

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2011
Spenard Recreation Center

The meeting minutes for November minutes were approved.

Announcement by Chair Rene Haag - Park and Rec will be doing a fix-up to Fish Creek Park on June 9, 2012.

No legislators present to do their reports.

Assemblywoman Harriet Drummond - She went to the National League of Cities convention and attended an Aviation Impacted Communities open house and got answers to some questions submitted in advance by Turnagain and Spenard reps to the West Anchorage District Plan. At the November 8 meeting of the Assembly they banned what are called "bath salts" but are not. The Assembly also passed a revised traffic code - bicyclists are pleased as motorists must now give 3 feet when passing. The budget was passed last night.

Assemblyman Ernie Hall- The budget process went well, more money was put into the Parks and Rec after a couple of lean years. There was much testimony on the school bonds. Career Technology Education will be moved into the schools. West High will get a construction academy. The ordinance on fireworks will be discussed next week.

Question from the council: What is a bath salt? Officer Mitchell from the APD explained there are spray chemical compounds on bath salts that are like "meth x 10" and are a synthetic cocaine.

A couple of the council members complained about the frozen ice on the sidewalks which brought a response from one council member who complained about the people bringing up the ice issue and asked why ask the city to deal with it. Ernie Hall replied some sidewalks may be sanded.

The CAP-SERA team was back to update the council. Officer Mitchell mentioned they were last here at the March or April meeting. They have been instructed by the mayor to break up the homeless camps. Due to that, record numbers of people are showing up at the Brother Francis Shelter. The next step was to attack the panhandler situation once the

ordinance passed on that. The idea is to go after the people giving to the panhandlers as they are contributing to a dangerous situation by encouraging people to go into traffic. The Municipality kicked off the start to the ordinance by doing a public awareness campaign to let people know it is now illegal. The police have yet to write a ticket.

The CAP SERA team are trying to change the hours so they can go after late night street crime in the hours they happen. are on duty so they can be most active in the evening and night when most of the crimes they have been created to control are happening. They are also hopeful that five members will be added to their force once the police academy graduates new officers. Officer Mitchell asked about Northwood Park as that has been the scene of recent drug and prostitution activity. Council members noted things seem to be better lately.

Chairwoman Haag brought up the issue of street inebriates around her business. They have been interfering with her customers and are getting to be more of a problem. The police are trying to keep people from going into the road on Benson. The CAP-SERA team has discussed going undercover as the street people are getting bolder. The homeless camps near Minnesota and International that a council member called in about have been dismantled. The people living in them have been given 15 days notice to remove their belongings. If they do not, the sites will be cleaned out by the parks department.

Michelle Ritter of DOWL HKM did a presentation of the new Walgreens that will be built on the old Johnson Tire location on Northern Lights and Minnesota. The building will be closer to Northern Lights than the Johnson Tire building and more pedestrian friendly. David Moore of Architects Alaska said the building will look more like the REI building on the other end of the Northern Lights mall and not like the other Walgreens. There will be a public hearing on the site plan in January with projected construction in the summer of 2012.

Chris Walkies has been working on a history of Spenard and has the 1916 articles on Spenard on file. He plans to do a presentation to the historical society. He would love to hear from people in the community who can add to the information he is gathering. You can reach him at spenardhistory@hotmail.com.

Cathy Gleason brought the council up to date on the hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission on the West Anchorage District Plan in November. There were two nights of testimony and then six weeks of waiting until the Commission made their decision public. The Plan passed without any comment from the Commission. There will be a hearing before the Parks and Rec Commission tomorrow night at the Spenard Recreation Center.

Margaret Auth of the Land Use Committee gave a presentation about 4003 Lois and 4608 Aspen. Mr Sigler of 4003 Lois is appealing the decision of the hearing officer of November, 2011 to fine him \$27,000.00 with \$9,000.00 suspended if he were to immediately clean his property. The code enforcement people are dealing with the attorney who is handling the affairs for the property owner of 4608 Aspen. He has not been responding to their inquiries.

There were no other committee reports and the meeting was adjourned.