

South Addition Community Council

Regular Meeting

February 18, 2010, 7 - 9 p.m.

Anchorage Pioneer's Home

February Meeting Minutes **D R A F T**

Called To Order: 7:00 p.m. 15 people present

- I. Changes to Agenda** One agenda change was made to accommodate schedules.
Approval of minutes – January meeting minutes approved as presented.

II. Reports:

A. President's Report (Elise Huggins) –

1. The ASD legislative request was read for SACC local schools including \$99,000 for computers for Chugach Optional Elementary; \$250,000 for interactive whiteboards for Central Middle School; \$39,000 outdoor running track and library books for Inlet View Elementary; \$200,000 equipment and furnishings, \$2.2 million artificial turf field for West High School.
2. The H to H project is ongoing, for information go their website at highway2highway.com.
3. AMATS meetings are ongoing, a SACC member is welcome to attend.
4. Title 21 changes will affect SACC, Kathy Weeks had been doing review, Elise will see if she is still following the proposed changes. Valley of the Moon Park site plan was made available.
5. Elise also noted Scott Stringer, MOA Urban Forester, would be at the March meeting to discuss removal of Mayday Trees along the creek and greenbelt.
6. Elise shared a flyer showing SACC members calling themselves the South Addition Trash Fairies were given the status January Volunteers of the Month by Anchorage Parks and Recreation.

C. Treasurer's Report - Doug Johnson reported we have \$2,892.12. He responded to a question by noting the last withdrawal was years ago.

D. Assembly (Patrick Flynn) -

1. Spruce trees at 10th and G St. had to be limbed up for safety to allow views into the park and around the trees. He commented it is best to keep this in mind when considering plants in the Parkstrip.
2. He also asked that neighbors respect the "do not park" signs to ease snow removal operations.
3. The Knik Arm Crossing is once again on the Assembly agenda to discuss the move of it as a project to the long-term list. This is based on the Mayor of Houston lawsuit questioning public process and his desire to see the project advance.
4. The 13th and Cordova condo project now sits partially completed. The assembly can only require the owner (which right now is likely a bank) to keep it safe and not have it become an attractive nuisance.
5. Karluk Manor/Red Roof Inn project came out of the homelessness task force. It is a "Housing First" concept which has worked elsewhere. Fairview is already

overburdened, so it is not an ideal solution. A new ordinance, sponsored by Patrick, is in the works that would create a process for chronic inebriate housing making it a conditional use. Right now it is an allowed use in certain zoning districts which does not allow public oversight. An attendee noted that Copper River Seafoods wants to buy the building for employee housing.

6. Dale Nelson commented that Valley of the Moon Park is in need of clearing of underbrush. Pat offered that Ed O'Neil is active in CHAR and might be helpful. Pat's email is flynnpp@muni.org.

E. Federation of Community Councils (Kathy Weeks) – Kathy was not present.

F. Legislative Reports –no one was present. Upon questioning, attendees would like to teleconference with legislators during the session. Dale will make contacts and see if they are interested.

III. Old and New Business

A. Alley Trash Pickup update - Elise reported that Assembly member Elvi Gray-Jackson was working with AWWU to understand and resolve concerns regarding alley pickup. Ms. Gray-Jackson road in a truck and sympathized with the utility, however she was also aware that certain areas of Anchorage would have a very difficult time getting trash from their rear yards to their front yards because of how their homes had developed. She hoped to work with the utility and thought ideas including the use of a different type of truck for alleys might be a possibility. During discussion, Howard Grey wanted to know what would happen to old trucks? Someone noted that Seattle has four different types of trucks to accommodate different types of neighborhoods. Attendees expressed concern about people leaving their garbage cans in front of houses creating unsightly conditions. What about bears, if large cans cannot fit into garages, won't they attract bears asked a member. New trashcans are big, too big for some to handle. Someone else noted they are easy to handle with wheels and they are not as big as the recycling bins that are now in use.

B. Westchester Disc Golf – This is the second presentation for this topic, a resolution was presented at the January meeting along with a presentation regarding the proposed project. Jaime Adams, Alaska Disc Golf Association, provided a project overview, which described three areas of concern including environmental, safety and aesthetic. The Disc Golf group came up with a plan for signage, for rearranging the course layout to avoid players crossing Minnesota, and for strategies to repair compacted areas, stabilizing soil especially under high use areas. Dale asked about the shelter and safety. Jaime explained there would be no shelter (the existing shelter will be relocated to another park) and the association will educate players about course etiquette to improve safety for golfers and park users. It was moved and seconded to approve the resolution with minor changes. There were no objections and the resolution was passed.

C. Anchorage Bike Plan – A resolution was introduced at the January meeting along with a presentation regarding the proposed project. Elise read the resolution since no one was present to provide a project overview. A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. An attendee thought better signage would improve bicycle safety. Discussion also included a comment that there will be an assembly work session on February 26 and possibly an Assembly vote on March 2. Dale raised the issue of costs and questioned the fiscal note, he also voiced concern about the

resolution, questioning what obesity and health had to do with a bike plan. Another said the cost impacts would be small compared to the overall cost of building a road. After some debate, a vote was taken with the motion passing 6 in favor and one opposed.

- D. Dog Park at Earl and Muriel King Park:** Elise introduced Chris Constant who is the lead in the dog park project and a member of SACC, he has appeared before SACC several times to discuss this project. Dale questioned allowing the presentation noting that in a previous meeting the Dog Park issue had been tabled. Elise stated the petitioner had returned to answer questions and the executive committee discussed that if information was available, the petitioner should provide it to the community. Doug reread the December minutes, which clearly stated the petitioner should return once he had answers to questions and a site plan for people to see. Doug noted the petitioner met that criteria. Dale objected and Elise asked the petitioner to begin his presentation. (Note that research into the topic of the tabled motion shows that the presentation by the petitioner at the January meeting in effect pulled the item off the table from the December vote.) Mr. Constant's presentation included answers to questions previously posed by the community and a site plan. A brief summary follows: **Parking and traffic solutions** – Mr. Constant met with the MOA Traffic Engineer to discuss issues. The MOA Traffic Engineer had a favorable response. Mr. Constant also did a count of available parking spaces and noted that the park design included an accessible parking lot. **Anticipated user volume** – use of the park will go up which is beneficial because it puts more “eyes on the park”. Neighbors and downtown residents have expressed that they would go to the park with their dogs. **Noise Impacts** – noise from barking dogs has not been a problem at other dog parks and with the location so close to A Street which is already very noisy, impacts are less likely. One member noted that no other dog parks are located so close to residential areas. Mr. Constant commented that this park would be the first of its type. **Outreach to Neighbors** – Mr. Constant said he had talked to most of the neighbors, he also noted there will be many opportunities since there is a lengthy public process required. Jodie questioned his talking to neighbors saying she knew several people who had not been contacted. Dale asked to see a signed list of residents that were contacted. Mr. Constant continued that he had gone before Downtown and Fairview Community Councils. Fairview will support the proposal if SACC does. Downtown CC was enthusiastic about the idea. **Who will pay for the fence** – it will be through a public private partnership. Mr. Constant has found a business owner in Fairview he hopes will become a supporter. **Clean-up** – Mr. Constant said dog parks are typically kept cleaner when they have become dog parks. Anchorage Unleashed has created an ethic for responsibility and has projects to keep dog parks clean. **Current Park users** includes chronic inebriates and adjacent neighbors who use it for their dogs. **Liability** – liability will be the same as with any Anchorage park. **Current dog use** – dogs are currently using the park. **Proposed site plan** – Mr. Constant presented a large site plan showing the proposed park amenities, which included two fenced areas, parking lot, landscaping ideas and entry points. **Maintenance** – maintenance would be similar to other dog parks where dog owners bare the most responsibility. Anchorage Unleashed will assist and Parks and Rec will continue their efforts. **Design** – the design process is on-going, Mr. Constant pointed to elements of the site plan. **Details** – Mr. Constant showed details for the fencing and kiosk, they would match what other parks have used. **Impacts to Parks and Rec budget** - Staff has spent some time helping him with the project. Dog Parks have little to no impact on Parks budget.

MOA role in the park – no changes, it is a municipal park and the MOA will always manage it.

Several questions came from the floor. The park gets used by football players, won't this project displace them? Mr. Constant has not talked to football players but said the design accommodates them by providing a large unfenced area where they can play. Someone questioned that he had talked to the other side of A Street? Mr. Constant said he has talked to a lot of people, but maybe not all of them. Dale expressed concerns and requested detailed contact information. Several attendees requested the site plan be made available on the SACC website.

Elise asked attendees for additional input. Jodie, who lives close by on the west side of A Street, commented she was concerned that if it is a dog park other users will be displaced. She also noted that loose dogs could run out into the street; parking is inadequate right now; heavy traffic is already in the area; co-opting public land for private use is a dangerous idea that could be precedence setting; and the buffer to separate the park from adjacent residences could actually be detrimental by hiding things. Other comments include that other dog parks are not over used as stated by Mr. Constant.

Elise noted that the Dog Park Proposal would be on the March agenda for discussion and would be voted on at the April meeting. There was a comment that no one knew about the issue with the response that the issue has come up at every meeting since November. Elise read an email comment from Rudy Owens in support of the Bike Plan and apologized for not reading it earlier. She then read a statement from Max Gruenberg in support of the park. He owns a rental house at 1042 H Street and supports the park because it is the only one in South Addition; his tenants will benefit along with other residents of the neighborhood; the current park is unwholesome; and an on-going presence would transform the area and reduce vagrancy. He noted as a legislator, he is in Juneau and cannot attend SACC meetings.

Those present were reminded that in order to vote on the issue, people are required to attend at least one SACC meeting in the past year. Discussion in March and vote in April will accommodate that.

E. Chain Link Fence, Central Middle School – Elise forgot to mention this and will put it on the March agenda. There is no new information except that if anyone is interested, please contact Elise to help work on a sub-committee. Dale made preliminary contact with the ASD who will try to set up a working group.

IV. Community Comments- (max. 3 minutes each). Miriam Marsh spoke on behalf of Cindy Edlund in favor of the dog park noting there is a high need for a fenced area.

V. Announcements- Elise announced that the MOA Zoning Enforcement Officer, Cora Weaver will be at the next meeting.

VI. Adjourn- 9:00 (motion Doug, 2nd Lanie)

Meeting dates (meetings at Pioneer Home, 5th floor, room varies):

December 3, 2009; 6 pm Executive Committee

December 17, 2008; 7:00 pm Community Council

South Addition Community Council Resolution Supporting Westchester Disc Golf Course Improvement Plan

Whereas, the South Addition Community Council understands the need for aesthetic, environmental, and safety improvements to the disc golf course at Westchester Lagoon in Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park, and

Whereas, the South Addition Community Council recognizes the Alaska Disc Golf Association as the primary user group and adoptee of Westchester disc golf course, and

Whereas, the Alaska Disc Golf Association has created an improvement plan in conjunction with the requirements set forth by the Municipality Of Anchorage, Parks and Recreation Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Addition Community Council supports the course improvement plan brought forth by the Alaska Disc Golf Association to improve the aesthetics, reduce environmental impacts and improve safety of the Westchester Lagoon disc golf course.

Passed and Approved by South Addition Community Council February 18, 2010.

M. Elise Huggins, President
South Addition Community Council

Resolution Supporting the Anchorage Bicycle Plan

WHEREAS, forty-two (42%) of Alaskan adults do not meet recommended levels of physical activity, and 20% are completely sedentary; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds (66%) of Alaskan adults are overweight and 36% of K-12th grade students in the Anchorage School District are overweight or obese, and many of these individuals are or will suffer obesity-related health issues, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and high blood pressure

WHEREAS, obesity costs Alaskans \$477 million per year in direct medical costs, including \$9-10 million in cost attributed to obesity for State of Alaska employees; and

WHEREAS, air pollution is a trigger for asthma attacks and more than 7% of all adults and 9% of all children have asthma and the percentage of asthma is rising more rapidly in preschool-aged children than in any other age group; there is no cure for asthma, it must be controlled through medical treatment and the management of environmental triggers; and

WHEREAS, most children own a bicycle but few are allowed to use it as a means of transportation due to parents feeling the streets are unsafe; and

WHEREAS, when safe bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is put in place it is used and enjoyed by all members of society and helps to make Anchorage a beautiful city; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Bicycle Plan supports safe neighborhoods and communities by building into the plan objectives to implement complete streets that are designed, operated and maintained in all seasons to enable the safe and convenient travel of all users of the roadway including pedestrians, bicyclists, users of public transit, motorists, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Bicycle Plan encourages safe bicycle commuting which allows all Anchorage citizens to meet the national recommendations for weekly physical activity; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Bicycle Plan encourages bike and pedestrian commuting for neighborhood errands and allows for increased neighborhood safety by placing more 'eyes on the neighborhood' which reduces crime; and

WHEREAS, our community encourages bicyclists to observe all safety measures including wearing a helmet and obeying all traffic laws, and motorists to share the road and drive with awareness of bicyclists and pedestrians; and

NOW, therefore, be it resolved South Addition Community Council recognizes the Anchorage Bicycle Plan as contributing to our city charm in all seasons and this plan is beneficial to the health of our community members. We therefore support the Anchorage Bicycle Plan and encourage its swift passage before the Anchorage Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by South Addition Community Council February 18, 2010.

M. Elise Huggins, South Addition Community Council President