

Spenard Community Council
 Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 7:00-8:35pm



Agenda

	Topic
6:30 pm	<p>Zoom Happy Hour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irene Persson-Gamble and Meg Mielke welcomed council members and guests.
7:00 pm	<p>1. Welcome/Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting on 05/05/2021, agenda for current meeting.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Tom McGrath moved to approve, Peggy Auth seconded. Consent agenda passes. ● Persson-Gamble reviewed agenda and introduced executive board.
7:05 pm	<p>2. State Legislator reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Representative Chris Tuck: Shared value of permanent fund dividend and its fast growing nature (25% rate of return this fiscal year so far). Noted that legislature is in special session to create budget and solve dividend issue; noted Governor's desire to put a constitutional amendment before the people to constitutionalize the 5% market draw from dividend with 50-50 split of funds going to dividends/government. Reviewed budget process and house and senate versions' of the budget. ● Representative Matt Claman: Shared larger picture of issues on budget, noted that big financial challenge is the dividend. Shared belief that senate and governor's proposals would be illegal. Cited need to gauge how engaged public might be with certain proposals for constitutional amendments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paul Berger: Inquired why we did not stay with the original intent of PFD/rely on formula. ○ Claman: Noted that statutory formula question has come before the Alaska Supreme Court, noted that the dividend has to compete with other state programs for limited funds; no requirement to follow permanent fund statute--supreme court has not addressed if cap is enforceable (cap passed in 2018 and not been passed.) ○ Berger: Noted that PFD is followed closely by Alaskans, noted benefit of predictable formula. ○ Tuck: Noted that PFD (like everything) is subject to appropriations; noted reason why governor is trying to pass constitutional amendment. ○ Peggy Auth: Cited major international oil companies announcing that they are going to have to move away from oil and gas; inquired if legislature is talking about these current events. ○ Claman: There is some discussion about alternative energy; noted that Alaska has switched from oil state to investment state (70% is coming from

	investments from permanent fund.)
7:22 pm	<p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assembly Report, Judy Jessen (staff to Kameron Perez-Verdia): Shared information about upcoming vaccination clinics and townhall for B-3 zoning proposal. Shared that this is her last month in her role as staff for West Anchorage assembly members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rosemary Borchardt: Voiced concern about proposed new package liquor store on Minnesota/N. Lights; asked what members can do to oppose new location considering large amount of liquor stores in area. ○ Jessen: Noted that the municipality takes concerns from community councils very seriously, cited SCC’s internal process for reviewing liquor store licenses. ○ Borchardt: Noted that license goes before the assembly later in June, inquired if she was the only person concerned. ○ Seccareccia: Echoed concern but provided clarification. Noted that proposed store is not in SCC’s boundaries (it is in Turnagain CC’s boundaries) shared insight from recent meeting where it did not appear like there would be objection to the store. ○ Borchardt: Noted that notice mentioned both SCC and TCC; noted that she is a member of the Turnagain CC and will attend their meeting and discuss that. ○ Seccareccia: Requested Borchardt email copy of notice to SCC. ● Anchorage School Board Report, Margo Bellamy: Introduced self as school board rep for SCC and encouraged members to contact her outside of meetings with questions/concerns. Noted that there is an open survey on website for feedback on ASD’s use of federal funds. Shared next SB meeting is in August. Outlined new process for testifying before meetings. Announced launch of new equity dashboard. Noted that summer school started on 6/1/2021. Noted that COVID-19 vaccination clinic is no longer happening at the district headquarters, but they are partnering with muni to provide opportunities. Noted that charter school/special programs lotteries are open for 21-22 school year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to survey on use of funds for 21-22 School Year ○ Link to ASD Equity Dashboard ○ Link to access and participate in SB meetings ● Airport Report, John Johansen: Noted that airport has set up a free vaccination clinic by entrance to A concourse; available for travelers (resident or non-resident) and preparing for increase in summer traffic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seccareccia: Inquired about snow dump site at Connor’s Bog (partially owned by Airport), asked if suggested improvements to dog park would extend to state land; and if not, if they would object to suggestions. ○ Persson-Gamble: Noted that Johansen appeared to have left meeting; shared question about if uber/lyft were operating 24/7 and suggestion about coffee cart at cell phone parking lot. ○ Johnasen (via chat due to technical difficulties): “The dog park is mostly on airport land, including the parking lot. The airport likely will not object to minor improvements to the dog park. I'm not sure uber or lyft are operating 24/7 but suspect so and have not heard otherwise. We have had discussion about a coffee shack at the Cell Phone lot, but it has not gotten a lot of

	<p>traction. Feel free to call me at 266-2700 or email at john.johansen@alaska.gov.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anchorage Police Department Report, Officer Natasha Welch: Answered SCC’s questions previously emailed to her from Jessen. Noted that the best way to check the status of an illegal camp which has been reported on the muni.org site is to email the CAP Team at homelesscampinfo@anchorageak.gov . Noted difficulty in answering previous question about average response times because it is dependent on severity of crime and other variables. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Seccareccia: Noted that in the past, she has brought up issues of Chelsea Inn and other hotels in regards to crime and drug activity. Inquired what community members do to have an impact in terms of problematic “hot spots”. ○ Welch: Noted that the best thing to do is to contact the owner of properties (can look up info online.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to property search on Muni website ○ Persson-Gamble: Voiced idea of engaging in MOUs with hotel owners similarly to how SCC engages with alcohol/cannabis stores. ○ McGrath: Voiced concern about owners of Chelsea Inn; noted opinion that for residents to talk to them would be dangerous and cited belief that APD has not been doing their job when it comes to policing these businesses. ○ Persson-Gamble: Cited Inlet Inn (problem hotel downtown) and noted that place was removed/demolished. ○ Welch: Responded that APD worked with Inlet Inn property owner. Noted that it was a community effort, residents wrote to owner and there was social pressure for change and owner complied.
7:55 pm	<p>4. Decision Topic: Spenard Beautification Project approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seccareccia: Thanked Carrs Aurora Village for donations of snacks/waters and shared photos and stories from recent community clean-ups. Shared goal to move forward with grant application (mini-Grant from Matson, \$2,500) for beautification with neighborhood “day of caring”; offered free trash service for anyone who has trash on property. ● SCC request: Request for letter of support for grant. Consent motion passes.
8:08pm	<p>6. Education Topic: West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Josie Wilson, public outreach lead on the West Anchorage Snow Disposal project; introduced Bill Wilson with HDR. Shared site selection process, pros/cons of selected site, and upcoming permitting steps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bob Auth: Cited involvement with West Anchorage District Plan (adopted in 2012), noted that plan had goal of municipality trying to obtain ownership of existing snow dump (owned by airport) and outlined options for purchase. Voiced frustration of not following through with goal, and cited the plan’s goal of preserving proposed land parcel (30 acres) as Class A wetlands. ○ Melinda Tsu: Noted that it has been a long road of municipality negotiations to secure existing snow dump and it has not come to fruition. ○ Phil Isley: Inquired where airport dumps snow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wilson: Noted that airport has their own snow dump site. ○ Peggy Auth: Voiced concern as this proposal goes against 6 adopted ordinances and detriment to Connor’s Bog park users. Shared belief that the municipality has not handled this well. ○ Melinda Tsu: Noted that they are thoroughly reviewing planning documents, and noted that part of the issue is the lack of available lands for snow dump; noted that plans do prioritize use of essential facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to West Anchorage Snow Disposal website
8:30 pm	<p>7. Education Topic: Title 21 amendment for Parking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elizabeth Appleby, Muni Planning Department: Reviewed problems with status quo (belief that in certain areas of town there is an excess of parking, space can be used more efficiently, and harms living and business activity.) Explained that it takes a step toward right-sizing parking and driveway requirements in certain areas (not suburban areas of Anchorage/Chugiak.) Includes 10-20% lower parking requirements for specific neighborhoods and streamlined processes for reducing parking requirements. Shared potential amendments which would delete certain requirements/allow ride-sharing (or alternative transportation) to take places of required parking and encourage pedestrian access. Clarified Spenard is designated as an “edge urban” neighborhood. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berger: Inquired if Title 21 is hurting or helping community; asked many follow up questions about value of current zoning; voiced belief that coding hurts the most vulnerable. ○ Appleby: Clarified that Title 21 refers to the whole zoning code for the city ; noted that most cities have zoning codes; offered to talk to Berger one-on-one as question is a bit off topic; noted that codes are constantly changed and it can revert to previous codes but Title 21 refers to zoning for whole city. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Link to Title 21 Parking and Access Site and Questionnaire
8:40pm	<p>5. Decision Topic: Traffic Calming resolution amendment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seccareccia: Shared that the executive board previously produced a traffic calming resolution, which the community council voted to approve. Noted that after the vote, members reached out about areas that were not mentioned. As an executive board, decided to add these options in so as to not have potential projects wait a whole year and to avoid impeding progress. Amendment proposed would add additional projects for traffic calming consideration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah Preskitt: Cited traffic calming target around Lois/32nd and 33rd; noted that she is often slowed rather than seeing speeding as a problem; asked if traffic calming refers to traffic flow. ○ Seccareccia: Noted that it is meant to address traffic flow in certain areas, not just speeding. ● Motion: Traffic calming amendment passes: 9-1.
8:45 pm	<p>9. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Berger: Shared concern about problem hotel owners previously mentioned; noted that this is an opportunity as a council to produce strong resolutions. Voiced goal to write-up problem hotel owners; asked for Tom McGrath's impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ McGrath: Agreed, noted that the new mayor may have a different approach, and encouraged members to talk amongst themselves and revisit in September. Noted that community should demand better. ● Isley: Noted upcoming guided meditation at Atom Center (June 14 at 7pm.)
8:50 pm	10. "Door Prize": <u>Gas card</u> gift card giveaway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Preskitt wins!
8:53 pm	11. Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCC does not meet in July or August for our regular meeting ● Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021