

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

Vice chair Jason Bergerson opened the meeting for our chair Rene Haag who is away.

Liz Vasquex introduced herself as a candidate for the Assembly.

Hollis French gave an update on the Legislature: discussions of a dam on the Susitna River, statewide volunteer pre-kindergarten, the Governor's bill for merit based scholarships, oil taxes (ACES) and affordable insurance for healthcare.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the February meeting of the SCC which passed without changes.

Candidate Peter Olson, also running for the Assembly, introduced himself.

Brian Looney of Anchorage Tomorrow did a presentation advocating for the road and construction bond proposals which will be on the April municipal ballots. Voting will be on April 5th.

Assemblypersons Ernie Hall and Harriet Drummond gave an Assembly report. They touched on the upcoming elections and bonds which include a 1) replacement of a ladder truck; 2) dispatch room control for APD; 3) Ballot propositions - property

tax exemption to veteran's widow or widower under 60 and 4) a proposition asking if the Municipality should require photo ID for alcohol purchases.

Ernie Hall -The Assembly passed a resolution to change the municipal charter for parking enforcement downtown. The amendment is on the April ballot. At the request of downtown businesses, APD will no longer be used for parking enforcement such as expired meters and parking violations. Spenard Road - There was a final meeting with the Northern Lights Business Group regarding the road changes. He and Harriet are putting together a committee to have meetings with Public Works. Spenard Community Council will send a couple of representatives. There will be ten people who will be part of the process as it moves through the next couple of months.

There was an announcement by Mark Butler of the FCC that 29 businesses that actually have land on Spenard Road have signed on in support of the three lane option. The 4-5 businesses in North Star Community Council opposing the road improvements can stop the whole process.

Ernie Hall states the Campbell Creek Estuary project is going well and is a success.

Scott Stringer from the department of Parks and Rec for the Municipality informed the Council they will be working with the fire department to reduce forest fires. This includes cleaning out dead trees and chipping the bark to prevent spruce bark beetles from spreading. Northwood Park is slated to be

part of their fire prevention work. The Parks department will be doing the tree removal over the summer months as the fire crews are available. As part of the Trail Watch, the Parks department will be thinning and pruning trees as needed to help with visibility on the Fish Creek Trail and Woodland Park.

Mark Butler told the Council the Spenard Farmer's Market will be back, opening date is scheduled to be May 21. They are not sure of the market hours yet, but they may shift to earlier times as requested by market goers and booth owners. The Pack Rat Mall which has taken over the old Hewitt's Drug Store space will have something going on in their parking lot while the market is open.

Susi Baird said there is nothing new on liquor licenses.

Jason Bergerson did the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) report. Five hundred catalogs have been sent out. They have hired a fundraiser to raise \$80-100,000 in the next 90 days. They need help with tours and are hoping Fairview and Spenard will again help out as they did last year. NUSA.org is the general web address and NUSA2011.org is for the May conference. They would like to find a sponsor so they can offer scholarships to those that want to attend, but cannot afford the fees. There will be a dinner at the Spenard Recreation Center on May 26 from 6:30-9:00. These hours are subject to change as the participants are doing field work and the beginning time for the dinner will depend on when they are through with the local tours.

Harriet Drummond said the CAP SERA team has been doing so

well with Spenard in reducing crime that they are now expanding into Sand Lake.

Robert Auth of the Airport Advisory Committee gave a report on the February 10 meeting at the Spenard Recreation Center. One complaint of those attending the meeting was that after residents or community council members make comments or have questions for the Airport management, there is usually no feedback. It was suggested that something be implemented by the Airport so that people in the community can see what other people are suggesting or commenting on and how the Airport will use that information in their planning process. Questions were made regarding the problem with getting Chugach Electric to relocate their helipad to the Airport and that so far Chugach is not being open with their application process or talking to the neighborhoods about the safety issue of having low elevation flying by helicopters over residential property. Merle Akers said Lake Hood has been reopened, but the future of the seaplane base is uncertain. Also the FAA has moved their VOR operations from Fire Island to the Airport. Robert Auth said there needs to be a dialogue between the FAA, Airport and community.

Jim Bowers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 which was seconded and approved.

After the meeting, Ernie Hall asked the council to consider the park bond issue.