

Mountain View Community Council Meeting Minutes November 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President Hugh Wade at 7:02 pm.

October 10, 2005 minutes were approved.

President Wade announced that Niki Burrows had been appointed acting treasurer and that an election would be conducted for the office. Jay Harris said he would be willing to run. Because he had not been to two meetings in the past six months, he was not eligible. Marco Gonzalez moved that Niki be appointed treasurer. Joyce Hines seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

Flag Salute took place after the flag was brought in by the Boy Scouts.

Introductions of those in attendance at 7:07.

The Agenda was approved.

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves and said a word about who they represent.

Niki Burrows gave the Treasurer's Report. The account still needs to be balanced and reconciled, but the current expenses and income show \$2,321.80 is the balance.

Legislative Reports

Allan Tesche said the Operating and Capital Budgets for the next two years will be examined for the second time on November 22. Other budget concerns are cops in schools and city flowers. There will be a public hearing on the sales tax proposal introduced by Dan Coffey in December. The sales tax is regressive- it hurts seniors and renters. Pole signs may be re-examined. The Charter Amendment may also be reviewed- will only sworn officers issue parking tickets? Dan Sullivan would like that to be reviewed in April. Pole sign ordinance rollback is also proposed.

Representative Gruenberg is trying to get opticoms at each of the intersections. These are the devices that allow fire trucks to turn the light green. It would cost 3 million to fix all the intersections that don't have these in Anchorage. Also, Clark will take a million for design work. The total project budget is expected to be in the range of \$20 million. And, Max is working with other legislators on the

Gaming Commission. The question is how to get the best laws for gaming in Alaska. The gas pipeline contract is not yet before us.

Megan Foster reported for Gretchen Guess. They are preparing for the session and Megan is available to investigate issues as they arise. Both Gretchen and Carolyn are recovering from being not so well.

Weed 'n Seed Report- Michael Evans reported that a budget is going to be approved and \$150,000 scheduled to be spent in several areas. He said there would be meetings scheduled for the events within the project. He commended Cessilye Williams who is featured in this month's newsletter. Safe Havens were Clark Middle School and the Boys and Girls Club.

Federation of Community Council- Kep Pierce announced the leadership meetings and she would like names of people interested in attending the workshops. Dates and topics have not been set yet. Hugh asked about the formation of a group of community councils and Kep said she did not have any specific information on this other than what has appeared in the newspaper.

ROC- Niki Burrows reported Mobile Trailer Supply building purchase and use has been finalized. The ROC is meeting every other Thursday. The minutes from at least two meetings are available here. Bruce and Carolyn will report on the Arts and Culture District later. Hugh clarified that this meant Redevelopment Oversight Committee for Mountain View.

Mountain View Patrol- Niki reported for Fred Schriener on a dumpster drop for drugs, and the person doing this had been apprehended after he was observed. This was somewhat startling in that the crime was blatant and was directly observed.

Stone Soup Group- Jayson Smart and Barb Neeson presented on their program at the Success by Six building. The phone is 561-3701. Barb works on Mountain View 360. Stone Soup is a statewide support group, in existence for about 12 years, the core of their work is around family support. Most of the nine staff members are parents themselves. They have projects on both a local and a statewide basis. They are working with Mountain View and Russian Jack families. They have information and referrals for youth who are disabled. 360 works with families in the Mountain View area and right now there are 28 families which are involved, Food assistance, family knowledge of application for assistance, community outreach at elementary schools, happenings at Red Apple, Surf Laundromat, local churches and other areas are places where outreach is occurring. They are open Monday to Friday and they have walk-in hours. Some collaboration with Office of Children's Services. Michael: Do you work with the Mental Health Trust. Yes, on several projects. Hugh: Are you concentrated on Mountain View? To a certain extent. 360 means wrap-around

support for the families. About 15 federal and state supports for the services amount to approximately 1.1 million this year. Stone Soup is a helping organization focusing especially on youth with disabilities. Moving to Mountain View has been positive for the organization.

Mailbox Update- Hugh reported that Representative Gruenberg had worked with USPS and the Red Apple had been recommended. Eventually, it might be incorporated into the new library, but it will presumably be on the sidewalk in front of Red Apple and toward the south end between the liquor and bingo for the short term.

Arts and Culture District Vision- Bruce Farnsworth explained how Mountain View in Motion represented housing, economic development, and cultural/art issues. Ultimately, the three areas are all linked in developing and restoring the community. Bruce and Carolyn Kinneen showed a powerpoint presentation that they have been using to explain the Mountain View vision. Bruce named the members of the Arts and Culture District Steering Committee as including Carolyn, Niki Burrows, David Alexander, Sherre Dueno, and Mary Hertert.

Carolyn Kinneen elaborated on the planning process through showing the powerpoint which is steadily being modified as the committee receives feedback from individuals and businesses on what the arts and culture district might be. Surveys that have been taken and been incorporated into the planning. The data gathering and merging of reports has reinforced some of the critical concepts such as the need for economic development as a result of the arts and cultural district emergence. Data on uses of the Natural History Museum, for example, are a part of the power point. The strategy of building on current success highlights some important new business such as Color Creek Art. The road project was mentioned along with other business successes.

Mountain View Planning- Tyler Robinson and Carma Reed were not able to attend, and Carolyn Kinneen and Bruce Farnsworth discussed the planning in the context of the information being gathered on the Arts and Culture District. Housing and Residential, Land Use, Employment and Job Training, and Economic Development through Arts and Culture, Library and Multiple School Uses are some of the topics that have been identified as planning areas. Ron noted that the plan might not include all of the businesses and more involvement of small business owners would improve the planning process. Michael made a point on the availability of affordable housing. John Pierce noted that many planning meetings had taken place over a long period of time and that progress was being made. Hugh Wade praised Ron Pickles and Marco Gonzalez for coming to the meeting as business owners. Carolyn said opinions on the Arts and Culture District were being solicited in many ways and that input was actively sought. She pointed out that Main Street was not active at the moment and the Arts District Steering Committee had economic development as a goal.

Community Center Report Rick Henderson reported that the Fall Feast is November 17 from 5 to 9 P.M. This annual event is always successful. Flyers on the feast are available.

APD Sgt. Cindi Stanton did not get any questions last month and she reported that one of the nuisance residents had moved out and is being watched at another residence in this neighborhood. She said the nuisance identifications had to have specific house numbers connected to them. One landlord received a \$500 fine. Ten or 11 letters have been sent to property owners. Prostitution is another issue, but it is hard to track to a specific address.

P.O'B. Montgomery- Wendy Mikowski (343-4377) from the Anchorage Development Authority introduced herself and said she would be pleased to answer questions about this development. David Irwin said his contact phone and e-mail were 425-576-5208 dirwin@pobmontgomery.com. He said a successful arts and culture district would have a little bit for everyone. He said many people had seen this over the past eight months. It is going from conceptual to specific. There are some design characterizations on the drawings that may look finished but are not. The master plan looks mostly like it did eight or nine months ago. He showed the master plan superimposed on an aerial view of the area. Soils analysis shows a landfill existed in part of the area and that must be cleaned up by the city prior to development. A 2-3 acre hillside is going to have to be dug up and the soil remediated. The land directly behind the Mobile Trailer Supply has lumber and old cars buried. This is not pristine land. ASD planning is going on this month, next and into February for the new Clark Middle School which will be adjacent to the 25 acre site that P.O'B is developing. Hazardous waste clean-up is occurring, and some of the clean-up will require outside contractors. Full state approval for three clean-up plans have been secured. No signs of ground water contamination. Heavy petroleum products is one of the pollutants and it is localized and doesn't move far or fast. As they dig, they are finding that the trash can be handled. Max asked whether there was any contamination that could not be handled, and Wendy said no.

The second issue is Clark Middle School planning. Three and a half acres had been identified for the new Clark school. If ASD does not need this land, it will again be incorporated into the master plan.

The substation that M.L & P wants to upgrade is the third issue. The power requirements for this substation make it 40,000 square feet. It may be located more toward the highway. Since this has not been decided, the Montgomery plan will concentrate on the area outside the M.L.& P substations area.

The frontage road area along Mountain View Drive was down to 25 housing units so they essentially deleted the housing. Houses might be considered for Phase II. An office component was conceived as a way to incorporate some housing and make the area tie together.

There can be expansion to the north. A buffer along Glenn Highway with different types of vegetation and different types of berming. Parking lots will be broken up with areas of vegetation. Raised sidewalks will be available to pedestrians in the development. The center courtyard is the primary feature of the streetscape for the project. There is an L shaped building with the center plaza available for skating or an amphitheater. This is still being designed. The storefronts will be varied so that there is a differentiated view as you look at the project. The plaza itself may be sunken so that it appears to be on a different level from the street.

Next, planning and zoning approval will be requested. A local property manager will work with the forthcoming local retailers and other interested parties in modifying the design. How can smaller businesses be invited into the project? Other neighborhood tie-ins will be considered. Sponsorships and events will be planned.

Max asked about Government lease space? ASD? David said they had talked to Camp Fire and Denali Family Services. Bruce asked if the design was to scale? Yes. Allan asked what the plans were for the public transportation? Working with the transit authority is the issue, said David. Allan noted that tying the project into the transit routes was originally promised and that he would work with David to see that this happened, if appropriate. Discussion on placement of a bank in the project, and Allan said he wanted to help on introducing a bank as necessary. Jayson asked about traffic impact? A package on traffic has been completed. Because there is such little traffic here now, a traffic light is not technically required. It is necessary nonetheless because of public safety. 250,000 to 300,000 square feet would require about 1500 car stalls. 80% would be full during the holidays. Are there taxi stands, asked the representative from Checker? No, that has not been considered yet. Two or three spaces would be good. Who will plow the parking lot? David said it will be privately managed so that plowing and landscaping maintenance will be handled by Montgomery. Max asked if the low point for drainage would be the area where the sunken area would be? No, said David, it is at the beginning of Mountain View Drive. Biofiltration will be used. The runoff is to a wetland area. What percentage is retailers looking at areas, asked Rob? David said about 40% of the businesses would be locally owned. He also said he would like a postal annex. Also, a satellite City Hall. Dispute about Longview, WA mall- how many local business owners were driven out. David said they were accommodated. Hugh asked if David could name the retailers yet? No, but in about a month. What are the lease rates? David said they were structured differently and so the units were not comparable. For example, units nearer to the center would be more expensive per square foot than units toward the outer edges. The plaza will be designed as the final phase. This provides the opportunity to cut it entirely depending on how the finances for the remainder of the development work out.

Anchorage Job Center- Mountain View- The October number of residents using the resource room is 872 according to the sign-in sheets. The resource room is open to all residents looking for a job, wanting career information, or in need of educational assistance. The Veteran's Job Fair on Thursday, November 10th at Muldoon had Mountain View residents in attendance. Mountain View residents needing transportation to job fairs at locations outside the neighborhood can request it at the Mountain View Job Center 24 hours prior to the fair start.

President Hugh Wade called for the meeting to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Alexander, Secretary
Mountain View Community Council