

Call to order

The Spenard Community Council began its meeting about 7:00 pm.

Agenda and Minutes

Tom McGrath made a motion to approve the agenda with minor changes, motion passed. The minutes for August and September were both adopted.

Community Leadership Institute

Sharon Chamard and Andrew Gall provided an overview of the project concept to be implemented in Spenard. The CLI project may involve training for residents focused on code enforcement with a goal of assisting the department with its backlog. Two individuals strongly objected to any code enforcement project. Other members asked if the Home Owners Associations could get involved. The CLI training is next week and the group will come back in December with a final plan.

Assembly Report: No Assembly members were present to provide a report.

Road Projects: Mathew Korshin from DOWL provided an update on two of our local projects.

Northwoods Drive

The project has been ongoing all summer. Two surcharge areas are being completed at this time. The “surcharge” is a layer of material put down on the road bed that is meant to settle over the winter. Because of the peat in the area, the use of surcharge is more cost efficient than a complete excavation. Weather depending, striping will be in place by the beginning of November. No curb and gutter is in place because of the surcharge. There was concern expressed about the lack of pedestrian walkways. The sidewalk has been removed on the west side of Northwood. Some type of final grading will be performed to allow a walkway for pedestrians.

Arctic Blvd.

30th to Fireweed will most likely be all that is completed this season. The stretch from 30th to 36th will only receive a bottom lift (one layer of asphalt) because they are so far behind schedule. This southern section will need another month in the spring to be completed. Arctic traffic should be redirected to southbound soon as work shifts to the northbound lanes.

Spenard Road – Anne Brooks

Lounsbury and State DOT are continuing work on this project. A community meeting is planned for November 2nd at the Romig Cafeteria. The concept is the same as that presented two years ago. The section of Spenard between Minnesota and 36th would become a northbound one-way. 36th would be extended to Minnesota and become a lighted interchange. Additional pedestrian amenities would be added to improve crossing safety.

APD Update - Sgt. Stanton

A request was made for Minnesota Park area statistics. Also, calls for service by council area would be helpful. Sgt. Stanton did provide an overview of August and September calls for service in Spenard. The members discussed the noise ordinance and many were surprised to hear that the 8-call limit for a neighborhood nuisance does not apply to a business. Eileen Zaiser discussed her recent problems with the new owners at Players House of Rock (formerly the Fly-By-Night). In general, with noise complaints we must continue to report them to the APD, the Health Department and our Assembly members. If there is ever going to be a change, it's up to us to make it happen.

Minnesota Skate Park

Brad Dunker reported that all of the skate board equipment has been removed from Minnesota Park. Boulder placement was completed this month. Plans are coming together regarding the relocation of the skate park to

the Spenard Rec. Center next year. This is an issue that will be addressed again so that neighbors of the Rec. Center can be included in the planning process.

Spenard Rec. Center Skate Park

The current plan is relocate the skating activities from Minnesota Park to the east side of the Spenard Rec. Center parking lot. An earthen berm would be located on the north side of the parking lot along 48th and the currently sloped parking area would be leveled. Landscaping and new equipment would be installed next spring. Since immediate neighbors were not available, this item will be discussed again next month.

Committee Reports

Jason announced that the Mayor had declared October Community Council Awareness Month. A candidate forum is planned for October 29th at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium at UAA. The CLI team will be leaving for Houston next week for training.

Old and New Business

Players House of Rock

Eileen Zaiser reviewed her issues regarding noise from Players House of Rock. She has had more than one run in with the new owner Alan Choy. Council members discussed the issue. Tom McGrath explained that the council really couldn't reconsider the conditional use issue. There is a process in place for addressing complaints about bars. Bob Auth explained how the SCC has been as forceful as it can with the liquor selling establishments. Peggy Auth described a similar situation with the Carousel in which the SCC worked with Dan Coffey to improve the relationship with neighbors.

Midtown Council

The status of the Midtown Council was discussed. One member of the SCC has volunteered to attend their meeting and report back. Concern continues among a number of members that nothing is really happening in the Midtown Council beside rubberstamping development and neighborhoods are being left out.

City Diner

The Council heard the request of the City Diner owners (Al Levinsohn) for a conditional use permit for a beer and wine license. Al expects to eventually provide 40-60 job positions once renovations are completed. They have no intention of staying open really late and do not intend to advertise liquor using neon signs. Hours will be 11 am to 11 pm, seven days a week. The old poll sign is being removed. A liquor license has been associated with the property for 16 years prior to its lapsing in February. A motion was made by Peggy Auth to support the conditional use and Tom Lamb offered a second. Comments about the motion were all positive. Since there was a beer and wine license at the same location that had recently lapsed, the license does not add to the total authorized in Spenard. The SCC unanimously supported the conditional use.

34th & Doris

The Corps of Engineers has approved a permit to fill the wetland area. Neighbors continue to strongly oppose this project. No one was available to discuss the issue, but information was provided about the history of the project. This will be taken up again in November.

Popp Carr Park

A resident that uses Popp Carr Park reported that gang use has increased. The covered pavilion appears to be a place where they congregate. The request was to remove the covered pavilion and picnic tables. Park & Rec. will look into the issue and see what can be done.

The meeting adjourned shortly before 9:30 pm. Every effort will be made to keep the meetings shorter.