

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2003

A motion was made to approve the August minutes and was approved.

Legislative report: Hollis French said the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee will hold hearings regarding legalized gambling sometime next month. Ethan Berkowitz said the Joint Ways and Means Committee was going to Dutch Harbor and may come here. He anticipates there will be cuts of \$250 million next year. The joint Anchorage Caucus and Assembly meeting will be September 10, 10:30-noon.

Assembly report: Dan Sullivan stated the sign ordinance is done with a 25' height maximum and 10 years for all signs to be in compliance. The Assembly amended the utility corridor. There will be a public meeting regarding the Harding Drive project. No funding is in place yet, but will be on next April's bond proposals. The proposed demolition of the Pink Hotel will cost \$100,000.00. Fay von Gemingen said the Bear Tooth's renewal for a liquor license is coming up. They don't have parking, drainage and landscaping as required by code and hopefully, the Assembly will make them comply with what they promised to do years ago.

Marilyn Stewart, the Community Relations Director from the Governor's Office, discussed the longevity bonus program phaseout and the \$137 million for the social safety net program that runs until June. Hollis French said that seniors felt betrayed in that the governor didn't run on this issue and it came from nowhere, taking them by surprise.

Stephanie Wheeler from the Alaska Railroad gave an update on work the railroad is doing. The turnout lanes for the buses on International was still ongoing and the double track project is almost complete. The railroad is looking into a commuter rail. She asks that anyone seeing illegal activity near or on the railroad easement to please report it to railroad security at 242-9846. DOT determines how money is spent for overpasses and getting rid of at-grade crossings.

No one from the Maple Ridge Development came to discuss the rezone request from R-3 to R-4 they have coming before the Planning and Zoning Commission in October. However, the council can take a position since they gave the owners a chance to make their case and voted unanimously to oppose the rezone.

Ann Brooks spoke on behalf of the municipal traffic department regarding Chagach Way. Lounsberry and Associates are studying cut through traffic. They feel they don't have a good handle yet on traffic flow and don't want to make a premature decision on how to solve the traffic problems. They hope to have something as a solution that can be implemented in 2004. Her contact number is 272-1877.

Lt. Norsworthy of APD talked about the budget cuts and how each council can target a problem area in order to utilize police resources wisely. The council agreed that prostitution attracts drug dealers and other problems in to the area. Hollis French suggested the idea that communities are also victims which would allow community councils to be notified and involved when offenders are sentenced so members can hold judges accountable. A new committee was formed to look in to the issue.

Sally Warner gave a presentation and slide show on the problems of neglected and abused children in Anchorage. Opportunities abound to help the children including, being a foster parent, adoption, working with CASA, the people who act as advocates for children and having your church adopt families or provide cribs, beds and other items families

need as they transition. Please apply and help change the community for the better. The number is 279-1799.

The council was asked by People Mover to nominate for AMATS consideration areas where they thought there were pedestrian safety problems, especially for those riding the bus. They agreed it was: Spenard Road, especially where the sidewalks are degraded; Chugach Way and McCrae Road.

Tom McGrath - Anchorage Downtown Partnership has an award for outstanding public service and made the motion the council make a presentation for consideration it be given to the Westside Patrol. Motion passed that a proposal will be to be submitted to the award committee.

Mike McKamey gave a report on zoning issues. Walmart is still a problem, but now it is in the North Star community council and we will let them deal with it. APD took care of construction vehicles stored illegally in a residential area. Spinell Construction illegally cleared an area on Lois and Benson and has refused to mitigate the damages. The coffee cart is also illegal. These problems have gone on for months now and will soon be too late for new plantings this year. Illegal portable signs keep popping up. Title VIII is a graffiti law which can cover these circumstances. The police can issue a ticket and the fine can be split between the complaining party and the municipality. This is something to look into.

Brenda needs a paper and has requested the council to pay for one. The council agreed.

Sam O'Connor gave a report on hot spots for illegal activity. Prostitutes are becoming a problem on Eureka Street.

Motion was made to adjourn and passed.