

December Minutes
South Addition Community Council
December 17, 2009, 7 - 9 p.m.
Anchorage Pioneer's Home

Meeting called to order: 7:04 p.m. by President Elise Huggins

I. Changes to Agenda - None

Approval of November minutes: Doug moved to approve without changes, Dale seconded, approved unanimously.

II. Reports:

A. President's Report (Elise Huggins) ehuggins@earthscape.alaska.com
President Huggins reported on website: crimemapping.com Using a map that is a one mile radius from the Pioneer Home, the site shows 171 crimes reported in the past month, but almost all are outside this community council's area.

B. Treasurer's Report (Doug Johnson) Doug Johnson lindoug@ptialaska.net reported that SACC treasury balance is \$2870.32

C. Assembly (Patrick Flynn) flynnpp@muni.org Patrick, newly elected as Chair of the Anchorage Assembly, reported that the budget is complete. He reported on two structural aspects to the budget. One aspect is that MOA would refinance bond payments, which will require a separate ordinance in spring. Patrick stated that he finds aspects of this troublesome, but didn't oppose it in order to protect other areas of the budget. Refunding bonds' principal payments will cause the repayment to be spread out over 18 years. This will result in higher interest payments over time. Second aspect is that the budget as approved takes approx. \$15 million formerly used for tax relief, and puts it into services. As approved, those dollars will be used for services, and MOA will change the mil levy, to keep taxes lower, so next year we will have reduced our ability to collect revenue. By doing this, the Assembly was able to preserve funding for after school programs, arts programs, and libraries. Once the budget was done, colleagues entrusted Patrick with Chairmanship of the Assembly. Responding to a question about budget cuts and impact on municipal employment, Patrick reported that many of the positions that are being eliminated are unfilled and there will be less than 60 layoffs. Responding to a question he stated that the 2011 budget is extremely conservative, and presumes a reduction in state funding, no recovery in investments and no increase in other revenues. Many revenue assumptions may turn out to be under-projections. Doug commented that in his view, credibility is being lost because of revenue projections being unrealistic.

Report from Fire Dept Station 1, Engine 1 Crew; Training center grounds are almost complete. Station 3 replacement has been started. Station 11 small addition is done, and there is a new mobile command center, all funded with state grants; There is a replacement for Truck 11 in ER, and new cardiac monitors will be implemented in July, both funded with bonds. Budget for 2010 includes some administrative layoffs

beginning Jan 1. Anticipate 8 layoffs, no more closures, but no Academy, because of budget cuts. There was discussion of the cost of the Academy. The Academy purchases standardized, validated tests, for liability reasons, which are a considerable expense each time.

Question re. layoffs: It was reported that most layoffs were administrators. When positions are eliminated, it will cause an overtime problem, or inability to staff the department. Projected numbers for retirement next year is 14.

D. Federation of Community Councils (Kathy Weeks) kweeks@alaska.net No report. Bonnie Harris agreed to serve as alternate representative to the FCC

E. Legislative Reports Dave Theriault- on behalf of Les Gara and Johnny Ellis, reported that they will be focusing on Social Services and the Capital budget. He encouraged input from SACC Members on legislation being developed for the next session.

III. Old and New Business

A. Action Plan Chronic Inebriates and Related Homelessness Issues: No report. Postponed indefinitely. Patrick reported that Housing First initiative has considerable support, and that there is a plan for a non-profit to purchase the former Red Roof Inn for housing using that model, which addresses homelessness as a primary issue to be addressed before substance abuse.

B. Dog Park at Earl and Muriel Park: Chris Constant constant@alaska.net reported that there is a proposal to create a dog park at Earl and Muriel King Park on A Street and 12th Avenue. Primary parking impact will be in Fairview Community Council area. Fairview CC is considering support, and will be addressing this proposal in January. The proposed park would be close to both SACC and Fairview CC. He is therefore seeking approval from both bodies. The dog run area will be bordered by a fence. Bonnie Harris asked about input from people who live adjacent to the park. One person reported that he was here to speak to concerns about parking. He also expressed a concern about people picking up dog feces. Kayla Epstein stated that she is not in this community council, but is "the face of dog parks in Anchorage". She stated that dog parks become cleaner than they were before. People think of them as "their parks", and there are teams who come clean the dog parks. This has been going on for about four years successfully. When off leash area was established in Russian Jack Park, it was put in an area that had homeless camps. Since the dog park was created, the camps have moved, trash is reduced and the area was well maintained and general crime in the adjacent neighborhoods went down. Question from the floor: What about the other neighbors? Gentleman who lives adjacent to the park, commented that he is generally in support, but still has concerns about parking. Mr. Constant stated that the Dog area will use approx 2/3 of the park. He said that this park has had various improvements in the past, mostly unsuccessful and is not well-utilized. Benches were put in, then later taken out. Bonnie Harris spoke against the park. She stated that some of the neighbors have dogs, but many don't. She stated parking concerns. She stated that the neighborhood takes care of the park now.

Bonnie stated that the neighbors she has talked to oppose the dog park. Question from the floor regarding noise level: How many dogs do they anticipate? Ms Epstein responded that one of the proposals was for the fenced area at Valley of the Moon park. She stated that she spoke to all the neighbors adjacent to the fenced area which is currently used primarily as an unofficial dog park, and all reported that noise was not an issue. Questions from the floor: Who will pay for the fence? Who cleans up? Who currently uses the park? What about liability? Can dogs use it now? How many times has this been on our agenda?

Dale moved to table this decision until these questions are addressed, and there is a site plan. Bonnie seconded. Comment: Need better information to make this decision. Gentleman who grew up in the neighborhood commented that he's seen it for 55 years. Speaking to the motion, he stated that he supports the dog park, but agrees that we need more information prior to making a decision. He stated that this park is currently a horrible place, people are drunk, there's garbage there, and it has been the site of violence. He believes the dog park would be a benefit to the neighborhood.

Doug made a friendly amendment to Dale's Motion: To table further discussion or decisions until there is a site plan for the park that includes traffic and parking, proposed use/layout, proposed plan for cleaning, addresses long-term and short term maintenance, noise and the design details of the fence and costs. Also: What impact will there be on Parks and Rec. budget, and what is the municipal role in the park?

Motion to table: Passed with 6 votes, one abstention. Item will return to the agenda in January or when Mr. Constant is ready.

Mr. Constant expressed his care and commitment to this neighborhood, asked for respect in this process. An apology was offered for an earlier comment from the floor.

C. Chester Creek Pump House and Delaney Park Strip Update Elise reported that the Pump House was approved with changes recommended by SACC regarding fence placement. Re Park Strip, SACC sent a letter to Planning and Zoning commission regarding concerns about building height.

D. Neighborhood Participation at SACC meeting: The goal was this month to send out a mailing, and knock on doors, which was postponed. Some ideas for publicity include door hangers. Elise has requested from FCC the cost of a mailing, but has not received this amount. Lisa Jamieson, Elise Huggins and Lois Grey offered to walk the neighborhood. There was discussion that e-mails have not been going out to the general membership of SACC. Bonnie reported that FCC will do an e-mailing if secretary or president sends to FCC, they will distribute. Bonnie volunteered to talk to FCC about this issue. Doug reported that Nate is working on reconciling three e-mail lists. Bonnie suggested that we have FCC do the e-mails, so that it becomes the standard practice regardless of who is in leadership positions. It was reported that Fran Durner made a flyer for this purpose sometime in the past. Lisa will contact her to get a copy and solicit her participation.

E. Fence at Central Middle School Elise reported that at the last meeting there was a proposal to help the school out. She stated that we need someone to follow up. Dale stated that that fence shouldn't be there. It was suggested from the floor that there was discussion that happened after the principal left last time, which should have been addressed when she was there. Elise reported that the Principal stated that there is no money to improve the fence, but that they plan to build garage doors on the side of the school, so this should require notice to the SACC if it goes before the Urban Design Commission. Dale stated that he will continue talking to Carol Comeau about this issue, and report on his conversation. Bonnie requests that this be on the next agenda. Dale will ask Carol Comeau to invite the principal to this January meeting, as well as the maintenance department.

F. Alley Trash Pick-up. Elise got a call from the former president of the Fairview Community Council, who told her that SWS is no longer going to pick up trash from alleys, will only pickup from front of the house. Doug reports that this is correct, the new service requires all garbage and recycling on the front of the street. Payment for trash pickup is mandatory, regardless if they pickup trash. Elise will invite SWS to present next month.

IV. Community Comments- (max. 3 minutes each). There was a comment from the floor in support of undergrounding electrical utilities. It was noted that this has been discussed for many years. Elise will put this on next month's agenda and ask Patrick Flynn to report on the status of this issue.

Bonnie Harris volunteered to serve as alternate representative to the FCC

V. Announcements: None.

VI. Adjourned at 8:25

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Jamieson, SACC Secretary

SACC Board:

President – Elise Huggins ehuggins@earthscape.alaska.com

Vice President – Nathan Visser

Secretary – Lisa Jamieson lnj@ak.net

Treasurer – Doug Johnson lindoug@ptialaska.net

Members-at-large – Dale Nelson, Paul Provencio

Past President/FCC representative – Kathy Weeks

Alternate Representative – Bonnie Harris

Meeting dates at Anchorage Pioneer Home, 5th floor, (room varies, look for signs):

January 7, 2010; 6:00 pm Executive Committee

January 21, 2010; 7:00 pm Community Council