

Spenard Community Council Wednesday February 1st 2017
Meeting called to order 7:05 by Chairperson Jed Smith

Lindsey gave a report on Bike Anchorage with good news about the project

'Winter Bike to Work Day' will be on Tuesday February 7th. As a supportive incentive if you wear your bike helmet into Spenard RoadHouse on that date you can get complimentary tater tots.

David Nees introduced himself and announced he is running for the Assembly Seat representing West Anchorage

Jay Stenge- introduced the SCC officers. Added a reminder that progress on the Spenard Corridor Plan is available on-line at the AMATS website.

Agenda approved with addition of item Spenard Community Garden approved.

Minutes from January 4th 2017 approved with 2 corrections of names Walker and Scamon

Anchorage Police officer Tasha Welch with Neighborhood Watch, since 1982, gave an informative and upbeat report citing Anchorage as the only city in Alaska with a continuous Neighborhood Watch program. She would like to see more residents of the Spenard community in particular get involved with this citizens supported program.

Assembly report from Tim Steele- April 4th is the Municipal Election. There will be some Bonds on the ballot though don't know specifics yet. After 20+ years the Spenard Road Design is finally nearing completion and construction will start in late spring. The Assembly members are concerned how State Legislature decisions regarding the State budget are going to impact Anchorage. Question was asked about snow plowed berms getting removed from streets and roads for visibility safety seem to be very slow this year. Reason for delays are because of budget cuts the State has quit taking responsibility for some city roads so the Municipality has to plow more miles of roadways and there is not a contract with the International airport this year for a snow dump so haul trucks have farther to go to unload snow on the West side of town. Anchorage is going to have to come up with more fiscal resources in various areas as State's financial situation is worsens. Tim said he thinks Mayor Berkowitz is doing a good job and is trying to address issues that impact the city.

John Johansson gave report on Anchorage International Airport-

A handout of his report is available on the back table. The Airport Use plan is in finalizing stages and public comments are still being accepted until plan is completed. Job Fair was held for State positions that are airport related. A Dept. of Transportation presentation was held at the Alaska Airlines Auxiliary facility near the University of Alaska, Anchorage with information related to the functioning of the airport. There are still job opportunities for heavy equipment

operators at the airport. Snow clearing has impacted take off and landing runway which effects Spenard residents when the East-West runway is in use. Question asked why airport's not allowing snow dump now; answer is FAA is moving toward charges for non aviation uses to be paid at fair market values, which is \$250,000/year. John explained in detail both cost and legal aspects that impacted why the contract for snow storage was not renewed.

Resolution #2017-2-1-1; Jed explained the Resolutions purpose which has been proposed to split the current Midtown Community Council between Spenard's Council area and North Star's area. Jason Bergerson gave some history about how the areas were designated originally then redistricting and reapportionment changes were made several years ago. Midtown area now consists mostly of businesses and the few resident properties are mostly rentals and there tends to be less active member participation among renters. Jason made the motion, and it was seconded, to accept this proposal, the resolution passed.

Resolution 2017-2-1-2, was presented by Shawna Toma. She was also one of the people involved with the Barbara Park Re-development project that was a great success. She gave a brief history of Fish Creek was a vibrant water shed with salmon and trout in the early 1900's. Unfortunately Fish Creek was one of the first waterways in Anchorage to be negatively impacted by urban growth and development as the city expanded to the south. There was a Fish Creek Festival last summer that spurred lots of interest in maintaining this area of our community. Since then she and others has been doing research on some possible projects to positively impact the recently completed Barbara Park and potentially enhance connections to the planned Fish Creek Park areas. For instance they found out there are 75,000 dogs in Anchorage that put out 10,000 pounds of waste a day in the city. In an effort to minimize the potential for that much dog poop polluting the parks and waterways in our community they are asking the SCC to give \$2000.00 as a match for a grant the group is applying for to install trash receptacles and provide doggy plastic bag stations in Barbara Park as well as in Fish Creek Park areas. The containers that are 'bear and raven proof' cost \$450.00 each and would be noted with signage that they were partially donated by the Spenard Community Council. A suggestion was made by a member in the audience to check if a local welding shop could replicate the receptacles, if they are not under patent protection, and could comply with municipal requirements to give this project a more 'hometown' support of local artisans and crafts people. Those in attendance gave a verbal response of agreement to the idea and Jay asked if Shawna would accept a 'Friendly amendment' to look into that possibility and let the SCC know what she finds out. She agreed very positively. Jay then asked for a treasurers report prior to a 'call for the question', which Treasurer Peggy Auth gave, as of today there is \$27,360.54 in the bank account. She also shared some history of how the funds were obtained over the years from Shelly Gordon who was involved with the Spenard Beautification Committee. She was instrumental in getting Chilkoot's to donate \$0.50cents per ticket to their Summer Solstice event each year to the SCC. Also the sale of a vehicle used for the duration of the Spenard Community Services program added \$10,000.00 to the coffers. Of course the recommended annual dues to be a voting member of the Spenard Community Council are part of the total as well. After the report was

given the resolution was approved unanimously by the members.

Michelle & Olivia gave a report about the Community Garden Project- GardenCopia. They and several volunteers have done a survey on where another community owned garden could be established per the Anchorage Community Land Trust, e-address is [spenardcommunitygarden@ gmail.com](mailto:spenardcommunitygarden@gmail.com)

Wilson Street park is current area that has been selected after door to door surveying of neighbors proved to be very positive in creating a community garden in this location. They recently attended a Parks Foundation workshop and found out helpful information on how to proceed with the plans for a community garden. In order to secure money from various funding sources to support preparation of a garden with water faucets, moose proof fencing etc. it is necessary that the group receive a 'Letter of Support' from the local community council., which the SCC agreed to provide.

Matt Edge with CRW Engineer Group gave a presentation with visuals on an AMATS Federally funded project along Benson Blvd. It is their second project in the area which includes replacing asphalt, widening the bike pathway, eliminating some driveways among other improvements. More information at the website [Anchorage trail rehab.com](http://AnchorageTrailRehab.com). Jay S. mentioned that he had never heard of this project and wondered why it had been chosen considering there are many other needs in the community that seem to be a higher priority. Comment from a member that is a regular bike commuter said Spenard and Benson are by far the worst design for bikers and hopes this will make needed improvements. Questions regarding Fish Creek Trail project also came up about the lighting concerns and how funds are being used to replace halogen lights with LEDs in the project area. Additional comments were made by members that were responded to as much as possible by Matt.

Midnight Sun car rental business owners had their representative, Tom, ask SCC to consider a request for re-zoning of nearby residential properties, in order to accommodate additional parking for their expanding business. Offering some trade offs for the residents on Iowa Drive, such as buffered landscaping and eliminating commercial vehicle access on that street. Lots of questions from concerned neighbors that have homes that abut the 2 residential lots that have been purchased by the owners of the Midnight Sun. Tom will research in more detail answers to the neighbors questions and present again at the March 1st meeting.

Jason Bergerson shared information about his role in "Community Works" and asked to be an 'official' representative from SCC to that organization. As Chair of SCC Jed Smith 'appointed' Jason to the position requested. Adjourned 8:56, next meeting March 1st.