

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2011
Spenard Recreational Center

Chair Rene Haag opened the meeting with a correction to item 6A on the September to read as 4003 Lois as opposed to 4013 Lois. Jim Bowers motioned to approve. The minutes passed as corrected. Margaret Auth will be acting secretary for tonight's meeting.

Legislative Report- Sen. Hollis French

Sen. French talked about a recent trip to Norway that a mixed group of 45 legislators and policy makers took to learn how Norway manages its oil wealth. The purpose was twofold: 1) to assess the relationship Norway has to the oil industry and, 2) how Norway manages its oil royalties. Norway's royalty fund is ten times that of Alaska's Permanent Fund. Oil was discovered off Norway's shore in 1969. Norway has a state run oil company with 2/3 of the shares owned by the state and 1/3 publicly owned.

Questions of Sen. French:

What about Black Carbon that especially affects Arctic peoples because of dirty carbon on snow and ice?

What about the funding of KABTA now that the managers of the project have publicly acknowledged that the bridge will not raise enough revenues for its investors? Sen. French said that with the current plan for the State to back the bridge, the investors would recoup 12% annually on their investment and all the risk would go to the State of Alaska.

What is going to happen to the Port of Anchorage now that the Muni will be asking the State to cover the cost overruns? Why was there no audit done sooner? Sen. French responded that he will be looking closely at the audit when it is released before voting for any future appropriations.

Assembly Report- Harriet Drummond and Ernie Hall

Harriet Drummond spoke about the recent appointments to commissions and boards. An internal audit shows that three boards and commissions, the Watershed and Natural Resource Commission, the South Central Clean Air Authority Commission and the Mountain View Recreational Advisory Board, have not been fulfilling their purposes for years. The South Central Clean Air Authority and Mountain View Recreation Advisory Board will sunset later in the month. Most of the problems hinge on not having any or fewer than needed board

or commission members or not having the required meetings to carry out their duties.

The Municipality has been over collecting the Enhanced 911 (known as E-911) surcharges that we all pay on our telephone bills at \$1.50 per number. The purpose of the surcharge was to support an enhanced 911 system. The monies are not being used for their stated purpose but instead are being deposited into the general fund.

The 2012 budget has been released and will there will be chances for the public to comment in October and November at the Assembly meetings.

The Assembly voted yes, 10-1, to keep taxi drivers from being able to drive while they are charged but not convicted of sexual abuse. The measure has stood constitutionally in other communities.

Ernie Hall stated his dismay over a lack of public testimony on the budget. Only three people testified.

The Port of Anchorage's expansion is a very big project with little communication between the port users, the U.S. Maritime Administration and the port operators. Mr. Hall feels confident with the oversight committee and the master plan which clearly delineates the line of authority. The Army Corps of Engineers is doing an analysis which will be due in January or February of 2012. The Corps was not doing oversight before.

Project Managers for AWWU came to update the council on their projects in Spenard. The sewer line on Iris Drive was done in the 1960's. The engineering firm Lounsbury and Associates designed an upgrade with work to be done in 2012. Because it is going through Northwood Park where there is a lot of peat and wetlands, they have met with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Parks Department. They are trying to have a minimum impact in those areas. The nearby residents have been informed of the work and will be noticed again before construction begins in June, 2012.

Oliver Burbridge addressed the council and asked our help in getting speed humps on Lois between Benson and 36th. This street has been high on the council's CIP list for years for an upgrade which hopefully will ameliorate the situation.

Fire Island Wind Energy Project

Brian Colville of Restoration Science and Engineering and Pete Stewart presented to the council the latest news on this project which is waiting for approval by the RCA. The alignment is much the same as has been previously projected with 3.1 miles of submarine cable, crossing Airport land down to Raspberry and Jewel Lake where it will come above ground to the Chugach plant at International and Minnesota. It is scheduled to be in operation Sept. 2012. They are currently in talks with the Airport for permission for the crossing. They do not want to impact the ski trail, so they need to have that portion of the work completed by November, 2011. They also need to have the work done in the coastal areas by April, 2012 so as not to impact birds or wildlife.

Questions were raised about the helicopter flights from Chugach and who will maintain the facility when it is completed. The two men could not speak to the helicopter issue as that is a Chugach maintenance question and the maintenance crew on Fire Island will be minimal with more being done in the summer months by a seasonal staff.

Chris Waaslkes is writing a book on the history of Spenard and would appreciate any stories, photos or information anyone could provide to help with making it more complete. You may write to him at spenardhistory@hotmail.com.

Land Use Committee

Peggy Auth talked about the hearing October 3 before the Planning and Zoning Commission on the WADP. There were about 50 people in attendance, a disappointing number given the importance this plan will have on Spenard. There will be a second meeting next Monday for the public to testify, P & Z can make changes, they will then vote on it and the plan will move on to the Assembly for their vote. There was a lot of opposition to another North/South runway and concerns about disclosures the homeowners would have to make while selling their homes.

There was a hearing today regarding 4003 Lois. Neighbors to the property provided affidavits that their properties have been devalued because of the situation with the property. This problem has been going on since the mid 1990's.

Spenard Farmer's Market

Mark Butler and Rene as representatives of the market were able to repay the loan of \$2,000.00 to the community council. The market averaged 35-45 booths and raised the rates from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per booth.

Rene said the VIP committee for the Parks department needs volunteers. The number is 561-5314. Harriet said the Anchorage Parks Foundation has an app to grade the parks electronically and is free.

Ira Perman said the Spenard Jazz Festival brunch will be held Sunday, Oct. 9 at Organic Oasis.

Rene adjourned the meeting at 8:45.