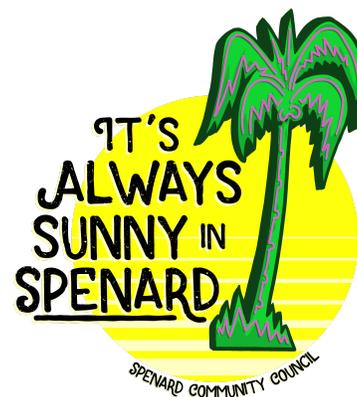


Spenard Community Council
 Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 7:00-8:45 pm
 6:30pm Happy Hour / meet and greet
[Link to recording of meeting](#)



Minutes

	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"> ● Lindsey Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom. ● Consent Agenda (minutes from previous meeting on 06/02/2021, agenda for current meeting.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Tom McGrath moved to approve, PeggyAuth seconded. Consent agenda passes. ● Hajduk reviewed the agenda and introduced the executive board.
7:08 pm	<p>3. Brief reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assembly Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Austin Quinn-Davidson: Introduced new staffer Geneva Luteria. Shared coordinated effort between municipality & assembly regarding short-term/long-term efforts on homelessness; set out a process to hire a facilitator to bring parties together to come up with solutions. Noted that there is an appropriations item coming up to put out a \$4 million contract for mass care (all reimbursed through FEMA or state's obligation). At the last meeting, the assembly approved grants to local agencies (funding from alcohol tax.) ○ Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared that he is chairing the Health Policy Committee. Noted that he is co-chairing the Public Safety Committee and that conversation about body cameras is moving forward (legal issues have stalled the process; question about process of releasing information). ● Anchorage School Board Report, Margo Bellamy: Reported that mitigation plan is going well. There has been a temporary suspension of some bus routes (continuing to provide services to special needs population and Title I schools for now; but that is on a rotational basis). Noted that the district is hiring for bus drivers and food service workers. Noted that they continue to meet first and third Tuesdays of month at 6pm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ASD COVID-19 District Dashboard ○ Persson-Gamble: Inquired about staffing issue for bus; inquired about how to report behavior on the bus. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bellamy: Clarified that it is drivers that are in high demand. Advised students/parents to speak to principals. ○ Bill Borchardt: Inquired about ASD's plan for turning around math and reading scores.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bellamy: Shared that the district adopted 3 new goals (1: reading, 2: math, 3: life/career/college ready); noted that at a future meeting, she can bring interim goals to share steps for improving math/reading skills. ○ Cheryl Lovegreen: Inquired about AEA negotiations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bellamy: Noted that they did not meet during summer, but understood both sides reported that negotiations are going well. ○ Hajduk: Shared question from chat about expectation of receiving refugees from Afghanistan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bellamy: Noted that they have not had any conversations. ● Airport Report, John Johansen: Shared that the airport is still providing free COVID-19 vaccines and tests. They are encouraging people to use the cell phone parking lot. People Mover is now only stopping at South terminal (no longer at North terminal). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peggy Auth: Inquired about perception that there seems to be a lot of flights taking off to the West (cited airplane noise and concern about safety of Western departures). ○ Johansen: Noted that he is not familiar with that trend, will look into it and send email to SCC. ● Anchorage Police Department, Sgt. Ken Bushue: Addressed that he is working with property representative of Northwood Park. Shared that with private properties, it is up to the owners to take the first steps; APD can reinforce trespassing (do not need to do abatement), but noted that what works best is coordinated effort with property owners.
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7:34 pm	<p>4. Discussion Topic: Northwood Park Camp Abatement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peggy Auth: Shared that this property, starting last year, has been a concern for the neighborhood and that many do not feel safe walking on the trail due to criminal activity occurring in the park. ● Tammy Krous: Introduced self as property manager. Shared plan for improving situation. Noted that brush clearing is scheduled to begin <u>September 15</u> (not to clear cut it; wants to keep some vegetation.) Noted that she met with private security company who will begin to visit the park and communicate with people inhabiting property (noted that security personnel will visit park during the day times). ● Office Kimball & Officer Drake: Noted that they work in Spenard community, here to answer questions. ● Bill Borhardt: Shared concern about assembly's actions around homelessness; noted that the problem will not go away and it is not property owner's issue. Voiced opinion that smaller homeless shelters will destroy neighborhoods they are in. ● Bob Auth: Noted that there appears to be stolen vehicles dumped at entrance of Northwood Park (as soon as one gets picked up; another one is dropped off). ● Hajduk: Shared question from chat about vehicles/garbage being left behind from camps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bushue: Noted that once a junk vehicle gets called in (even if tag gets physically removed), it still stays on list and will get removed); admitted it is a slow process based on contract with tow services. Encouraged residents to call junk vehicle line and report camps on muni website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Municipality link for reporting illegal camps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared question from chat about follow up after camp abatement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bushue: Shared coordinated effort with APD and Parks and Rec (noted that they give a 10 day notice). ● Terry Kadel: Inquired if officers are seeing any evidence of drug use at park; noted that he regularly walks by park; encouraged installation of a dumpster. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drake: Noted that they have not seen particular evidence of drug use. ● Peggy Auth: Noted her understanding that camp abatement in parks is typically discontinued at the end of summer season. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bushue: Noted that in the past, Parks has not had funding to pay crews year round. This year (due to alcohol tax), there will be reduced crews working year-round. ○ Contact information for Sgt. Ken Bushue w/ APD CAP Team: ken.bushue@anchorageak.gov (907)786-8723
7:58 pm	<p>6. Decision Topic: Resolution regarding proposed solutions to housing and homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yarrow Silvers: Shared that she wrote the resolution because she wanted to support a collaborative process between mayoral administration and assembly, noted that she has attended most of the community meetings on homelessness and discussed issues with many. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cheryl Lovegreen: Seconded. ● Rosemary Borchardt: Shared that she has attended a lot of assembly meetings on issue, shared belief that assembly is heading down the wrong road. Voiced concern about purchase of Alaska Club property (neighborhood and businesses oppose this); noted that she is very opposed to resolution. Cited 3rd and Karluk is an example of what can happen to a neighborhood. ● McGrath: Recommended that council wait until next month to vote on resolution; encouraged to follow history of council which proposes resolution one month and votes the next month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hajduk: Clarified that some councils continue to propose resolution one month and vote the next, but noted that the SCC has not followed that trend. ● Michelle Wilber: Noted that resolution looks very humane and reasonable; fits into what she has heard has been part of good solutions. Voiced complete support for this. ● Anna Hutchinson: Clarified that resolution is not about a specific property (Alaska Club); noted that it encourages collaboration between assembly and mayor's office to come up with a humane approach to a complex issue. Shared experience of working with survivors of domestic violence; noted that often survivors could not go to the one large shelter in the community because the abuser would be there and then burden shifted back on domestic violence shelter. ● Lovegreen: Noted that resolution follows best practices that many cities are following; voiced support. ● Jerrod Dunbar: Agreed with Tom's recommendation to delay resolution. Noted that he has been shifting his opinion on support of a large shelter; inquired about who would manage these facilities. ● Matt Duncan: Supported resolution, noted that there are examples of smaller shelters (Clare House and AWAIC) working well; encouraged collaboration on housing-first facility. Inquired about the process for dedicating camp space. Supported vision of assembly & municipality working together on housing first.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Silvers: Acknowledged that you are never going to get everyone indoors or into housing. You are left with the choice of having a sanctioned campsite or continuing to spend money on camp abatement. ● Bill Borhardt: Voiced opposition to resolution. Noted that he does not disagree with the idea that different shelters would be nicer; noted that the concept is not the same as the reality; noted that assembly and mayor have completely different viewpoints; voiced opinion that assembly is sabotaging mayor. Shared concern about criminal activity and belief that the costs will be extremely high to run shelters. ● Sarah Preskitt: Voiced support of resolution; noted that resolution states that we should leave details to subject-matter experts. Shared goal for city of Anchorage to invest in residents, noted that it has not been actively involved in solving homelessness. Noted that 3rd and Karluk is an example of two nonprofits doing the work. Agreed that it will cost money, but Anchorage cannot move forward until we take care of the most vulnerable among us (many who have experienced trauma). ● Bob Auth: Inquired if there was a way to ensure that each community council could only have one shelter. ● Dunbar: Noted that he cannot support resolution tonight; noted that sanctioned camp should be a separate discussion than smaller shelter issue. ● Jedediah Smith: Responded to proposition of putting a cap of one shelter per community council; noted that wording of resolution supports shelters being spread out without putting in specificity that might not be helpful to community. ● Seccareccia: Provided caveat that she works for Anchorage Coalition to end Homelessness (but speaking as community member.) Noted that she had time to review the resolution in entirety; voiced support and noted that it is important to tell the mayor and assembly the vision we want for our city. Noted that there are experts in the city who know the research (who support that smaller shelters spread throughout the city). ● Motion: Resolution passes 23-5.
8:25pm	<p>7. Education Topic: Fish Creek Trail Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared information about AARP grant in partnership with NeighborWorks Alaska & Anchorage Park Foundation, and Parks & Rec Dept. Noted that the goal is to celebrate Fish Creek Trail. Announced call for concepts (ideas to be included on interpretative signs). Deadline for submissions September 17, 2021. Goal is to be present winning submissions at Trick or Treat Fish Creek Event on Halloween. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Persson-Gamble: Praised event for its community collaboration and positivity. ○ Hajduk: Called for volunteers to assist with the event. ○ Link for Stories of Fish Creek Call for Proposals
8:30 pm	<p>8. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karen Button: Introduced Friends of Fish Creek which is a volunteer organization advocating for the daylighting of day creek (bringing 70% of fish creek to above ground.) ● Jedediah Smith: Invited attendees to attend creek clean-up day (partnered with Anchorage Waterways Council) on Saturday, September 11 (focus on creek/trail around Red Bridge Park.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared announcement from Spenard Road rehab team (from Benson to Minnesota) about upcoming open house on September 27 from 5pm to 7pm at The Nave parking lot. ● Elena Habib: Introduced self, works for the office of substance misuse and addiction prevention (speaking now as Spenard resident.) Noted that Alaska experienced worst overdose rate last year. Noted that death is completely preventable if you have NARCAN; noted that she is encouraging event to train residents on use of NARCAN. If interested in event or getting NARCAN, email projecthope@alaska.gov ● Terry Kadel: Noted that he works at DHSS, shared that CDC is coming out with recommendations for boosters (starting with only those who are immunocompromised and recommendation to say within the same type of vaccination.) Verified Alaska’s hospitals are being overwhelmed; encouraged use of monoclonal antibody treatment if needed for positive cases. Shared that the ultimate way out of the pandemic is the vaccine. ● Hajduk: Noted that Spenard Community Garden meets every Wednesday from 4pm to 7pm (near Lutheran Social Services) and Spenard Farmers’ Market is still happening on Saturdays.
8:40 pm	<p>9. “Door Prize”: ZIP Kombucha gift card giveaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lindsey Hajduk and Michelle Wilber are the winners!
8:40 pm	<p>10. Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: Tom McGrath moved to adjourn, PeggyAuth seconded. Meeting adjourned. ● Next meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021