

Spenard Community Council

August 2, 2006

Call to order

The Spenard Community Council began it's meeting shortly after 7:00 p.m.

Legislative Report

Senator Hollis French gave a brief update on Oil and Gas issues. Senator also is very concerned about gang violence, and is supporting a new bill that would address witness information. A person (Material Witness) that observed a crime could be charged with a misdemeanor if he/she refused to give information to a law enforcement agency.

Peggy Auth was concerned that an innocent person that could be harassed by police if they were in the area but did not see any crime. Sam O'Connor supported the new bill and has faith that the Anchorage Police Dept. would never harass an innocent person. Tom McGrath was concerned that a 17 year old was praised for shooting a concealed weapon to defend other youths being shot at during a football game. Tom said this person should have been charged, not praised.

Agenda and Minutes

Tom McGrath made a motion to approve the agenda, motion passed. The minutes were deferred.

Announcements

John Perry from the Airport introduced Linda Bustamante. Linda is the new PR person/Airport Liaison and will be keeping us informed on whatever is happening at the airport. Some work is going on, so expect increased diversion of traffic from the north-south to the east-west runway on Mondays and Tuesdays. Lake Hood and Spenard Lake will have weeds removed by a new special machine.

Assembly Report

Pamela Jennings reported; Roosevelt Park will have a new swing set installed, update on second hand smoke ordinance, assembly will debate this issue August 15, 2006.

Off street parking is before Planning and Zoning this month. Peggy Auth is concerned that people that are intoxicated crossing the Old Seward Hwy and trying to get to their car, could get killed by speeding traffic. This issue needs to be addressed.

Police Academy graduates this Thursday.

Jerry Weaver is very concerned about the drug traffic between West 30th and West 32nd on Northstar. Tom McGrath said Northstar between W 30th and W 32nd serves prostitution and drug traffic, Anchorage Fire Dept and Anchorage Police Dept. do not need this as an access. Sam O'Connor said this has been a serious problem for many years, all agreed this part of Northstar needs to be blocked off.

Pamela said she has been advised by neighbors about the drug/prostitution activity at West 30th, 32nd & Northstar.

Allen Thornhill said truck traffic was designed in 1979 to use Harding and not West 48 and Van Buren to access truck company's, Why has this not happen yet? Peggy Auth said on Sunday there were lots of pedestrians and bike traffic (kids), she is concerned that

someone will get hurt. Pamela asked if the council members thought Harding and west Tudor intersection was dangerous? Most members said no, trucks are making that turn with no problems and that that intersection is safer than most intersections. The muni is taking full responsibility for the mistakes at Harding and Tudor intersection. Safety on Harding was discussed, forklift and truck traffic from Spenard Builders uses the roadway to conduct business. Tom McGrath suggested inviting Spenard Builders to our next meeting.

Muni Update

Teri Albrecht from PM&E provided an update on the Tudor Safety Improvement project. The estimated cost will be in the \$100,000 range, not the \$1 million plus some of us were told earlier in the month.

Several audience members oppose any work on this project until the larger issue of 48th and Harding is dealt with. Concerns about child safety continue with all of the truck traffic that goes through the neighborhood. This has been a 20 year battle to get the project done.

A suggestion was made to invite someone from SBS to attend our next meeting to talk about the forklifts and trucks used in this area.

Code Enforcement

Rich Fern from Code Enforcement updated us that they are adding a new duty, Code Enforcement will now address waste management, such as dumpsters overfull, and other hazards that deal with trash. C.E. is still dealing with 3502 and 4300 Lois and 4200 Hayes.

Peggy Auth is concerned about the Conex situation at Yamaha, Spenard and McRae, loading and unloading conex in the streets. Mr. Fern will look into that.

Minnesota Skate Park

Minnesota Park, all skate board equipment will be removed and placed at Chester Creek Park within the next month. Minnesota Park improvements will begin spring of 2007.

Road Projects

Mathew Korshin from DOWL provided an update on the Arctic Blvd work.

Other Announcements

A tax aide, AARP volunteer, will be available at the Rec Center one day a week from 1-7 pm.

Next week the 35th & McRae meeting will be held in the Rec Center.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.