

**Spenard Community Council**  
**Minutes**  
**September 6, 2017**

Welcome by Jay Stange, vice chair welcomed everyone to meeting and introduced Executive Board members that were present.

Meeting called to order by Jed Smith, Chairperson at 7:00 (19:00) asked for introductions of anyone attending their first Spenard Community council meeting, and if there are any additions to the agenda, comments or announcements. A few newcomers introduced themselves.

Someone asked question about results of the **request for re-zoning of the Northwood at the Park property (Bettchers subdivision)** owners that he heard about at the last ACC meeting he attended earlier in the spring. Jed explained a bit of the background of this issue for those who may not be aware of the property owners request for changing the zoning of this piece of land, west off Northwood Drive between West 46-47th Avenues, to be ‘allowed” to build a 6 story apartment complex with over 600 units of rentals. The re-zone request was voted down by the Spenard Community Council members and the result of that vote was passed along to the Municipal Land Use and Zoning department. The owner is still in the process of trying to present altered building proposals that might be less invasive to the current density of domiciles for this neighborhood’s standards and individual property owners concerns in the area. Comments were made by some observers to what goes on in this piece of land currently ie “homeless” persons encampments, dumping of used and broken up large chunks of concrete by private vehicles. Jed told the group there would be a discussion after the meeting is adjourned for those who would like to stay on for a half hour to share more information and concerns regarding land use, re-zones and Municipal Code enforcement of violations etc.

**Announcements:**

October 19th a meeting about Public Safety will be held in the community. More info hopefully will be provided at next council meeting, as secretary could not hear details at the time nor on my recording of the meeting:(

Satchel from the Anchorage & Kenai Peninsula Food Hub farmers market gave overview and left “beautiful colorful” brochures about the program. Questions from group about details. Call or e-mail for more details, 907 35-4068 Extension 23 info@kenaifoodhub.org

Question from an attendee about if the public would be invited to view the apartment complex being finished shortly along Spenard Road south of 36th Ave. Tyler Robinson from Cook Inlet Housing will be at October meeting with information about facility and land use. Someone else in the audience shared that there will be an ‘Open House’ on September 12th to view this new facility in our neighborhood:-)

**Neighborhood Watch program** was given major Kudos by Bill Marsh who lives in a nearby area. He raved about the APD representative who came to describe the program and encouraged other residents to initiate the Neighborhood Watch on their street.

Representative for Harriet Drummond announced there will be an LIO, Legislative Information Office, open house at new location, 1500 west Benson in mid October, 16 or 17th. Final details will be dispersed via mailings to constituents as well as public service advertising.

Pam, the “fabulous” manager of Spenard Recreation Center, asked to let the group know that SRC is now a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) distribution location for those who are eligible for this program. Please pass the information along to others.

P September 26th & October

Another Cannabis business will present at October meeting

**June meeting minutes** approved.

**Assembly Report-** Eric Croft gave information about a special meeting called during the summer that was held for public input on new retail cannabis businesses in town, but no one showed up. Residents are encouraged to continue giving feedback on any concerns about these new businesses in our community. Budget discussions have resulted in 25 new police officers to begin upcoming police academy and looking to add 28 more officers at next academy. Eric is head of Public Safety committee and main focus is now on concerns of heroin use and subsequent deaths, which the number is unprecedented for a town of our population compared to other cities in the ‘States’. Several other aspects of community concern such as house and vehicle break-ins and more ‘homeless camps’ around Anchorage are very likely directly related to the highly addictive nature of heroin use. Question was asked about if Legislature might consider changing the laws to minimize the level of crime status in cases of mental illness etc of perpetrators of petty crimes; it is in process for consideration. He receives lots of comments about the homeless camps around the municipality and a variety of legal issues including land use violations such as someone’s description of homeless people camping in an RV, on private property, that they know is used for drug dealing & prostitution.

Jason Bockenstedt from Mayor’s office, gave **update on Spenard Road Project** is about 10 days delayed due to heavy & frequent rain this summer. Peggy Auth asked about why a portion of Spenard Road was repaved that seemed unnecessary. Reply was that funding was available to upgrade for ADA handicap access.

**Voting by Mail-** Tom McGrath reported on concerns about current voting system, As of April 2018 the Vote by Mail system will be in place, very secure, high technology machines, ballots will be mailed to current qualified voters 21 days prior to election day, will boost percentage of voter turnout per Oregon, Washington and California statistics.

Several members of the **“Fighting Fifth” Anchorage Fire Station** were at the meeting and were thanked for the job they do to protect our neighborhood homes and businesses!

**John Johanson- Anchorage Airport update,** Lake Hood tie down provisions will have some changes coming up, transportation fair coming up, airport still looking to hire heavy equipment operators. Peggy has concern regarding airport not being upfront about the major impact that construction on runways 33 & 15 will have on the Spenard/Midtown neighborhoods due to excessive jet noise. John said he will share that concern with the department to increase

the public information about this extended maintenance construction project that could take up to several months.

Jed reported he is on “**Public Transit Use**” **committee** and that the transit system is in the process of being re-designed to shift bus routes without additional budget resources. Peggy asked Jed to explain Spenard Corridor plan and how it could impact future development of the area. Jed requested that the SCC members vote on a resolution to support the impending changes in the bus routes in order to improve aspects of the system. Some discussion among members who also realize there will be detriments to some ridership areas where routes will be eliminated Jay asked for “The Question to be called” which it was by Tawny, seconded then voted on by asking if anyone was opposed, none so resolution passed.

Jay shared Invitation to **Fish Creek Festival**- Saturday September 9th. At 10:00 till 1:00 (13:00) is creek clean up near Barbara Street & Woodland Park drive, 3:00-9:00(15: -21:00) will feature food trucks, activities for children and a variety of live musical entertainment highlighted group is “Big Fat Buddha” starting 7:30 (19:30) Community organizations that are supporting the event include Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Kristin Collins from ACAT attended this SCC meeting, Midnight Sun Rentals business representative offered to contribute \$500. to match the \$500. Jay asked the SCC council to vote on donating to the Festival. Excellent support for this great event in Spenard that hopefully will continue to be held annually.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30** by Jed who invited everyone interested to stay and discuss Zoning and Land Use issues, as mentioned earlier in the meeting. About a dozen people stayed to discuss issues and specific violations they are concerned with in the Spenard vicinity.