

Spenard Community Council Minutes

May 4, 2011 7:15 PM. Spenard Recreation Center

1. Minutes and Agenda:

Amended minutes were approved.

2. Announcements by Chair Rene Haag:

a. The Draft West Anchorage District Plan is available on the Muni's site. Rene encouraged everyone to take a look and then come to a meeting to discuss the plan. It's to be held at Blaine Art, 1025 Photo Ave on Thursday May 12 from 6:30 to 8:30.

b. Volunteers are needed to help with the NUSA dinner on Thursday May 26th. The dinner will be at the Spenard Rec Center; please show up at 4:00 to start getting things ready.

Volunteers: Alan T will prep dishes. Rene will cook a ham. Barry B. will bring his wife's famous potatoes. Cheryl C will help out with set up and as needed.

Alan T made a motion, seconded by Barry - which passed unanimously - for the Council to reimburse Rene for ham(s).

c. You can (and probably should!) register for NUSA. There are \$50.00 grants => \$150 for a three day conference.

d. Preparations for Spenard Jazzfest, June 3rd to 12th, are progressing.

3. Legislative Report

No legislators were present. Aides for Hollis French and Mike Doogan were present to hear an earful about the continuing special session.

4. Assembly Report

Harriet Drummond gave a run down on the three Assembly meetings held since our last Council meeting. Highlights: Swearing in of four returning & one new assembly person. There is a new committee, chaired by Ernie Hall, to investigate energy diversification. There is a committee to address redistricting concerns. A very few of many proposed amendments to the budget passed: asbestos removal from the train in the park; restore hours that the Fairview Rec Center is open. Chickens are now legal in the muni and there is a new ordinance addressing illegal campsites.

Ernie Hall spoke to negotiations on Title 23 Building Codes; is it appropriate that they address energy efficiency or just life and safety issues? Also, the 100% ID check will probably be instituted for package stores, with bars to follow after two years.

5. Local Projects and Discussion

a. CAP team: none.

b. Mark Queen from AWWU gave an update on upcoming projects: One project on Photo Ave. will start in about a month. Another in the vicinity of Lois & 36th Ave. will be later this summer. Also, a small water project is slated for Melvin, probably to start in July.

c. Jim Bowers reported on the Spenard Road Task Force/Committee. The committee has eleven voting members that have been meeting every other Wednesday evening at the FCC on Fireweed. The meetings are open to the public; stop in if you're interested in the

future of Spenard Road. Last meeting representatives from the Muni answered questions about snow removal, bike lanes, bus service. Next meeting will be addressing techniques a project can use to minimize impacts of construction on businesses.

d. Jim Bowers elaborated a little bit on the Draft West Anchorage District Plan, which has been close to two years in the making. The Plan primarily deals with the relationship between Anchorage International Airport and the surrounding areas, represented by the Sand Lake, Spenard and Turnagain Community Councils. Secondarily, it addresses the future development of the Spenard Road Corridor. Jim's two biggest objections to the plan are 1) that it doesn't include all of the Spenard Community Council; north of Minnesota the area east of Spenard is ceded to Midtown rather than maintaining our boundary intact at Arctic. (2) The plan will require of anyone selling property within the area of airport influence a full page disclosure warning prospective buyers of any and all real or potential (imagined?) negative impacts resulting from being near the airport. Accurate measurement of noise level contours, which are used to define the area of influence, was questioned.

Cathy Gleason from Turnagain Community Council enumerated several aspects of the plan she objects to, mostly relating to the airport's potential development of an additional north-south runway negatively impacting park and wetlands.

Both Jim and Cathy were of the opinion that the council representatives had repeatedly expressed concerns to the Muni planners and consultants, but that they had not been addressed. There is a sense that the plan is generally too deferential to the airport.

A lively discussion ensued; more can be expected at the meeting at Blaine's May 12th, 6:30 to 8:30. Rene volunteered to rent additional chairs; **Barry made a motion, which subsequently passed, to have the Council reimburse Rene for the chairs.**

e. Cora Weaver gave a report on the problem property at 2806 Aspen. Apparently the owner is now in assisted living; the house has been increasingly run down, falling apart, mold all over inside, homeless camping in the backyard...an abatement process is starting. Also, the old problems at 4003 Lois are recurring. Cora is working on that, as well.

6. Old and New Business

a. Considering everything that is going on this year, the Council voted to have a meeting in June, complete with hot dogs, burgers etc.

Meeting adjourned by 9:00.