

## **SACC Membership Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2011**

SACC President Bonnie Harris called the meeting to order at 7:05.

There were no changes or opposition to the last meeting's minutes.

**President's Report:** The FCC advised the president that many e-mails were getting bounced back by their system. A downtown parking survey was recently distributed, as was a notice about the youth employment program. Materials regarding the upcoming Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) tour and a couple upcoming zoning matters are available for review to those interested.

**Treasurer's Report:** No change \$2907.49.

**Fire Department:** Captain Mike Fish of the downtown fire station reported that the department is engaged in a streamlined and highly competitive hiring process – its first in four years - and hopes to have new fireman on the street by May 1<sup>st</sup>, to fill vacancies due to attrition. The firemen are putting on a safety awareness day at the Fifth Avenue Mall directed at children and addressing things like escalator safety. The captain also reminded us that the time change is a good time to check smoke and CO2 detectors.

**FCC Report:** Elise Huggins reported that the School board made a presentation about music programs and performances and discussed the bonds. Library reported that library attendance is more than twice Sullivan Arena attendance and that more than 60% of Anchorage residents have library cards. A bond is on the ballot to support system upgrades at the library. The library also received a generous donation to help support a downtown branch, and is following up. Tom Davis provided an update on the Title 21 revision.

### **New Business**

**1) Municipal Ballot Propositions** - Steve Kari, of Anchorage Tomorrow , discussed three of the bond measures that will appear on the April 5 ballot. The bond package is the smallest in ten years. The \$30.9 million roads bond, Proposition 4, would provide money for the next phase of the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue project (\$7.4 million) as well as other site specific and area wide projects, including ADA, lighting, drainage and other safety improvements. (Also update on some adjustments to the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue plans to better accommodate Fire Trucks. An open house on the project was set for March 24.) Prop. 5 seeks a \$3million bond for Parks. The projects include regular maintenance and repairs to rehabilitate neighborhood parks, repairs to greenbelts and trails, improvements to the football stadium and the South Anchorage Sports Complex. Some park bond funds may qualify for matching funds. Prop. 6 is for transit and public safety and asks for less than \$1 million. This bond includes vehicle replacement and maintenance, facility improvements to meet the ADA, bus and fleet improvements, and three ambulances or emergency vehicles. \$421,000 of the bond would be eligible for a \$4 - \$9 per \$1 match.

**2) Westchester Lagoon Reed Canary Grass (RCG) Project:** Municipal Forester Scott Stringer reported on a project to remove the invasive RCG adjacent to the Tony Knowles Trail to protect the habitat values and function of the new fish passage.

Working with the Fire Department, the RCG will be burned towards the end of April. Burning is the least toxic, but effective approach to removing RCG. The trail will be closed for a half day to accommodate the burning; advance notice will be provided. Following the burn, the area will be covered by a tarp until the summer/fall of 2012, at which time the area will be reseeded with native grasses.

**3) Valley of the Moon Woods Bird Cherry Tree (BCT) Project:** Scott Stringer reported on this project, targeting another highly invasive species - BCTs. He has developed a work plan to help safely and properly remove BCTs from the woods near Valley of the Moon Park. The goal is to improve visibility and safety, while addressing the concerns of some North Star Community Council residents that the woods not be cleared out too much. The plan calls for removing and chipping the trees (and stumps), and later planting native spruce and birch. Mr. Stringer has asked the owners of the private, wooded lot adjacent to the park (where many homeless persons have their camps) for permission to extend the project to those lands as well.. Members from SACC may wish to coordinate with members of the North Star Community Council as this project moves forward.

**Community Comments:** Paul Provencio invited people to join him and others that coming Saturday to pick new playground equipment for the project at Westchester Lagoon. He noted he had also reached out to the Inlet View Principal.

Upon motion by Laura Bottger, seconded by Elise Huggins, the meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.