

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
Spenard Recreation Center
February 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10. A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made and the minutes were approved. Chair Haag made the announcement there would be a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee at the Rec Center February 10 from 6-9 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

There was no report from our legislative representatives in Juneau or anyone from their offices.

Jim Bowers did a report on the CIP list. There was a meeting February 1 of members of the Turnagain and Spenard community councils to go over those projects coming up on the CIP lists they have in common. There was agreement to support Parks and Rec projects and the Fish Creek Trail. Other items on the Spenard CIP list of importance: 1) Van Buren/ Taft; 2) Arctic Blvd.; 3) Spenard Road basic requirements such as ADA; 4) State roads, i.e. International and Spenard, no interchange or cloverleaves. We've been working with the Turnagain and Sand Lake community councils on the West Anchorage District Plan. One desire is to have a flow in project planning between community councils by not isolating information between the involved councils.

Chair Haag reiterated the need to finish Fish Creek Trail and added to the CIP list: 1) Northern Lights rut repair; 2) 35th and McCrae from Wisconsin to Spenard; 3) Turnagain Blvd. upgrade, 35th to Spenard; 4) Northern Lights Blvd. pedestrian trail connection. The problem with the Northern Lights pedestrian trail is the very high cost, about \$1,000,000.00 for a short path. There are a lot of utilities in that area. They are looking into a more affordable way to do it.

Officers Nate Mitchell and Mark Karstetter gave an update on community policing. The work they have been doing with hotels which were generating a tremendous amount of police calls in the past is paying off. Where the annual calls were once in the hundreds, they are now in the tens. They have been working traffic on Chugach Way and giving warnings to speeders. They are trying to slow people down as opposed to giving out tickets. The Neighborhood Crime Watch program is up and running. Call 786-8585 or go on the web to ncw@muni.org to find out more.

Spenard has been relatively quiet lately. Northwood Park is being watched and the drug traffic has moved on. A resident complained about all the activity happening at Barbara Street Park between midnight and 3:00 a.m.. There is also drug dealing and prostitution happening at Arkansas Street, the Boys and Girls Club and on 36th and Lois where the activity picks up between 9:30 and 9:45 in the evening. The police are looking into different hours for the community policing detail as many of the problems occur late at night or early in the morning. The police officers reported that there was prostitution and drug dealing going on at 36th and Iowa, but they were hit pretty hard

and now it's better. The officers also reported on a new drug called "Spice" which are bath salts which act as a synthetic cocaine. The substance is being outlawed in many communities nationally and they hope to see the same our lawmakers do the same here soon.

Merle Akers told the audience about a meeting he attended recently. They were discussing limitations on the elevation aircraft pilots can go. The ceiling is currently 5000' and they want to drop it to 500' for military exercises and allow foreign nationals to fly in these military areas. The Airport is using the Wagon property on the shore of Lake Spenard behind the old Barrett Inn - in the 1960's, the Municipality restricted commercial development in this area and the Anchorage Airport agreed to that. Now they are saying the Lake Hood seaplane base is closed and John Parrott has stated he is not under any statutory obligation to say why that is so. There may also be a problem with the way the Kulis base is developed if you are a nearby resident because although the Airport has said that area will be used for planes 30 passengers or less, the airlines may have a 707 with 30 seats and the rest of it as cargo.

Harriet Drummond gave her Assembly report. They passed a wish list that included many of the same CIP projects the Spenard council is advocating. The Federation of Community Councils has been given an \$80,000.00 grant. The Carousel Bar had problems with not having TAMS cards for their staff and the liquor store at 4608 Spenard was guilty of selling to people under the legal age of 21. Barbara Jones is the acting ombudsperson and will take complaints about the Administration, the Assembly and the school district. There are some questions regarding how a contract was awarded to SMG for running the Sullivan Arena, Ben Boeke ice rink and other municipal facilities. It is being contested by the losing bidder.

Ernie Hall reported the Assembly is looking into parking enforcement downtown because there is not much going on since a proposition was passed by Anchorage voters that allowed only sworn police officers to ticket vehicles. Currently employees are taking up much of the available parking on the street and making it difficult for people wanting to do business downtown to find a place to park. There would be limitations on where they can ticket. This is at the request of downtown businesses. It would also free up police officers to do more serious police work. They also passed what would be voted on by Anchorage voters in the April elections. There is a \$3 million bond for parks which is desperately needed.

Susan Bomalaski from Catholic Social Services was on hand to tell the council about proposed transitional housing which would transform the current Eagles Nest hotel to a homeless shelter for women and their families and pregnant women. Currently, their facility known as Claire House is in an industrial area, is much too small and difficult for the women and their children to get to and from bus stops. There may be as many as 45-50 people at one time and the space is shared with the staff and their offices and stores whatever belongings the women may have. The hotel is on a large lot of over 9000 square feet, it has a wooded lot for the children to play on and is right next to the

bus stop. In addition, it has 31 rooms which would allow more people to stay there. Claire House is asking for a grant from the Legislature and the support from the community council. Ms. Bomalaski has agreed to come back to the council next month with an update. You can write her an email at bomalaskis@css.org or call her at 222-7351 for more information.

Allen Thornhill spoke about the SCC Bylaws and explained how and why the requirements are as they are for elections. Any person who wants to be an officer has to show good faith by being a member for six months previously and coming to the council for at least three meetings in that time. The reason is that a person came to a meeting several years ago who had never been to the meetings and tried to stack the elections with himself and friends. It was time for the election of officers for the coming year and Jason Bergerson made a motion to advance the slate as it was. A member of the council stated there were two names for the position of secretary. Chair Rene Haag made an announcement that the current secretary, Peggy Auth, has withdrawn her name from the position of secretary and Chair Haag has asked her to be the chair of the Land Use/Zoning Committee which she has accepted. The new slate of Rene Haag, Chair; Jason Bergerson, Vice-Chair; Allen Thornhill, treasurer and Ryan Knight as secretary was then moved forward and approved unanimously by the council.

Peggy Auth as the new chair of the Land Use committee then asked the Assembly members and members of the council to reconsider the current council boundaries. As of now, the Midtown council does not seem to be meeting, meaning those residents are no longer being represented well at Assembly, commission and board meetings.

Merle Akers said maybe there is a way to address those areas where the needs of residents of one community council are more closely identified by the next council over.

Chair Haag the Safety Committee needs new members. They work with canvassing neighborhoods to learn what their issues. Jason Bergerson said the \$10,000.00 total in grants for the Westside Patrol will be going back to the State soon if it is not utilized. There is another year on a large grant and less time than that for two smaller grants.

Jason gave a report on the NUSA conference in May. Volunteers and donations are still needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.