



Spenard Community Council

Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 6:30-8:40pm

Link to recording of meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9IK5H7NF64>

Agenda

	Topic
6:30 pm	Zoom Happy Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none">● SCC president Lindsey Hajduk welcomed council members and guests.
7:00 pm	1. Welcome/Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom.● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting on 02/03/2021, agenda for current meeting.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Motion: Bob Auth moved to approve, Irene Persson-Gamble seconded. Consent agenda passes.● Hajduk Introduced executive board.
7:07pm	2. State Legislator reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Representative Matt Claman: Highlighted that Alaska is the only state that has a tri-partisan-leadership in the legislature. Noted that there is over a billion dollar deficit in budget; shared that if state does not introduce taxes, it cannot afford to pay out dividends. Noted belief that legislature needs to extend emergency declaration; optimistic that will be coming through soon. Praised Spenard Community Council in focusing on community issues and having meaningful community participation.● Representative Harriet Drummond: Shared that budget subcommittee meetings have begun. Noted that last year, the legislature finished the budget in 3 weeks; cited statute that requires budget subcommittee work be done prior to March 28; optimistic that will be done sooner. Shared that even if the House passes emergency declaration reauthorization, the Senate will also have to pass a reauthorization. Noted that there are currently members/staff who are quarantining/isolating which may further delay progress as there is not a bill that allows for remote voting.● Hajduk shared question from chat about option to cut spending over raising taxes.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Claman: Responded noting that since 2015, the legislature has made billions of dollars in cuts; will continue this downward pressure but the ability to solve the deficit with cuts alone is unrealistic. Encouraged attendees to visit Commonwealth North's website to explore budget options.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Link to Commonwealth North AK Budget Site● Hajduk shared question from chat regarding conversation about keeping dividends and instituting taxes.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Claman: Responded by stating that conversation has been happening but since he has been in the legislature, there have only been 2 legislative actions that have increased revenue. Noted that the Governor has said that taxes need to go before the people and will not sign off without that approval. Governor's 10 year financial plan includes new revenue but there is no plan to increase revenue as according to Governor, that is for the legislature to determine.

7:18 pm

3. Brief reports

- Kameron Perez-Verdia, Assembly Report: Highlighted promising trend of decreasing COVID-19 cases and improving hospital capacity but noted that according to CDC, Anchorage is still between high and extremely high risk categories. Shared recent/upcoming application deadlines for relief programs and highlighted successes. Noted that they expect a new emergency order will be released 03/04/2021. Noted that the state has approved an increase in marijuana edibles' potency cap (5 to 10 milligrams.)
- Hajduk shared question from chat about rent relief eligibility.
 - Perez-Verdia: Noted that eligibility requirements are on website.
 - [Link to Alaska Housing Housing Relief](#)
- Paul Berger: Inquired if renters are eligible if they are behind in rent.
 - Perez-Verdia: Responded by sharing belief that folks who are behind in rent are eligible and noted he would look into it.
- John Johansen, Airport Report: Noted that Airport is maintaining high standard of cleanliness. DHHS is still present providing COVID-19 testing for visitors and residents. Reminded residents to avoid recreating on Lake Hood and to utilize cell phone parking lot
- Hajduk shared question from chat about who is providing porta potties at cell phone lot.
 - Johansen: Responded that airport must be paying for upkeep.
- Officer Mayes, Anchorage Police Department: Noted that they are working to ramp up speeding enforcement on Spenard (with a focus near schools.) Shared that regarding Chelsea Inn, there have been 10-15 calls for service.
- Hajduk: Addressed question in chat about process of getting speed bump installed on Turnagain Street; noted that SCC just passed a resolution on traffic calming for Spenard priorities, but Turnagain street was not on list and is in Turnagain Community Council.
- Hajduk: Shared question from chat about potential safety concern in tunnel under Spenard.
 - Mayes: Responded that he can look into calls for service to that location and that he can encourage officers to visit area as much as they can. Shared that residents can utilize municipality website to report camps.
 - [Link to report homeless camps](#)
- Hajduk: Cited recent story noting declining calls to APD, inquired if that correlated with downward crime trend or just less calls.
 - Mayes: Responded that he did not have numbers on that trend but noted that generally, decreased calls for services are related to decreased crime.
- Amber Glassner: Noted trend she has noticed of vehicle break-ins, cited need for more patrol between 2am and 3am in the morning; thanked officer for service.
 - Mayes: Responded that he encourages residents to always lock vehicles but also report suspicious activity (311 or 911 as needed.) Noted that officers do look for individuals walking around who appear to be checking vehicles.
- Auth: Noted that there appears to be stolen cars at Northwood Park (at times it can take weeks to be removed); asked about process of getting vehicles removed sooner.
 - Mayers: Responded by noting that city has contract with different towing companies (noted that different variables will impact how quickly a vehicle is

	tagged for removal). Noted that officers can follow up on this and make sure vehicles are tagged.
7:40 pm	<p>4. Decision Topic: AMATS Non-Motorized Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joni Wilm, AMATS (Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions) Senior Transportation Planner: Introduced self and involvement in Spenard Corridor Plan. Reviewed creation process and substantive contents of non-motorized plan which supports the vision statement of Anchorage being a world-class northern city which allows all to use shared pathways and roadways safely. Described tentative timeline with plan going before assembly in May. ● Hajduk: Addressed question in chat regarding pedestrian bridges on fish creek trail and noted requirements for federal funding. Noted that SCC convened a workgroup to produce comments, noted that they framed comments focused on where folks need to go safely while keeping in mind most vulnerable neighbors. Contextualized plan as a goal to make the transportation system better for everyone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to SCC comments on plan ● Sarah Preskitt: Asked if winter maintenance forum has been scheduled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wilm: Responded that it has not been scheduled, but will likely be in June or July. ● Auth: Highlighted comments provided by SCC; noted that it is not just about bike trails but ensuring that people can commute safely to work or complete necessary errands. Noted that if people do not have safe routes, they can get injured or worse: killed. Noted that not everyone has a car, and everyone should be able to transport themselves safely; refuted claim that it is an elitist idea ● Hajduk: Invited members to vote via the google form; reminded residents of voting eligibility (live or own business in boundaries and have attended a meeting in the past 12 months.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Vote to support comments passes 10-4.
8:09 pm	<p>5. Discussion Topic: Chugach Way Area Transportation Elements Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL: Shared information about project revitalizing Chugach Way that will support development in area. Noted that CRW is also working on project, and cited presentation last month that provided introduction to project and noted this month's presentation is follow-up to provide more details. Goal is to provide roadway alternatives that will then move forward for design and construction. Noted that currently they are working on existing conditions summary, which will be the basis for decisions for identifying alternatives. Intend to return in a few months to provide update on existing conditions report. Goal is to wrap up project by fall. Encouraged residents to provide input. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to provide feedback ● Hajduk: Shared question from chat about houses being removed along 36th avenue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chmielowski: Responded that this project is unrelated. ● Julie Leonard: Shared concern about lack of sidewalks combined with vehicle speeding making for a dangerous situation. ● Hajduk: Shared question from chat about timeline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chmielowski: Responded by explaining that they are still gathering feedback to begin looking at alternatives. At the end of project, summary report will

	<p>be created and the municipality will then seek funding to turn into a design/construction project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wilm: Noted that the Spenard Corridor Plan has visions of what a street like Chugach Way could look like redesigned to be more bike or pedestrian friendly.
<p>8:20 pm</p>	<p>6. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Noted that SCC has planned two local candidates forums (one for School Board candidates on 3/15/2021 and one for Mayoral candidates on 3/18/2021). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Facebook Event for Mayoral Forum ○ Link to Facebook Event for School Board Forum ● Berger: Thanked community members for supporting Carousel Lounge; noted that he was served a code violation fine for being over capacity but will pay the fine. Inquired about status of palm tree. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hajduk: Responded by explaining that at last meeting there was an update for palm tree to be installed at original location of 36th and Spenard. Noted that Cindy Berger is new owner and hope to have a palm tree raising party at end of year. ● Forrest Dunbar: Introduced self as mayoral candidate and vision for getting Anchorage past public health crisis and getting economy back on track. Shared work as East Anchorage assembly member and endorsements ● Cheryl Antenuccii: Introduced self as SNAP ed educator with Anchorage Health Department. Shared information about SNAP ed and work with community partners with the goal that SNAP-eligible community members have access to healthy foods; and noted that they are working on a healthy retail recognition program and nutrition education in grocery stores. ● Carl Jacobs: Introduced self as school board candidate (Seat G) and experience as public servant and licensed therapeutic foster parent. Shared priorities of career & technical education, sustainable budget, as well as addressing outcome gaps in the district. ● Glassner: Voiced goal to end all restrictions and mandates; shared personal story of children struggling wearing face-coverings and noted that she is furloughed indefinitely from work as hospitality worker due to not being able to wear shield/face covering. Noted that there are others that share her experience. ● Pat Higgins: Introduced self as school board candidate (Seat E) and shared experience of previous school board membership (2008-2017) and successes during time on board. Noted that board was active and provided voice for community. ● Sarah Burtner: Introduced self as community engagement coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. Noted that one of primary sources of revenue for the non-profit is the Restore; accept donations for house materials and sell at a discount to public. Encouraged attendees to donate as donations slow this time of year. Would like to connect with landlords to accept items from relocating tenants; noted that the Restore provides free pick-up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact info: sburtner@habitananchorage.org ● Bill Falsey: Introduced self as mayoral candidate and belief that best days of Anchorage are ahead of us. Shared experience, noted that he is the only candidate with extensive executive experience and cited previous experience as Anchorage manager city manager.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Preskitt: Introduced self as librarian with Anchorage Public Library. Shared that the library has a bond (proposition 2) on the upcoming ballot and encouraged attendees to vote. ● Perez-Verdia: Noted that he has been attempting to address questions in chat and have follow-up conversations with concerned residents. Emphasized that vaccines, masks, distancing, and hand-washing all work. Noted that decisions made by the city have led to the current lower case numbers. Noted that the collective problem is not mandates, but the problem is COVID-19. Shared that mandates are decreasing, but it is important to move forward in a data-conscious way. ● Hajduk: Noted that Department of Health and Human Services have reached out and SCC will hopefully have a presentation in April. Reminded attendees that there is an agenda and that she moves forward with agenda in order to keep meeting on track.
8:40 pm	<p>7. “Door Prize”: Spenard business gift card giveaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Noted that council will request funding for \$500 on gift cards for monthly giveaways. ● Arina Filippenko: Noted that she will do drawing for 2 \$25 gift cards to Blue Market from residents/business owners who completed sign-in sheet. Bob Auth and Erica Chenoweth are inaugural winners!
8:45 pm	<p>8. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared that the next meeting will be 04/07/2021. Invited attendees to attend upcoming Mayoral and School Board Forums and submit questions for the candidates. Shared difficulty in facilitating meeting with active chat. ● Persson-Gamble: Reminded folks of decorum for in-person meetings, noted that it would be inappropriate to talk during others’ presentations if it was in person. Encouraged attendees to remember respectful dialogue. ● Hajduk: Noted that chat discussion is continuing to border on disrespectful. Noted that executive board will discuss options for hosting a well organized, respectful meeting. ● Motion: Perrson-Gamble moved to adjourn, Sarah Preskitt seconded. Meeting adjourns.