

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday Dec 6th 2017

SCC President Jed Smith opened meeting at 7:11

Announcements:

A comment made by a resident who found it interesting and exciting to watch the construction progress along the north section of Spenard Road. Even though there were detours and some delays it was worth it to see the improvements for safety and visual enhancement.

Dipper Donuts owner Laura Cameron announced they are open for business at a small retail shop at 1209 West 36th on Tuesday through Friday from 6 am till they sell out which is usually by 10 am. Everyone is welcome to sample the donuts she brought to the meeting.

Approval of Agenda and adoption of Nov 1st meeting minutes

Anchorage International Airport report; from John Johanson, The Lake Hood Seaplane base advisory committee is accepting Public comments now through January 19th, 2018, regarding proposed changes to the regulations. The notice can be viewed on the Online Public Notice System aaws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=187873

Reminders; spread the word to Not walk on Lake Hood ice as it is an active run way. Also vehicles on drop off and pick-up ramps are subject to Police citation and a TSA fine if left unattended. Through out holiday season music will be provided in the terminal by local elementary school choirs. The north/south Runway 15/33 will be in construction mode for rehabilitation partially during the summer of 2018 and fully closed during the summer 2019 which will require heavy cargo aircraft to be shifted to the east/west runways. The Airport is continuing recruitment for equipment mechanics, operators, facility maintenance, Police and Fire officers. Details can be found on Workplace Alaska or [Local 71.com/jobs](http://Local71.com/jobs) and governmentjobs.com/careers/Alaska.

Assembly report; from Tim Steele regarding Budget items being closed out 2017 and finishing up 2018; working overtime to get items included in the budget.

Discussion about for an upgrade along Benson Blvd from north end of Lois Drive to 33rd Ave. Some challenges due to differences of maintenance etc. between State and Federal plans on this project as well as concern for removing homes if the road is to be upgraded for water drainage system.

There is a culvert at Arctic Blvd. where Chester Creek floods every spring that Tim has been working on during the 5 years he has been on the Assembly. Proposed changes can impact neighborhoods in several areas of Spenard and bordering areas also.

Municipality is leasing an electric bus this winter to determine if it can function in the winter weather temperatures here.

State House of Representatives report; from Harriet Drummond. It was September when she was last at a SCC meeting and since then has been in Juneau for 2 rounds of 'special' Legislative sessions. Legislators have been focusing a lot on the SB 54 Crime Bill revisions. She did not vote for the House version due to some problems with amendments for a variety of reasons that could lead to legality issues.

New Session begins in January 2018 and there is still work to be done on past issues so there will not be much in the way of new bills coming up right away.

Question asked about new airport regulations for airplane owners per a comment John Johanson made earlier concern is possible exclusion of some plane owners ability to 'park' at Lake Hood. Another comment regarding registration fees tax for seaplane owners could be prohibitive; there is a bill still in process to determine motor fuel taxes.

Parks and Recreation; Taylor Keegan gave a thank you to SCC Board members Bill Marsh and Jed Smith for input they provided at a Parks meeting in September.

She asked for a show of hands of people who know of several small parks in the Spenard.

Lots of participants know the ones she mentioned. Recently the building

(a house) that was on the Uri Park property (which was donated to the

Municipality some years ago) was demolished. Several questions were posed about the future development of this neighborhood park. Taylor reported John Rodda the person in charge of the demolition said all utilities were still in place but Bill responded that he had checked and everything had been terminated after the demolition was done.

Someone asked what happened to The Lions Club that leased the building from the

Municipality leased for \$90.00 per month, answer Lions Club moved to another

location. Taylor said this summer a review of the park will be done and asked anyone interested in giving input can contact her regarding this property's future use.

Tyler Robinson with Cook Inlet Housing just texted Jed that the 'Church of Love' on Spenard Road near 36th Avenue was damaged by a truck that crashed into the building. A concert scheduled for this Friday had to be cancelled as repairs are needed before the facility can accommodate events again. Also the building will be the site of the

Anchorage Community House in the near future.

Update on Writers Block Bookstore & Café at 3956 Spenard Road; owners Vered Mares and Kathy McCue presented an update on the renovation of the former “Adults Only” shop that will soon be opening in early 2018. Teeka Ballas and Dawnell Smith are the other 2 owners involved in this project. They are awaiting an Occupancy Permit from the Municipality hopefully by the end of this year. Besides the book store there will be a full restaurant serving an ‘international comfort food’ menu. Also progressing with State permit for a beer & wine license. Plan to have a variety of literary activities such as poetry readings, art exhibits, music presentations and family friendly events including monthly children’s reading hour by local authors. Hours will be from 7 am till midnight. Closed on Mondays. Café seating capacity is 54 based on formula parking spaces. Answered questions from the audience. Several comments about monitoring alcohol service to insure minors are not consuming. Answered questions to everyone’s satisfaction hopefully. Check website for more information and employment opportunities at www.writersblockak.com

Old Business- regarding the Northern Lights Village Shopping Center. Holly, who is representing the property owners gave an update for members who were not at last SCC meeting. Several years ago original property owners requested a Conditional Use Permit from the Planning and Zoning for a parking lot which was granted. Lately new owners have needed to make additional changes to the parking space. A Letter of Non-objection from SCC was requested at the last meeting. There was discussion about issues such as drainage from snow pile storage on this site and impact on neighboring housing. Essentially there will not be any major changes just getting the legal paperwork to be in compliance with the re-authorized land use that was permitted. The November minutes give details on some concerns that were brought up. Jed said if there are no other concerns at this time the SCC will draft the requested letter of Non-Objection for this change to be in place for legal transfer of title to the property for current and future owners.

Jay gave a review of a committee that met via e-mails based on last meeting when Kristen Collins, with The Alaska Center, presented information related to the Title 21 Land Use Plan (finalized in 2016)

Amendments are still pending that relate to changes as requested by various entities. The issue in question is a proposed ordinance for stream buffer ‘reparian’ zones in the Anchorage Municipality to be expanded from 25 feet to 50 feet set backs for new construction on creek side properties. A resolution for support of this change was actually ‘tabled’ for a committee of concerned SCC members to look into answers to questions that were posed. At this point the committee recommends waiting until the January 2018 meeting to consider supporting this request, that will likely be addressed at

an Assembly meeting in February.

Jed announced nominations for SCC officers will be coming up in January 2018. His term as SCC President for the past 2 years will end upon election of a new President in February. Everyone who is interested in becoming more involved in our 'Superb' Spenard Community Council are encouraged to run for an office!

Municipal Code Enforcement issues- Peggy Auth announced she will be meeting with Mayor Berkowitz's liaison on Dec 7th to discuss the process regarding how the committee has handled concerns about properties that have criminal activity for instance. She has been involved for 25 years with Code Enforcement and there is an issue with the interface between citizens with concerns and the Municipality. Several serious complaints have been in limbo for up to 20 years! Resurrecting the Code Enforcement committee is the focus of the meeting set for tomorrow. ANCworks.com is link.

Community Patrols- Glen Yancha a member of Bayshore-Klatt Community Council gave a report on the value of having this type of public patrol in all Community Council areas of Anchorage to help abate property crime in particular as well as other illegal activities in residential neighborhoods. Spenard used to have a volunteer staffed Community Patrol vehicle which was provided by a grant. Suggestion was made for those interested in reviving a Patrol for SCC can stay after meeting adjourns to discuss further.

Jed adjourned meeting at 8:30