

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes

Spenard Recreation Center

2020 West 38th Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska

June 14th, 2017

Jed Smith (Chairperson) - Jed opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and introduced Executive Board members that were present. Jed shared the next Spenard Community Council meeting will be held on September the 6th. The Fish Creek Festival will be held on September 9th, and he encourages community members to keep an ear open for more details.

Community Announcements: Emily shared concerns on Oregon Drive during the last few months. Victoria Peterson shared her capstone project exploring our neighborhood entitled “the Spenardian”. Annette T. shared idea for community announcement weatherproof signage on Shakespeare Circle. Mark Butler shared the Spenard Road Construction Project. On June 15th, the Spenard Chamber of Commerce are engaging in a groundbreaking tomorrow morning at 11AM. He encouraged community members to visit Spenard Farmer’s Market which will remain onsite at W. 26th and Spenard during construction. Brooke Blessing shared a public open house regarding the Spenard Road Construction project will be held bi-weekly office at SKIAK building located beginning Wednesday, June 21 from 10AM to 12PM.

Peggy moved to approve June 14th agenda, Sophie seconded.

Peggy moved to approve May 3rd meeting minutes. Resounding seconds from the Council.

Eric Croft - Wonders about Spenard Community Council’s perception of high number of marijuana retail concentration in Spenard, and encourages community members to share. Assembly vote on bill regarding code enforcement that a dog may not bark more than five minutes straight or face a coding complaint. Immunity for prostitutes delayed. RV bill regarding extended stay in store parking lots pulled. Public Safety Community concerned and looking to achieve numbers to validate community concerns, particularly related to opiate-related health concerns and crimes.

Tim Steele - ML&P and Chugach Electric discussion regarding proposal increase cooperation between the two major electric providers in the Anchorage area. The aim is to minimize duplicative infrastructure within the city. Downtown proposal for 180 units of senior housing.

Anchorage Airport Planning Management Team - Lake Hood Seaplane master plan is wrapping up. There will be public notice regarding the final version of the plan. The northwest side of Lake Hood has active construction. Later this summer, Postmark Drive will be re-paved. Passenger screening wait-times have increased due to high tourist volumes. There is currently a federally-funded project to improve the north/south runway. The runway will be closed for operations for 1 or 2 construction seasons beginning in 2018. There will be a temporary increase in air traffic and noise over areas east of the airport during construction. A public meeting is being held on June 22nd on the Coast International Inn from 5PM - 7PM regarding the project.

Brooke Blessing (Municipality of Anchorage) - There are two Fish Creek projects. The Fish Creek Trail rehabilitation project is fully funded and will be completed next summer. There is also a new project proposing a new part of the trail to link Northwood Park to Spenard Road. This project has been around since the 1980s and a federal grant is funding the project. There will be construction activity with a new bridge and the final trail being put into place next summer. There is currently an easement going along the property that will be the Municipality's responsibility regarding municipal rights, and anything outside of the easement will be private property owner's responsibility. The Turnagain Blvd project will update lighting in tunnels around the area.

Community Development Guiding Principles Resolution - Jed explains background of this workshop as the Planning and Zoning Department has asked for a resolution of this type as a guidance instrument. Sophie reads proposed document aloud. There is a question regarding the first principle regarding if permit applicants are currently required to attend Spenard Community Council meetings for feedback. Several community members chimed in and shared there is no such requirement, though the Council has a lot of power in process and is considered by the Municipal Planning Department. A community member suggested the next step for the Council is to write a neighborhood plan adopted formally by the Anchorage Assembly. There was support for the resolution from community members throughout discussion in so far as the proposed document provides a reliable foundation for future decisions.

Vote on the Resolution - Peggy moved to approve Resolution 06-03-01. Bill seconded. Passes unanimously.

John Fisher (Anchorage Bowl) - Hopes to work with members of the Spenard community as proposed marijuana retail location at 4000 Spenard Road is underway. Shelton Landon, a local artist involved in the proposed business bought the building in 2000 and has noticed many improvements in Spenard since this time. He prioritized the values of safety and community engagement within this business opportunity. There were community concerns about close proximity to women's shelter and parking around the property.

Jed reminded everyone we will not be meeting in July or August 2017. The next meeting will be held on September the 6th. The Facebook page, Spenard Community Council, and the Nextdoor app are great sources of information regarding happenings.

Motion to adjourn at 8:58PM.