

Meeting start: 7:05 pm
Attendees: 11, see sign in sheet

- I. September minutes approved without changes
- II. Reports
 - A. Police/Fire Report: Elise gave overview of recent crime in the area. There are several burglaries. Lt. Gillam, APD, asked that community members report all crimes even if they do not feel they will be solved. Reporting is the only way APD can see if activity is higher in one neighborhood than another and be able to redirect resources. Discussion included observation that a heavy set male dark/graying hair, 50 years old+/-, is casing the neighborhood.
 - B. President's Report – no report
 - C. Treasurer's Report – Doug Johnson (lindoug@ptialaska.net): \$2,820.32 in the bank. Several people paid the \$5 annual dues at the meeting.
 - D. Assembly – Patrick Flynn (flynnp@muni.org): Most of recent effort has been in budget meetings. Several versions have been discussed with focus on the tax cap and state revenue sharing. Details of the tax cap need clarification, if the cap is lowered does it hurt in the following spending years, or is it better to tax to the cap then offset that with Sate revenue sharing to lower property taxes. Maintaining the tax cap may allow more flexibility in the future. Expect to see a 2.5% property tax increase and significant cuts to the Arts community. Pat noted cuts like this are hard on everyone and do not take into account how much the arts bring into Anchorage in economic terms. He noted the Lion King was responsible for a lot spending at local businesses. Bus fares and passes will go up, which Pat dislikes especially in these times when there is already hardship. Pat lead the effort in setting the ASD property tax budget which will likely be kept at the same level as last year. Someone questioned the initial flurry and debate on the budget and that it seemed to fizzle. Pat explained that investment income was not as bad as it could have been and that bed tax revenue was not as low as expected. There is a proposal to refinance debt which could save millions initially, Pat questioned the wisdom of paying off now versus extending the debt over a longer period. He will be learning more as details are provided. One member was concerned with the elimination of 180 municipal jobs. Pat said only 1/3 of those positions were filled. Pat was asked about the railroad crossing at 9th Avenue to create a connection to the coastal trail. Pat said there was no funding for the project and that following some initial design the effort has been on hold.
 - E. Federation of Community Councils – Kathy Weeks: No report
 - F. Legislative Reports (Les Gara, Johnny Ellis, Mike Doogan, Lindsey Holmes, Hollis French): Amory Lelake reported for Les Gara and Johnny Ellis. She said they had worked to extend the comment period for the H to H project where removal of houses and impacts to neighborhoods are a concern. There are 15 options that are being studied. SACC will see if a project representative can provide an update at the next meeting. Armory said Ellis is aware of the increase in break-ins in the neighborhood.
- III. **Old and New Business:**
 - A. 9th Avenue Update -Construction Unlimited, MOA's general contractor, is in winter shutdown. Revisions to the plans to eliminate the three blocks of on-street parking on the north side are underway. The contractor will be ordering long lead time materials over the winter, with construction scheduled to resume mid May 2010. Substantial completion is anticipated by freeze up next fall if there are no significant delays. SACC will call to see if the curb line is the same.

- B. Fence at Central Middle School - discussion of calls from residents who do not like the appearance. One member suggested getting the kids to beautify the fence as a school project. There was general concern that the fence was ugly and detracted from the neighborhood. Some wondered why it had to be in that location and why it had to be so obnoxious. SACC will call the ASD and see if someone can come to the meeting to discuss options.
- C. Crime, an issue? Continued discussion from item II a. above. Elise will bring crime report graphic to next meeting. She noted that the Crime Watch program no longer has a 50% participation requirement according to Lt. Gillam. SACC will invite the Crime Watch person to next month's meeting.
- D. MOA Budget reductions in excess \$100,000 would require a public hearing. (AO 2009-110, Gray-Jackson, Gutierrez, Drummond). Public hearing Sept. 29, postponed until 10-27. Pat Flynn does not support the ordinance and says another one is being worked on.
- E. The issue of Fire Department cuts was added to the agenda and will be placed on the November agenda for more discussion. SACC member, Karen Cameron, would like a resolution of support for public safety stating that the closures are a concern. SACC will contact the fire department for an update or to invite them to the next meeting.
- F. Off-leash Dog Park at Earl and Muriel Park (1201 A Street) will be added to November's agenda for further discussion. Chris Constant went over ideas for the park. He said Fairview is in support. Parking is an issue he has looked at and he thinks there is adequate parking on-street. Most people will walk from downtown and the surrounding neighborhood. He said the park would require a fenced area which he envisions as being setback providing space for a sculpture garden and not being as visible. He stated the fence could be a combination wood chain link such as at Denali Elementary School. Suggestions were made for improvements to make the park work, in general attendees did not raise objections to the idea.

Notices of Zoning & Land Use Hearings: none shown on MOA website

Place comments on line at <http://munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm>

III. Community Comments –

Dale Nelson asked about Valley of the Moon Park and suggested that Parks should talk to Darryl Hess who works with the homeless. Attendees preferred the forested area be developed as a child's fairy/imaginative play as part of Valley-of-the-Moon Park versus anything else.

IV. Announcements. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009 at 6:00 pm at Pioneer Home

Next General Membership Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009 7:00 pm at Pioneer Home

The Municipality of Anchorage complies with Title I of the American With Disabilities Act of 1990. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals upon request. Contact Community Councils Center (907) 277-1977.