

Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, September 2, 2020, 6:30-8:45pm

Zoom Meeting Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/rGl9v9Ds51s>



Minutes

Time	Topic
6:30 pm	<p>Zoom Happy Hour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President Lindsey Hajduk welcomed council members and guests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted that there are updates from Representative Claman and Senator Gray-Jackson on SCC website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to SCC website featured documents
7:00 pm	<p>1. Welcome/Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orientation to Zoom: Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom. ● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 06/03/2020, Agenda for current meeting). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Tahnee Seccareccia moved to approve, Irene Persson-Gamble seconded. Consent agenda passes. ● Hajduk introduced Executive Board council members.
7:09 pm	<p>2. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assembly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austin Quinn-Davidson: Passed package on August 11 of CARES Act Funding (directed attendees to website for more information.) Shared that crime is down in every category in Anchorage. Discussed conversations about moving forward with Alcohol Tax as well as changes to use of Ben Boeke arena. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to assembly website for CARES Act ○ Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared discussion about ensuring police department's transparency; effort by assembly members to have APD put policies online as well as effort to look at use-of-force (changes to use-of-force policy held off.) Highlighted ban of conversion therapy for minors. ● Anchorage School Board Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Star Marsett: 14 day rolling average for municipality is 35. (Intermediate risk is defined at 15-29, a 14 day rolling average under 29 would allow for for 2 days per week of in-school instruction; noted that there are other data points to consider to ensure safety for students.) Could possibly start in person instruction in 2nd quarter; likely 2 days per week. ASD is providing chrome books to all of those who need them--can be delivered to families through ASD transportation. If the internet is a problem, ASD does have solutions. Have had some cases where staff

	<p>members have gone into schools and COVID cases caused staff to be sent home. Encourage parents to ask questions, ASD has a helpline on its website but also encourages families to go through school as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Airport Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Teri Lindseth, Planning Manager For Anchorage Airport: Airport maintains high protocol for cleanliness. Passenger traffic is still significantly down, but cargo traffic is up. Lake Hood Users Group Meeting tentatively scheduled 09/21 at 3pm (likely online.) ● SCC meeting handouts are posted online here.
7:21 pm	<p>3. Discussion Topic: Ending Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spenard info session and Community Survey summary report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hajduk: After June SCC meeting, we learned of proposals to purchase four properties for transitional housing. SCC executive board coordinated an information session specifically about the purchase of America’s Best Value Inn and prepared/disseminated a survey to gauge the Spenard Community’s perceptions regarding property purchases. SCC did not want to take a position, but wanted to gather feedback and address concerns. Summarized survey results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 39 residents participated in the survey: 69.2% of respondents had positive/very positive positions and 20.5% of respondents had negative/very negative positions. ■ Takeaway from the survey is that the Spenard community is generally interested in solutions for transitional housing and treatment services throughout the municipality. ■ Concerns raised about appropriateness of using CARES Act funds as well as planning/budget. Additional concerns about impacts on neighborhoods (property values as well as participants of housing.) ● Update on Assembly Ordinance 2020-66 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jason Bockenstedt: Discussed work being done by the real estate department as well as efforts on RFP (request for proposals for providers to operate) for America’s Best Value Inn and other properties. On the provider side: looking to determine best fits for service providers, will share what questions will be asked of providers. Will be hosting work sessions as well as a public assembly meeting to approve contracts. Goal is to have all of this done by the end of the year. Goal is to have the facility renovated and ready to take clients by the beginning of 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to municipality's addressing homelessness site
7:40 pm	<p>4. Education Topic: Home For Good program highlight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eric Glatt, United Way of Anchorage: Shared about Home for Good program, which is a permanent supportive housing project. Addresses one of the hardest to serve sections of those that experience homelessness (those that persistently experience homelessness, those that have a high use of services, and those with a history of recidivism.) No public money is spent until after the promised outcome is achieved. First, philanthropic donors fund the first year, United Way of Anchorage funds supports and community partners

	<p>provide services. Project is evaluated by an independent, third-party evaluator. If outcomes are achieved, then a contract would come before a vote of the Anchorage Assembly for the municipality to pay for years 2 and 3. Pilot ongoing, housed 21 people. 90% remained housed and other risk factors reduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jerrod Dunbar: Asked if the program was related to the proposal to purchase 4 properties. ● Glatt: Shared that the pilot program was unrelated to plan to purchase properties. Noted that in future, project’s participants could be housed in properties. ● Verdez-Perdia: Noted that both proposals to purchase properties and Home for Good are part of a larger Anchored Home Plan; have direct connection. Community adopted plan for Anchored Home and these are steps/strategies to move forward.
7:55 pm	<p>5. Special Topic: Committee reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCC Audit Committee - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arina Fillipenko, Treasurer: Summarized report. Inclusive of previous executive boards’ term (February 28, 2019 to February 28, 2020). Highlights of funding: began pilot program to give out gas cards, provided loan to Spenard Farmers Market, and pledged loan to Spenard Beach Park Project. Balance from February 28, 2019 was \$30,366.54 and ending balance from February 28, 2020 was \$26,866.03; total assets/liabilities: \$25,231.03 Suggested switching bank accounts from First National Bank to Northrim Bank. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Motion: Seccareccia moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and to approve the transfer of banks; Filippenko seconded. ■ Voting via google form for voting members. 8-0 motion passed. ● Spenard Cannabis Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jedediah Smith: Provided update on signed Memorandum of Understanding with Anchorage Bowl. In addition to being a retail facility, plan to manufacture edibles. Invited new members to join committee, asked interested members to email spenardcc@gmail.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to SCC's MOUs
8:02 pm	<p>6. Discussion Topic: Trick-or-Treat Fish Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meg Mielke, Secretary: Shared that SCC is considering hosting the 2nd annual Trick or Treat Fish Creek on Halloween. Asked for SCC members’ feedback regarding if the event can be done safely and mindfully. Encouraged suggestions for event modifications to ensure a safe and fun event be emailed to spenardcc@gmail.com or entered into the chat box. ● Person-Gamble: Recommended hosting the event, noted ease of mask compliance for halloween.
8:08 pm	<p>7. Education Topic: Railroad tree clearing along right-of-way between Northern Lights & Spenard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tim Sullivan, Alaska Railroad: Provided overview of clearing project along right of way (Northern Lights Boulevard to 36th Avenue.) Noted issues in the past year: fallen trees delaying trains and those experiencing homeless using right of way. Will lead to better sight lines for those operating trains and for APD. Will maintain a buffer of 5-20 feet of trees depending on area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matt Duncan: Inquired about crossing points by railroad; expressed concern about large amounts of trash and safety concerns. ● Sullivan: Noted that if people are not crossing at designated crossing points, they are trespassing. Recognize that people are going to cross, but the biggest issue is homelessness and repercussions on crime/safety. Noted that adding light will hopefully improve safety issues. ● Sullivan: Responding to Representative Drummond’s question in the chat box, noted Captain Cook Estates homes are not in right of way, but some have extended yards into right of way--dealing with issues currently. ● Karen Button: Raised concern tied to when railroad began using ROW more than in the past, remembered conversation about ROW being excessive (noted possible house bill to address this and plan for property owners to purchase ROW back), inquired about possible opportunity for railroad to be in conversation with property owners. ● Sullivan: Railroad continues to confirm ROW powers. Not going to sell ROW as it is crucial (may use it to double track). Railroad allows property owners to use ROW but property owners must understand that it is not permanent. ● George Ascott: Noted that Railroad is property of the State of Alaska. Reminded folks that the trail between Northern Lights and Coastal Trail was completely taken away with no public process. ● Hajduk: Invited Sullivan to future meeting and noted email address in chat box for follow up conversations: SullivanT@akrr.com
8:20 pm	<p>8. Discussion Topic: Northern Lights subdivision rezone from residential to business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Discussed proposal to rezone trailer Court (66 trailers) which borders Benson to North and Arctic to West to B3 (commercial zoning.) Although it is in Midtown Community Council (right across the street from our properties), she wanted to bring it to our community council for several reasons. In 1999, 211 trailers were removed, none of those homes were replaced; new proposals would remove another 66. Midtown Community Council is being disproportionately represented by business interests; residents in MCC are often those with lower-incomes whose concerns are not being represented. Midtown has less than 1% of all vacant land, only 12 acres is residential. This plan would add more businesses to midtown and create more congestion. Will be drafting a letter and requesting feedback from council regarding drafting the letter. The Planning & Zoning Commission will meet before the next SCC meeting; noted that the executive board will have to take it up. ● Sececcaria: Shared trend noticed while attending community & economic development meetings of residents asking for accommodation to change homes into cannabis businesses. Shared that there is already a lot of business property that can be utilized rather than tearing down housing. Supports SCC involvement.
8:30pm	<p>7. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Matt Duncan & Margaret McDonagh

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Created facebook group “Old Hermit Park Neighborhood.” Held multiple community clean-ups. Focused on 2 issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Seeking suggestions/knowledge: Wanted to put “Crime Watch” signs but did not fit into the ethos of the neighborhood, do not want to actually report to police or watch everyone coming in. Wanting to put some sort of anti-littering sign but not sure of exact language or how to proceed in process. ■ Overpasses over Benson/Northern Lights: are supposed to be used by neighborhood residents but are currently not a useful tool; recommending removal or sustainable clean-up. ● Drummond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thanked Auth for presenting on a topic related to rezone. Shared that she represents Midtown and that residents feel that business interests overrun council. ● Tyler Robinson, CIHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working on projects coming in front of the Platting Board & Urban Design Commission. Acknowledged struggle of all interests: residential and small businesses and encouraged everyone to continue resilience. ○ Perrson-Gamble: Inquired about option of rezoning to be mixed model; suggestion of when there is a request to rezone from residential to commercial to include a requirement to include both. ● Hajduk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SCC co-hosting Fish Creek Clean-up on Saturday, September 12 at 12pm, masks required and will be distant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to facebook event ○ Directed attendees to interactive website providing overview of design possibilities for road/sidewalk off Lois; can vote on design options and provide feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Interactive website link for Lois & 32nd Upgrades
8:43 pm	<p>8. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7 (might be able to meet in person, if not, will continue to meet via Zoom.) ● Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion to adjourn: Karen Button moved to approve, Paul Berger seconded.