

## Spenard Community Council

Meeting at 7pm, April 1st, 2015 at the Spenard Recreation Center

### Minutes

Called to order by Chair Phil Isley, introduces Jason Bergerson Vice President, other officers are Treasurer Alan Dorsal and Secretary Irène Persson-Gamble; Phil then proceeds with leading the meeting.

Senator Mia Costello was introduced via phone to give her report with 18 days left in session. Lots of challenges; most public testimony given has been focused on school bonds, education issues. Best Beginnings program etc. . State law requires the Legislature must pass the Senate Finance Committee budget proposal each year, there is a 7% increase expected. The WAMI program is going to be kept which is good news amid lots of not so positive issues being kept. She Chairs the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee which has the Marijuana legislation issue which is still in debate. Medicaid expansion still being considered even with concerns that she has about the options. Mia's phone number is 907 465-4968 Phil asked if anyone has any questions, none. Mia thanked everyone and encouraged calling her if have any concerns.

Representative Matt Claman, called in thanked everyone for attending meeting; main topic in The House is the budget process moving forward to Senate next, Medicaid expansion is supported by 60+% of population surveyed. School bonds with state percentage matching funds is a common question, Day light savings time issue, Ira Strom from Anchorage Assembly asked question about Marijuana as legislation aspects it will be decided at State level with local muni's dealing with compliance concerns. Response was that there is lots of discussion between the two parties and some things will go through and other ideas not. Governor recommended a separate Board for the Marijuana issue as Alcohol Board is very busy.

Tom McGrath asked about adding electric cigarettes, and Marijuana being included in the current State laws about cigarette/cigar/pipe smoking. Suggested decreasing the budget rather than increasing it. Response from Matt was positive about having constituents contact him at 907 465-4919 is Matt's office number in Juneau

Ira Strom reported for Ernie Hall, Assembly member, who is in DC (he is in charge of regulation committee which includes licensing for growing, sales etc of legal Marijuana, Other committee members Pete Peterson, Amy Demboski. With 11 mayoral candidates there may be such a split that no one person will get 45% of votes. That run off should be within a month. There are 3 school board seats on ballot and several bonds including 'our' favorite road "Spenard Road" as well as several other items related to library, fire trucks etc. Suggestion from Assembly is to have Planning and Public Works departments coordinate as it is very cumbersome process for permitting, amenities for the sidewalks etc in Anchorage. Marijuana, he is tired of this topic, but there is lots of work to deal with this initiative, the State and local oversight needs to be determined during this legislative session.

Bette Davis, former Alaska Senator and current Anchorage School Board member, asked to give a report about the school bonds on the ballot, though she was not on tonight's agenda as she thought, due to a miscommunication about a phone message. Phil said she could give her report after other agenda items were presented.

Airport report- May 2-3 Great Alaska Aviation, May 1st is clean up day for airport area free BBQ lunch will be provided after complete, handouts with 4 main projects: widening taxi ways Y & K, also 2 runways, reconstructing A & G parking areas. Kulis upgrades for entrance and other aspects of facility to b up to standards for muni. May 13th is a meeting that public is welcome to attend at 11:00 to hear about projects. Airport concession includes food and alcohol permits.

Valley of the Moon Park- till April 6th public can comment can review and comment on plans that are available to look over at head table,

Planning and Zoning re: Amats- proposed committee has plans to review some changes handouts on head table Also some handouts on residential subdivision building plans

Information about Arctic Boulevard upgrades were mailed to the Council for comment but the letter arrived too late to comment on issues that were due March 31st.

New Business- request for volunteers to review Capital Improvement projects, Steve Bell, Bob Auth, Jason Bergerson and Alan Thornhill offered to do this. Decided to meet this Sat April 4th, 10:00, at Kay's Restaurant on Spenard Road.

Jason B reported on Pop Carr Park upgrades project will be ready to go out for bid shortly and prep work will start as soon as possible. A Neighbors Volunteer day to help with some aspects of the work has been set for Saturday Aug 15th 9-noon

University-Medical area also has development plans that anyone interested can look at and give comments.

Parks & Recreation- report given by two colleagues of Bob O. Robertson who recommended naming Spenard Rec center after him. Bob O. Robertson worked for Parks & Rec on this facility in 70-80's, Several long time Spenard Community Council members, Alan Thornhill, Jason Bergerson and Tom McGrath, gave some history and commentary about this request. Jason made a motion to oppose adding the name of Bob O. Robertson to this facility, seconded by Tom McGrath. Members voted and motion passed, therefore the Spenard Recreation Center will not be named after Bob O. Robertson.

"Nextdoor" is a closed social media concept similar to facebook in some ways that was presented by Albert Whitehead. He has been sharing information about this electronic based system similar to the Neighborhood Watch program with several community councils at their meetings since October 2013. Good responses from those who are using this system which is a closed membership program to send out news feeds electronically among the neighbors who have signed up to be involved. Hundreds of people in Spenard, South Addition and Turnagain area is split north and south, are already using this system. Several positive comments from members as well as questions

Bettye Davis presented information about the \$59 million dollars in school bonds and gave specifics about several aspects of the bonds including how the State is expected to reimburse a portion of these costs. Though with current concerns in Juneau regarding budget cuts due to lower oil profits there is talk that the State will not be able to reimburse as expected and then may increase property taxes instead. Alan Thornhill asked what is the maintenance percentage cost in schools, her answer was that she did not know off the top what the amount is but will look into it and get back to him if he gives her his contact info. Peg Auth asked 'how the state can pull back on revenue to support school when the state constitution says it is a requirement to educate all children. Phil gave his perspective on this issue he heard on 'talk radio' that the school district had a "slush fund of \$36 million" that they pulled out later when State funds were not sufficient to meet the proposed budget. Bettye said that was not true and discussed the issue as well as fielded several questions and comments about the school board in general.

Meeting minutes to be amended to include last names where some were missing. Peg Auth moved to have secretary do this, seconded, approved.

Bill Marsh announced the planning committee for the "President's Streets" Block party has set for Sunday June 14th, which is America's Flag day as the date for this event. everyone in this Spenard area neighborhood is invited and welcome to attend.

Adjourned 8:35