

## ***South Addition Community Council Minutes, November 18, 2010***

Call to Order: 7:06 PM by Bonnie Harris, President. Motion to change order of Agenda to accommodate visitors from North Star Community Council was un-objected. Minutes Approved: Motion to approve October minutes by Laura Bottger and seconded by Melanie San Angelo, approved, no objections. Motion to approve September minutes by Cathleen Hahn and seconded by Laura Bottger, approved, no objections.

President's Report: Loussac Manor has been razed to be redesigned. A map was sent by the municipality for information and comment on vacating an easement, if desired. No AHFC representative was present.

Treasurer's Report: Funds in the SACC account are \$2,907.49.

Police: Officer Welch explained the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program she administers. She works with residents to develop effective neighborhood watch efforts to diminish crime and puts together a phone tree/email list to communicate among interested neighbors. She also administers the Emergency Watch program. Her official phone number is 786-8585, email [ncw@muni.org](mailto:ncw@muni.org). She encourages everyone to contact her any time there is unwanted or suspicious activity in our areas.

Federation of Community Councils is an umbrella organization that administers mailings, grants and other programs for community councils city-wide. Elise Higgins reported that FCC will see 69% decrease in funding for 2011 if the present city budget is accepted on December 7, 2010. This amount of cut will effectively shut-down the FCC.

Representative Johnny Ellis: Amory Lelake reported Rep. Ellis will be chair of the Rules Committee and retain a seat on the Finance Committee this upcoming session.

### **Business:**

#### **1. Status of the woods along Chester Creek Trail east of Valley of the Moon Park.**

APD Officer Haywood addressed the on-going concerns we have regarding the large wooded area near the Valley of the Moon Park where there are many illegal camp sites. Officer Haywood explained that there are many camps in there and the police are often called because of disturbances. The police do not search the parks looking for suspicious behavior or for camps; people must call in to complain of a disturbance. There is a Community Action Policing Team that responds, and she encourages us to call any time there is a disturbance, concern for safety or of a crime being committed. She reported that Sprits of Alaska (Fairview area) and In & Out (Spenard) liquor stores appear to be the source of much of the alcohol that causes problems; the Oaken Keg (13<sup>th</sup> & Gambell) seems to have improved its operations to the point where it is no longer a major source. When a camp is located, people are currently given five days to clear out their belongings before the city evacuates them; the city has to store the items then, and Officer Haywood commented that often times the individuals will simply walk away from the camp without their things because they can get replacement clothing, sleeping bags, coats. Call 786-8900, the non-emergency police phone number to report issues.

Scott Stringer, Municipal Urban Forester, addressed some solutions being discussed including reducing the underbrush in the large wooded area, removing non-native trees, improving the perimeter access, adding lighting to the area. He said no action will be taken until next spring.

Members of North Star Community Council were present and participated in discussion of how to address safety concerns caused by the camps, clear out the area and manage ideas about how to proceed. Some NSCC members supported clearing underbrush and thinning trees in the woods and others opposed it. Bonnie invited members to join our effort to clean up this area.

**2. The Neighborhood USA (NUSA) Conference will be in Anchorage in late May, 2011** over three days. FCC is sponsoring the conference. Mark Butler encouraged SACC to participate by hosting a neighborhood tour to showcase South Addition area to the conference attendees followed with a dinner. Individuals from around the country, Canada and other parts of the world attend this international conference. The SACC has agreed and will need volunteers.

**3. FCC Funding:** Mark Butler explained that many councils are signing a letter to ask the Assembly to support full-funding for the FCC. Motion to approve SACC president signing it by Cathleen Hahn and seconded by Laura Bottger, approved by vote.

**Community comments:**

1. A homeowner living to the north across Seventeenth Avenue from the Valley of the Moon Park expressed concern of the speed of traffic coming down the E Street hill and around the corners and along Valley of the Moon Park towards Arctic Blvd. They have seen many accidents at their end of the street.
2. Paul Provencio asked for assistance choosing play equipment for the Westchester Lagoon Park. He also suggested the Knik Arm Crossing be mothballed for a few years, rather than continue to pay individuals to monitor that project until it's once again feasible. He suggested we speak to Pat Flynn about this. And finally he wanted to clarify that the Ninth Avenue project is about 80% complete (over-budget and over-time), which indicates that it might have been managed well from a financial perspective.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

**Next meeting Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, Fifth Floor Pioneer's Home**