

Call to order

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

Agenda and Minutes

Tom McGrath made a motion to approve the agenda, motion passed. The October minutes were also approved.

Announcements

Allison Biastock from Sen. French's office provided a brief report on the latest legislative Special Session. November 13 the legislature will return to Juneau to address a judges order requiring same sex benefits. Watch the news for updates later this month.

Linda Bustamante announced a meeting on November 14 on the Airport Master Plan.

The Midtown Plan will also be worked on beginning this winter.

Motions were adopted expressing concern about Café Amsterdam operating more as a pub than a restaurant, and a resolution of support for the Dept. of Neighbor's Community Development Block Grant for an historic survey of Spenard.

Assembly Report

Pamela Jennings and Dan Sullivan reported on the WalMart rezone issue. The Assembly approved this 30 acre parcel rezone at their last meeting. The Mayor's Office was involved in negotiating the deal for the larger 50 acre parcel in pursuit of a "town center" concept for the area. The budget passed last night also. The percentage of revenue from property tax is down from 59% in last year's budget to 45% in the new budget. Tobacco Tax proceeds account for part of the difference. The new Ethics Code will be taken up at the November 14 meeting. Van Buren has been added back into the CIP. Funding has been increased from \$300,000 to \$900,000 with a \$2.5 million request to the state. The target for work to be started is in 2008. The ROW acquisition will precede this. The meeting on the Spenard Road project will be at Romig on November 2nd.

Bill Evans inquired about the Corps of Engineers permitting issue at Willow Pond. He asked if there could be a wetlands swap with the municipality. The past SCC resolution opposing the COE permit was also discussed. Bill and some of his neighbors from the area discussed the stream's history. The Fish Creek stream restoration project was estimated at \$900,000 some time ago. There was even a plan to do a parallel stream north of 32nd to Old Hermit Park. In order to bring this issue to a larger audience, the possibility of including the Anchorage Waterways council was mentioned. The permit the COE issued has several conditions placed on it. Pam said she would contact Robin Ward to address the issue. Julius mentioned that AWC and the Fish Creek Working Group are working together on this issue. A new contact at the Corps is Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes. Dan Sullivan added that this may be a topic for an Assembly Hearing. Concerns have been raised through the area about filling the pond. A request was also made to ask Dan Bilman to come to our next meeting.

Questions were also asked about how the Spenard Road would improve congestion on Minnesota. Safety is a major concern. Some felt that project would end up like the Arctic Blvd. project. Other mentioned that the southern end of Spenard was redone many years ago, and it works. We should give this process a chance, said Tom McGrath. However, the North Star Business owners are actively opposing the project according to Tom Bichel.

APD Update - Sgt. Stanton

Sgt. Stanton reported that she continues to work on data collection for the area around Minnesota Park. The problem continues to be that data is not specifically associated with the Park, but other locations are the Park. From August to October, there were 18 traffic stops, 3 disturbances, 2 field interviews, 1 parking problem, 1 juvenile probation issue and 3 drunk problems in the area. Peggy Auth asked about darkly tinted windows and loud mufflers. Each issue really requires a law change before further attention by the police is possible. Sgt. Stanton provided a comparison of calls for service for September vs. October of this year. Total service calls increased from 1484 to 1691. The majority of the increase came in the following areas: traffic stops were up by 110, disturbances by 23, warrant services by 24, burglaries up by 8, suspicious vehicle calls by 10, vehicles in distress by 11 and welfare checks by 12. Council members requested that a traffic unit be placed, if available, near 48th and Van Buren during Northwood school begin and end, the same for Willowcrest near Cambridge/Wilson and Tudor. The Aquarian School on 32nd was also listed a wishing to have patrol car in the area whenever possible.

Alaska Motor Musers

This group has been looking for a replacement site to hold their snow machine races. They seek a letter of non-objection from the council. Council members asked about noise control measures, parking, and how they control the riders. The AMM group has been working with the municipality in identifying a location for their event, and came up with the property south of the International/Minnesota interchange. Tom McGrath made a motion, which was seconded, to provide a letter of non-objection. The motion passed unanimously.

Minnesota Skate Park

Dave Shapiro reported they have run into a bit of a problem with the boulder placements in Minnesota Park. Since we now have snow, the muni plows are running into the boulders as they clear the narrow alley next to the park. Plans are coming together regarding the relocation of the skate park to the Spenard Rec. Center next year. Alan Thornhill asked about the intended hours of operation of the skate park, if there would be posted hours, user fees and supervision. He also asked to be part of any planning effort and coordinate information flow with the neighbors. Dave agreed to include the 48th Avenue neighbors in the process. This is an issue that will be addressed again so that neighbors of the Rec. Center can be included in the planning process.

Midtown Plan

John Spring provided an overview of the Midtown Plan and the process that is beginning. This issue will be addressed again, due to the late hour.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9:30 pm.

Recap of resolutions passed at this meeting:

1. Resolution of concern about Café Amsterdam operation as a pub related to license renewal
2. Support CDBG grant for Spenard Historic survey
3. Letter of non-objection for Alaska Motor Musers