

North Star Community Council

December 8, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: North Star Elementary School Library, 605 West Fireweed Lane

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Minutes and Agenda.** The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by President Matt Johnson. There was a sign-in sheet on a table near the entrance. The minutes of the council's last meeting (November 10, 2010) were approved with no objection (moved by Andre Camara and seconded by Charles Boyle). The proposed agenda was also approved without objection (moved by Bonnie Jack and seconded by Andre Camara).

2. **Officer Reports**

- a. Matt Johnson, President, thanked Assembly Members Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond for their work on the Spenard Road Project and, in particular, for Monday night's meeting about the project.
- b. Andre Camara, Vice President, had no report.
- c. Barbara Pepek, Treasurer, had no report because she has not received this month's statement from the credit union.
- d. Susan Miller, Secretary, said she had copies of the council's bylaws available if anyone wanted one and had no report other than the minutes of last month's meeting.

3. **Legislative Reports**

Representative Mike Doogan reported that he will return to Juneau in January and will be back on the House Finance Committee, which will have five new members. He hopes the community councils are thinking about things they want the state to do. He does not know yet whether there will be money for community council requests, but the councils should be making lists and be prepared to provide backup explaining the needs. Matt mentioned the 2011 Capitol Budget Priority List. Mark Butler mentioned the \$150,000 Representative Dugan got this year to help with the Chester Creek flooding problem and described the culverts built this summer just east of Arctic to help drain off overflow.

There was some discussion about whether the city was supposed to match that money and whether there was more money for a larger study of the Chester Creek flooding problem. Bonnie agreed to try to find out about this money and its intended uses. Darrel Hess suggested that a good person to contact would be Gary Smith in the city's capital projects office. During a discussion of C Street sidewalks, Rep. Doogan said he would like to know whether those sidewalks are being cleared of snow by the state or by the city as part of an agreement with the state. Mark mentioned that at next Wednesday's meeting, the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) would be drafting a list of projects that need funding and that when the FCC manages these projects, the overhead is much lower than when the city manages them (2% versus about 30%). In response to questions, Rep.

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Doogan said there was no minimum amount for these community improvement requests and the sooner these requests are submitted the better.

4. Assembly Reports.

- a. Ernie Hall expressed his appreciation for legislators who give up so much time when they serve in Juneau. He reported that the Assembly passed next year's municipal budget at last night's meeting. Mark asked about the cuts in the police and fire department budgets. Susan asked about the closure of the Dimond library branch. We learned that the library's landlord had offered free rent for two years, but the mayor refused to accept it because it takes five librarians to keep that branch open.
- b. Dick Traini reported on the fireworks ordinance he proposed and the Assembly adopted at last night's meeting. Under the ordinance, this year and next year it will be legal in Anchorage to shoot off fireworks on New Year's Eve from 9:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. It still will not be possible (legal) to buy fireworks in Anchorage. He also reported that the Federation of Community Councils will receive \$80,000 in the new budget.

5. Presentations.

Darrel Hess, DHSS Homeless Coordinator, gave a presentation on Anchorage's homeless chronic-public-inebriate situation. He handed out information about the cost of these individuals to the municipality and a copy of Mayor Sullivan's response to the initial recommendations by the mayor's Homeless Leadership Team on "Strategies Pertaining to Chronic Public Inebriates and Related Issues of Homelessness." Darrel reported that the 300 to 400 chronic public inebriates cost the city over \$4 million a year (including police department costs, the cost of fire department "man-down" responses, and community service patrol costs). Darrel also discussed plans for Karluk Manor (formerly the Red Roof Inn) which will house about 48 homeless individuals, probably starting next July. More of Darrel's reports are available on the municipality's website: muni.org under Department of Health and Human Services.

6. Old and New Business.

- a. NSCC Bylaws Revision. Andre Camara handed out copies of the changes he made in his draft amendments to our bylaws after last month's meeting. Bonnie Jack mentioned several items that need to be clarified. Rather than discuss the draft at this meeting, it was decided that a subcommittee should work on the draft and circulate it before the February meeting. The subcommittee (Andre, Bonnie, Susan and anyone else who wants to attend) will meet at the Federation of Community Councils office on Thursday evening, January 13 (i.e., the day after the next NSCC meeting).
- b. C Street Community Garden. Tracy Fischbach reported that she just got a response from the city approving the plan to replace the current low fence around

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the garden with an 8-foot chain link fence to protect garden produce from theft and moose damage. The project, initiated by a volunteer group, is being funded primarily by a \$20,000 grant from the Anchorage Parks Foundation. Tracy reported that the plan is to narrow the garden's footprint somewhat and, at least initially, not to lock the gates. She hopes the project will be finished by July.

- c. Liquor Store ID Checks. Barbara Pepek said she was surprised to learn recently that the Brown Jug Liquor Store on Fireweed is not asking customers for identification and that an employee at the store had a petition for customers to sign opposing requiring all customers to show ID. She said the Brown Jug website says it is their policy to check IDs, and she asked who she should report this to. Ernie Hall said they have changed their policy. Kep Pierce said she believes they stopped this policy because other stores were not doing it.
- d. Spenard Road Re-Design Project. Ernie Hall discussed the December 6 public meeting held at Romig Middle School. Ninety people attended the meeting and were given written answers from the Planning Department to many questions asked at previous public meetings. They were also given descriptions of the two road design options – a 3-lane design and a 4-lane design. The information handed out at the December 6 meeting will be posted on the Federation of Community Councils website. Ernie said he would like the Spennard, North Star and Turnagain Community Councils to answer a poll about design preferences by mid-January, after which the results of the December 6 meeting poll and the community council polls will be released. Ernie said everyone agrees that safety is the first concern. He also said the money for the project will come from state and city funds, not federal funds (with their limitations). He said Project Management & Engineering has assured us that this project will be properly phased and will not be like the Arctic Avenue project a few years ago.

7. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011.