

Spenard Community Council Meeting

October 7, 2015

Minutes

Chair Phil called meeting to order 7:02

Legislative Reports:

Representative Mia Costello- Governor Walker has called Legislators to Special Session In Juneau week of October 26th. Two issues to be addressed; the potential buy out of TransCanada Gas Pipeline by state of Alaska and budgetary issues including new tax options. Mia asked if any questions, one regarding gas pipeline construction expertise being part of reason that TransCanada is considered for the . An assistant to Chris Tuck said CT is en route, also Matt Claman will be at meeting shortly.

Anchorage Assembly report by Tim Steele first then Ira Perlman in for Ernie Turner. Budgetary issues and getting used to new City administration. At last meeting there was contentious issue regarding equal rights amendments for everyone. Title 21 is still in re-write stage and a committee on economic growth with some new members since new Mayor Berkowitz is now in office. Report on legal aspects of marijuana sale and use through out state and especially city of Anchorage. Several people eagerly awaiting the finalization of legal parameters so can state their businesses in early 2016. Several comments and questions related to if there will be civil or criminal ramifications if laws are not followed. Originally there was an assumption the same system as liquor licensing would be used but this has been decided is not the route to go. An explanation of regulating property owners rights versus a neighbor's concern for the condition of the property's appearance i.e. too much 'junk' and a state of disrepair of buildings etc. was given. Update on sections of Spenard road work that is in progress.

Phil mentioned that Ira Perlman is running for Ernie Hall's Assembly seat.

A question from Peggy Auth about the correlation of population in an area to determine how many business outlets would be allowed for marijuana

sales. Where and how many businesses will be permitted is in consideration by the Assembly. Some commentary from audience members about related concerns.

Legislators Chris Tuck and Matt Claman arrived and also reported on upcoming Special Session agenda items. TransCanada Gas pipeline buy out by State of Alaska. State would be 25% owner. There is litigation in place now against Governor Walker, brought forth by a group of Republican Legislators. This group hired an attorney from Wash DC to research if Governor Walkers intention to expand Medicare coverage for Alaskans would be found "unconstitutional". There are statues in place to deal with issue that impacts social services for residents who are eligible for Medicaid and the Lesislature knew coming into session last January that Gov Walker said he would pursue Medicaid expansion. Matt will answer questions after this meeting for anyone who would like to discuss issues in more detail.

Report by Eric Croft, from Anchorage School Board, various schools that are in line for major construction projects, West High and a some of others in other areas of town. Due to fiscal challenges within school district and city that will not be receiving state economic support there is consideration to change the plans for these projects and instead close several schools. Maintenance bonds for schools is coming up for vote in future. Alan Thorne brought up about transgender student acceptance in school district.

Phil asked if anyone was present from the Mayor's office. No response at this point.

John Johansson, Anchorage airport liaison, reported on noise exposure report that has been sent to FAA for approval. Draft alternatives for future development in airport are available for review. There is a new vendor at airport near Bag claim 4 called "Alaska Outfitter" that will sell fishing and hunting licenses and related gear/apparel. Mentioned the problem of invasive plant species in Lake Hood/Spenard Lake (also several other small lakes in west side area) impacted float plane traffic and other environmental issues. Dept of Natural Resources is currently in involved in attempts to eradicate the growth with herbicide treatments. Runways closed for maintenance will impact landing and take off patterns and therefore noise issues. Question from audience about the invasive species

impacting float plane activity. Phil mentioned a plane that needed to be lifted by helicopter from a crash site

Report from Brianne Keifer regarding school bus traffic in Hillcrest area impacting Romig & West parking lots. Access by buses will impact general traffic and stunt drop of area. Upgrades on hockey rink boards and tennis courts are in design stage to be initiated in 2016. Open to questions.

Taylor Quinn, Beth Norlund Ex Director of Parks Foundation which partners with from City Parks & Rec for improvement projects. Report from involved citizen Shauna who was inspired to apply for a "Challenge Grant" to improve Barbara park in Spenard to be insure full accessibility to Barbabra park. Grant was given and an Eagle Scout project was included. A work party was held on Aug 6th, about 60 people turned out during 6 hours. Kiwanis Fish Creek park, which is in Turnagain council area but because it is "next door" to Spenard council area the project included both areas. Everyone is invited to be involved in process to give input and feedback as the project progresses. The 'big picture' efforts are to include the community in improving the Green belt area, Contact info for Taylor was made available on the back table of meeting room.

Jason Bergerson gave report on recent improvements on Pop Carr Park made this past spring and summer and culminated in a ribbon cutting event August 15th. Taylor mentioned on October 29th a party will be held for the replacement bridge being installed by crane near West High at 6 pm. A parade is being planned also. Discussion on several aspects of Fish Creek park area that has approved plans awaiting fiscal support etc. Member Jay Stange shared insight about Fish Creek accessibility & connectivity issues near the railroad due to safety. Sewage project near Westchester Lagoon area is another issue to be considered in this area of town.

Cook Inlet Housing project- Tyler Robinson made a presentation at last months meeting regarding this project. Question was asked about what percentage of project requires 'affordable housing' units, she was not sure of exact percent but thought it was substantial. Tom moved to pass the motion from Cook Inlet Housing Alan seconded it, area is former location of PJ's Night Club, Peg asked about parking situation in the project area. and accessibility to 36th Ave and Minnesota or Spenard Road. Concerned about no sidewalks and pedestrian safety. The units are one bedroom so

less likely to need several parking places per unit. Title 21 guidelines and regulations are being followed. Phil inserted that "it's the new Spenard so everyone will be bicycling" instead of driving cars. Motioned carried.

Rezoning Request on Northwood, to have small affordable housing units was requested by Lee Henry from ReMax Properties. His company is requesting the vacant property along west Northwood, previously a mobile home park to be rezoned for 680 affordable housing units in a flood plain so the construction plans are for the apartments to be built on pilings in order to avoid flood water getting into the living space of the development. He gave ownership history etc about the property originally owned by one one entity but several years later was split for sale. There was an issue by one of the new owners that would impede entrance and exit options to the south portion of the property area. Mr Henry described the aspects of the nature of flood plains and how new technology can overcome the problems and therefore make this property suitable for housing now. Jason Bergerson brought up history about this property area and how much of taxpayers money has been spent already to assess the concerns of potential impact of future development and the excessive traffic flow. Mr Henry responded that the tenants would be young people who work shift jobs and the traffic in and out would be dispersed throughout the day. Lots of discussion and concern among the neighbors about the impact of this development to the neighborhood in several ways.

Phil mentioned that copies of the UMed district plan that is going to be updated on October 15th is available for people to review.

Next meeting is November 4th.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00