport Heights Community Council submit this Resolution to the H2H Project as its formal public comments on the Project, opposing the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Alternative in the strongest of possible terms.”

The first and fifth paragraphs of proposed Resolution 2009-1 remain unchanged.

**Comments by Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson: Covered stairway between Norene and Nichols will be torn down on Monday.**

**Chet Harris made a motion that we have a discussion regarding the area pickup for trash. Mark Madden of Solid Waste Services attended the meeting in hopes of speaking, but due to limited time, agreed to attend the November meeting for further discussion on trash pickup.**

**Don Burrell, Jr., of State Senator Bettie Davis' office spoke on a November 3 hearing on health and social issues.**

**Comments by State Representative Sharon Cissna on current legislation and the U-Med District.**

**Presentation was made by John Peker of Kinny Engineering on the Penland Parkway Drainage and Service Rehabilitation project. Purpose of the project is to address and reduce the frequency of flooding on Penland Parkway.**

**Shirley Iverson moved to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m. Motion seconded and carried.**

**Nominating Committee Report: Current board has agreed to serve again. Rebecca Kurtz as President, Jon Spring as Vice President, Dawn Scott as Secretary/Treasurer, Barbara Karl as member at large constitutes the slate of officers. Additional position of member at large remains vacant. Call for nominations from the floor. Nomination of Sid Atwood for member at large. Dick Snyder made a motion to accept the slate as read. Seconded by Sharon Cissna. Motion carried.**

**Community Concerns: Ray Ward identified a house at 3722 E. 19<sup>th</sup> which he believes is a drug house. He is asking for a community effort to help rid the neighborhood of the drug house on the southwest corner of East 19<sup>th</sup> and Norene Street.**

**Neighborhood Watch Program has been cut due to Municipal budget concerns.**

**Chet Harris observed that alley pickup for trash is no longer being made. Mark Madden of Solid Waste Services will be on the November agenda to address trash issues.**

**Announcement that security cameras are hooked up at the ice rink.**

**Chet Harris made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Dick Snyder. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**