

July 8, 2010 minutes

Minutes of the Fairview Community Council General Membership Meeting

The Fairview Community Council held its regularly scheduled meeting at the Fairview Recreation Center on July 8, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Chamard at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

President's Report: Sharon Chamard

Sharon's report was brief. She suggested that members and guests could read written copies of the minutes of the executive board meeting. Chris Constant will give a report on the upcoming Fairview Block Party.

Sharon gave an update about a contact she had with a resident of Orca Street. The resident expressed concerns about boarded up properties on the east side of Orca Street apparently owned by the Municipal Airport. At one time these houses were rented out but had been unoccupied and boarded up for some time. However, between the time of Sharon's contact with the Orca resident and today's meetings, the buildings on the properties were demolished. Sharon reported that it may be part of the airport's master plan to build hangars on these properties. She is going to review the Master Plan for Merrill Field and report back.

Secretary's Report

Michael Howard was excused from tonight's meeting. Sharon reported that she would track down copies of the minutes from the May council meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Ron Alleva reported that the current balance of our bank account is \$1,599.42. Ron reimbursed Harry \$305 for his work on the dividers. Ron expressed concern that the account is rapidly dwindling. Money has been allocated to S. J. Klein for the block party. The Council may need to do more fund raising to keep us out of the red.

Guest Presentation

Jenni Ragland from the Salvation Army gave a presentation about construction for the Corps Community Center that will be located on their current campus on the far west side of the Fairview Neighborhood.

Ms. Ragland reported the Salvation Army was a long-term member of the Anchorage community moving here in the 1940s and one of Anchorage's oldest nonprofit organizations. The Corps McConnell Shelter has been open for about three years and served 120 families during the past year.

While their goal is to move families into long-term housing within 30 days, the average length of stay for families is 47 days. The design of the new community center will match and complement the architecture of the current buildings on the campus. The building will contain a chapel and a large

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community gymnasium. The second floor will contain a small library, computer lab, and a kitchen. The possibility exists to open the area up so that it can accommodate parties for up to 75 individuals. The Corps considers that the facility will be a nice addition to the Fairview community.

The building will cost \$5.7 million which the Corps considers fairly affordable for a building of this size. Ms. Ragland brought architectural drawings of the façade of the building but apologized for not bringing information on the size of the new facility.

The Corps plans to provide after school programs in the facility. They currently provide music classes to kids. She pointed out that in Anchorage music education classes are delayed until the 6th grade or middle school. They also plan to offer literary classes and classes on how to be responsible tenants. She pointed out that while Fairview Recreation Center is a great option for kids, children on the west side of Fairview must cross several major roads to get there. She believes this project will help kids on the west side of Fairview and complement the Loussac Manor update.

Community members had several questions for Ms. Ragland.

Regina Manteufel expressed concerns about difficulties she had trying to collect clothes for clients of Clitheroe. She asked whether the new Salvation Army facility would have a site for people needing clothes for job interviews etc.

Ms. Ragland replied that clothing distribution is handled through their family home complex and that this arrangement is unlikely to change. She reported that the Corps has not finalized the programmatic elements of the new facility. They would love to hear feedback from the community about services that may be needed.

Allen Kemplen asked about the layout of the building.

Ms. Ragland responded that there will be classroom space on the first and second floors. The Corps intends to build in flexibility. She said they have just begun the conversation about specific programs and invited the community to come and be part of the development process. She said that she would take our suggestions and requests back to the Corps.

Sharon Chamard asked Ms. Ragland to come back to talk to us about potential programs when the Corps start to develop their programmatic elements.

Ms. Ragland invited community members to come to the ground blessing and opening reception on Sunday August 23, to touch, feel, and see the campus and project location. Pictures and handouts will be available at the reception that may answer some of our questions.

Ron Alleva expressed his concerns about the potential of this project to be similar to other organizations that make promises to the Fairview community but do not keep them. He pointed out that Fairview lost the potential for jobs when the McConnell project was developed on land that could have been used for office buildings. Ron wanted to make new members of the council and the community aware of the

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history of Fairview and its interactions with other nonprofit organization because the community has been burned before.

Community Comments and Concerns

Allen Kemplen expressed concerns about planes crashing into his house and not being able to recoup the costs. Fairview seems to have seems to have experienced an inordinate number of crashes. Most of the little private planes are not required to carry insurance so if one of these guys lands on your house you are not going to be able to collect from an insurance company. You would have to initiate a civil suit suite against the pilot. He believes that because of these threats to the municipality that general aviation pilots at Merrill Field should be required to carry some type of liability insurance. He would like to see if risk management officer for the municipality would come and talk to our council and neighbors about this issue because of the danger and high level of risk we experience.

Sharon Chamard replied that she got this ball rolling a couple of years ago after the last crash but had not gone any farther.

Chris Constant suggested that the solution might be some type of special levy for pilots.

Geoff Humphreys brought up the need for the community council to put together a resolution supporting gay rides. He referenced the burning of the gay pride float the weekend before the Fourth of July parade.

Sharon Chamard said that Ray Moore called Senator Ellis' to request the municipality to name a park in Fairview after his father Grady Moore. She pointed out that while Grady was really special that we have a lot of people who have made a difference in the neighborhood and not a lot of parks.

Allen Kemplen suggested that when the Fairview Community Council is remodeled that we have a wall commemorating citizens—a Fairview Wall of Fame. Grady deserves to be on our neighborhood wall of fame. Allen encouraged the council to bring this issue up again and to find out where we stand in reference to the feasibility study for remodeling the center. Perhaps Senator Ellis could help soliciting funds for a tastefully designed wall of fame. We could ask Parks and Rec to give us a cost estimate and then we could approach the legislature and assembly for funding.

A Lucky Wishbone employee reported that the Lucky Wishbone would be willing to support funding of the way.

Geoff Humphreys reported that the Anchor Gateway element on 15th Avenue has chipped paint.

Allen Kemplen added that the fishing poles gateway element also show wear and tear.

Sharon Chamard asked if we have any money left in our streetscape funding package of \$250,000. She suggested that we work with other community councils on the bridge fishing poles.

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A discussion followed about the form that the wall could take and the materials, design etc. that could be used including photographs on wood or granite. Ron Alleva was going to bring the contact information of Domissary (spelling) carpenter shop.

Regina Manteufel raised concerns about the maintenance of some of the diverters in the neighborhood particularly the one at 10th Avenue. She also called for an accounting of the community work service detail that was supposed to weed and maintain the grounds in from on the recreation.

Harry Deuber said that the only diverter left in the neighborhood to be adopted is 12th and Juneau.

Sharon Chamard pointed out in response to Regina's comment, the need for written documentation of promises for work etc made between the council and other groups. Without such documentation it is difficult to hold anyone accountable.

Harm Reduction and Public Safety Committees

The Harm Reduction and Public Safety Committees met in a joint session. One of the major issues is how do we hold service organizations accountable for their impacts on the community.

Susan Bomalaski of Brother Francis Shelter suggested that we enter into memorandum of understanding with other organizations. Then it would be possible to hold other organizations accountable perhaps as part of their conditional use permits.

Sharon Chamard pointed out that she has six old boxes of records of the community council that have not been reviewed. They may hold some useful information about prior agreements and commitments. She asked Geoff if he would be available to do some research work of legal citations if in the future the council should sue someone.

Patrick Flynn, Assembly Representative, had another commitment tonight.

Senator Ellis is visiting his family outside so he won't be able to be here tonight.

Chris Constant, Block Party Update

Chris provided an update on the community block party. Heck of a concept. We have to raise money. The plan party is now moved from 17th to August 7. We are going to have music and local restaurants have been invited. We have secured the required permits and plan to close the road next to Fairview Elementary School. We have a stage. We are looking for tents as contributions. We are going to have both children's and adult activities. We will scale back our plans if we can't raise the money.

Sharon talked to federation of neighborhoods. We can be put on their insurance.

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Chris Constant pointed out the importance of capturing and connecting people to our organization. The more impact we have through activities like the block party, the more people we will have when we need help.

A discussion followed about the awards and gift certificates to be distributed at the block party. One topic at last week's executive board meeting was determining whether awards like the Good Citizenship Award should be given out year or only when outstanding contributions were made by a specific individual on as needed basis.

It was suggested that could give out a Grady Award. We could also just give out beatification certificates and general good neighbor awards.

Ron Alleva has bowling balls and certificates that we can use.

Chris Constant said that invitations to the party would go out shortly and that banners would be placed at public places.

Sharon Chamard pointed out the amazing connections that people on the planning committee have and what they have been able to do.

Sharon called for any other committee reports.

A discussion followed about road construction projects in the neighborhood which included the construction on 9th Avenue that has reached as far as Cordova Street and the redo at the intersection of 13th and Gamble which should start by the end of the month

Allen said that DOT&PF were doing a safety improvement by putting in a median. He pointed out that the Council had been successful in getting assistance from the legislature for this project that will include landscaping, signature fencing, and gateway element. Because of the late start of the project, the landscaping may not go in until next year. When the project is finished it will aesthetically pleasing and another visible metric of how Fairview is moving forward.

Senator Ellis's represented that the Senator is have her call the project engineers one a week.

Sharon Chamard reported that Carrs is having 60th anniversary. They are interested in celebrating. She suggested that perhaps we could hold a double celebration with completion of the intersection.

Old Business

Sharon Chamard reported that no resolutions were released from committee.

New Business

Two brief discussions followed. One about Earl and Muriel King Park. In the past we have helped clean the park but Sharon pointed out that South Addition needs to exert their control over the park. They are planning on brush clearing 9 to 2 this Saturday. South addition needs to exert their control.

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The other discussion was about cancelling the August meetings. In May we talked about cancelling some summer meetings. One thing that was proposed in May was cancelling June and August.

The decision was made to hold the August meeting because it set us up for September. We can take of housekeeping stuff before September so that we are not too overloaded.

Geoff pointed out that despite the small turn out for tonight's meeting that he felt it was one of our most productive meetings

Sharon reminded on important dates coming up. The deadline is tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. for comments to be submitted about Karluk Manor to the planning and zoning commission. Important dates on agenda. Some people have already submitted comments about Karluk Manor. The deadline is tomorrow at 5:00. aroline and I will have a flyer. We can't get comments. We need to reach out and touch the community. As soon as we

The last item of business was brief update from Ron of RurAL CAP about their project at 11th and Medfra. Construction was delayed because of the city decided that funneling runoff water into rain gardens would not acceptable. The project must connect to the city sewer system. This change has caused a short delay.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by substitute note taker Nan Mundy