

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

Chairperson Rene Haag brought the meeting to order at 7:10. The secretary for the council has resigned and Chair Haag announced she has appointed Peggy Auth as the new secretary. There was a correction to the agenda: Peggy Auth will be addressing problems with Northwood Park, not Cope Street Park. Hollis French moved to approve the minutes, Jason Bergerson seconded. There was a meeting of the VIP Park Committee. Minnesota Park is the next big project for Spenard. Rene is asking for more volunteers for the committee.

Legislative Report - Senator Hollis French

Sen. French spoke about Wood MacKenzie looking into Alaska oil and gas development as compared to other places. Policy makers and legislators have been examining how oil is taxed in other countries such as Britain and Iraq. Gov. Parnell has shifted the direction of the natural gas pipeline to Valdez which Sen. French supports. The economics of gas are weaker than that for oil. There were questions about the Kenai gas plant and what will happen to the Pipeline when it shuts down. Sen. French said BP swore under oath that the Pipeline is good until 2050.

Assembly Report - Ernie Hall

Assemblyman Ernie Hall gave the report for himself and Harriet Drummond as she is at a National League of Cities convention.

The Assembly is approving people for boards and commissions and always looking for good people to serve. He said there is a discrepancy between the Port of Anchorage's director's and the mayor's budget for expansion (\$1 billion vs. \$350 million). He said we can accommodate growth with the \$350 million in improvements.

There was much discussion about the public trying to be part of the planning process, but that the time and work the public puts into it is often discounted, even after years of participation by people willing to work for solutions. There is general frustration with how the public will is subverted and disregarded.

Stephanie Kessler of the Government Hill Community Council gave a Power Point presentation on the Knik Arm Bridge and how it will affect the Government Hill community and Anchorage at large. The funding for the Bridge has changed drastically in the last few years in that the State will be the sole guarantor for the Bridge costs overruns. The investors will be getting a 12% return on their investment, but the State will have to pay for any costs that are not met by the bridge tolls. The Bridge will also siphon off the better part of the MOA transportation budget and will eat up most of what Anchorage has appropriated by the State for transportation needs. There was a letter from the head of a study done by ISER (the Institute of Social and Economic Research) based out of the University of Alaska to the chairs of the House and Senate Finance Committees in which it he state KABATA (the Knik Arm Bridge Transportation Authority) was using unsubstantiated

numbers in its claims for population growth and commuters to Anchorage from the Valley. Because the commuter numbers are the basis for the amount of money which would be collected from the tolls, KABATA has to prove these numbers are high enough to make the Bridge viable. The community council should not support the Bridge in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Committee Reports - Peggy Auth, Land Use Committee

Northwood Park is being vandalized after much work was done by the Parks Dept. last summer to make the park more friendly to those with limited or no eyesight. The second observation deck from Northwood into the park was vandalized in September and repaired. Two to three weeks after the deck was repaired, the deck as well as the signposts written in Braille and English was vandalized. This time enough damage was done to the deck to make it unsafe, especially for children. Ms. Auth was asking the community council if they thought perhaps we should be asking the Park Dept. to take out the second deck because it can't be monitored and the only people who seem to be using it now are either vandalizing it or doing drugs and/or alcohol. Assemblyman Hall said if the community council did a resolution, he would make sure it got presented at the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The council supported the idea of cameras to monitor the park. Allen Thornhill said he thought the more neighbors need to be involved, the community needs to take back the park and that we can't allow people doing illegal things to take over the park. No resolution was passed and it was decided to wait to see how

perhaps the community could work the problem out on its own.

Peggy Auth also gave an update to the problems with 4003 Lois and 4608 Aspen. There was a hearing on 4003 on Oct. 5 before a hearings officer. She rendered her opinion on October 21. Mr. Sigler is to pay a \$27,000.00 fine with \$9,000.00 suspended if he corrects part of the problems with his property. The problems with this property and land owner goes back to the mid '90's. Hopefully, there will be some relief for the neighbors. Nothing can be done about 4608 Aspen even though it is a public health hazard and nuisance. The owner is under the State's care and her affairs are being looked after by a trustee. Nothing will be done to the property until the attorney signs off on it.

Chris Campbell spoke about the possibility of a land trade between the Municipality and the Airport for Point Woronzof Park under the current West Anchorage District Plan. The Airport wants it for a potential new north/south runway. She was with Cook Inlet Regional years ago identifying graves and burial sites under ANISCA. She got to know a very important Athasbascan tribal elder named Shem Pete. He told her about the area which is now part of the park and airport and how it was a communal gathering site for the Denaina people. It is listed on the Archeological Sites, but Shem Pete did not want the exact site shown so it would not be excavated. She is asking for protection for the site from the disturbance that would certainly happen if the airport constructed a new runway. She is trying to alert people to the rich historic nature of the area.

Merle Akers gave an airport report. There was a airport communications meeting on Oct. 12. The Airport seems to be moving their operations further to the north as they purchased and tore down several homes at the end of Wendy's Way. They are installing LED lighting for general aviation. The homes were torn down as what was supposed to be a safety buffer for the neighborhood. Originally Lake Hood had no commercial aviation and was limited to 25 aircraft. Now it has changed to a "primary" airport meaning there are commercial flights. Changing the designation means the airport receives more money from the federal government. The meeting minutes reflect comments from the Airport staff, neither those of the public nor members of the committee. The next meeting is in February, 2012.

Suzy Baird, Liquor Licenses

Ms. Baird went to the ABC meeting. The SCC had protested the liquor license of Alaska Billiards because there are too many licenses in that area. The four licenses coming up for renewal in the Spenard area all look good. Tom McGrath spoke about the need to do something about In and Out Liquor which after years of protest from SCC is still selling to inebriates. Mt. Vernon Commons has had to spend \$1 million for security because of street inebriates. There was discussion about the problems with street drunks and their effect on Spenard businesses, including Rene's.

Rene Haag will have Dawn White of Emergency Services speak at next month's meeting.

Ernie Hall wanted the council to know that for anything designated as a parkland it would take a vote of the people to remove that park from the Municipality's inventory. He also said that the judiciary hampers the ability to prosecute and Rene should make calls to the police so there is a record when she is having problems with street inebriates at her business. He also said the Assembly pays attention to resolutions from community councils.

Ira Perman was not able to give his presentation on the recent Alaskan delegation's trip to Norway to research their oil industry. Chair Haag asked if he could come to the December meeting which he agreed to do.