

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



Agenda

	Topic
6:30 pm	Zoom Happy Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irene Persson-Gamble and Meg Mielke welcomed council members and guests.
7:00 pm	1. Welcome/Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lindsey Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom. ● Consent Agenda (minutes from previous meeting on 09/01/2021, agenda for current meeting.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Peggy Auth moved to approve, Matt Duncan seconded. Consent agenda passes. ● Hajduk reviewed the agenda and introduced the executive board.
7:05 pm	2. State Legislator reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rep. Chris Tuck: Summarized progress and stalemates in recent special sessions, noted that the legislature is on track to break record for number of days in session. Shared concern regarding fiscal situation but also optimism from fiscal policy working group.
7:15 pm	3. Brief reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Margo Bellamy, Anchorage School Board Report: Shared that they opened up space on agenda to hear more student voices (prioritizing student testimony for the first hour.) Noted that at the next finance committee, they will discuss the mayor's recommended cuts (~\$3 million) for ASD. Shared that ASD has increased testing/vaccination sites (all high schools have sites, parent permission required.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Peggy Anderson: sought clarification on student testimony. ○ Bellamy: Clarified that this testimony is for scheduled school board meetings, allowing students to testify during first hour of meeting. ○ Phil Isley: Inquired about raise for superintendent despite lack of improvement in student achievement. ○ Bellamy: Shared that board voted to approve raise of superintendent; cited a variety of factors that were considered.
7:23 pm	4. Education Topic: Spenard Road Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean Baski, DOT: Introduced project as seeking to improve Spenard Road between Minnesota and Benson; DOT and muni collaborating on federally funded project. Identified existing concerns and selected alternative of three lane roadway. Shared options for other changes, solicited feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paul Berger: Inquired about potential acquisition of properties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Baski: Noted that it is uncertain, noted that he is happy to have follow-

	<p>up conversations. Clarified that they are likely 1.5 years out on offers; and noted that those negotiations can take a while.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meg Mielke: Shared comment from chat regarding recommendation for raised bike lane as preferable for novice bikers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Baski: Noted goal is to accommodate bikers of all comfort levels; recognized that there are different levels of confidence--but noted that each option potentially takes space away from other users. ○ Sarah Preskitt: Shared concern regarding winter maintenance (especially non-motorized pathways), asked about consideration taken for maintenance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Baski: Noted that DOT has been in talks with municipal maintenance; state/muni are not expecting additional funding (snow on Spenard road gets hauled out and snow will have to sit somewhere before snow is able to be removed.) Highlighted that current proposal provides more space for snow berms. ○ Peggy Auth: Inquired about speed limit (35 mph), voiced concern. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Baski: Noted that muni traffic department sets speed limits, but will bring comments from community and recommendations for lower speed limit. ○ Link to project website ○ Link to project survey
7:50 pm	<p>5. Education Topic: Daylighting Fish Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karen Button, Friends of Fish Creek: Shared historic use of creek and present pollution. Shared that they are asking Anchorage Assembly to support a \$500,000 action item for a feasibility study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mielke: Shared question from chat regarding if West-side assembly members have voiced support on this issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Button: Shared that in 2018 when Austin Quinn-Davidson was on assembly, passed resolution to support. ○ Berger: Asked what opposition to initiative is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Button: Noted that it relies on a change of mindset to support green infrastructure projects. ○ George Ascott: Asked to clarify about unconditional rezone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Button: Clarified that it was approved unanimously by assembly and zoning board. ○ Isley: Inquired about purpose of study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Button: Noted understanding that feasibility study is part of process. ○ Link to Friends of Fish Creek Letter
8:05 pm	<p>6. Decision Topic: SCC budget proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Julie Leonard: Shared proposed allotment of funds for Oct 21 - Dec 22. ● Hajduk: Clarified that budget is meant to be a guideline; executive board will still go before council if there are proposals for additional funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anderson: Inquired about source of funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hajduk: Shared that there is over \$20,000 in account.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Peggy Auth: Shared success of previous fundraisers, noted that a federal government grant allowed the purchase of a motorhome (for crime prevention) which was then sold. ○ Bob Auth: Inquired about cost for single day events and if other community councils are contributing to such events; noted that it took a lot of effort to raise money and voiced concern about high amounts for single events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hajduk: Responded that they have not asked Turnagain CC to contribute to Trick or Treat Fish Creek but shared that Stories of Fish Creek is a \$15,000 project (working with different partners); trick or treat event is part of that larger project. Clarified that SCC is not guaranteed to \$500, but that is the upper limit. ■ Gleason: Noted that TCC was not approached about co-sponsoring but has helped publicize event. ● Motion: Passes 23-0.
8:15 pm	<p>7. Decision Topic: Resolution to support fully funding Public Transportation Department for 2022 (People Mover)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hajduk: Shared background of resolution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berger: Inquired about process for vetting resolutions and how information is shared so folks have more time to review resolutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hajduk: Noted that they are posted on website and hyperlinks are also in agendas. ■ Berger: Encouraged information to go out prior to meetings so residents are informed; asked when executive board meets and if those meetings are open. ■ Hajduk: Noted that SCC executive board meets typically two weeks prior to SCC meetings and they try to send agendas out one week prior. Noted that SCC executive board tries to meet in person (socially distant) so it is challenging to include other members. ○ Peggy Auth: Shared that they have been going to transit meetings for years, voiced support for resolution and noted it was important as a council to show support for maintaining service (noted that Spenard Corridor Plan relies on bus service.) ○ Michelle Wilber: Inquired why SCC is not advocating for increasing budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hajduk: Noted that all departments are under pressure to decrease budgets; so they are not asking for more but rather to maintain current spending. ● Motion: Passes 21-1.
8:25 pm	<p>8. Decision Topic: Resolution for Redistricting to support community-focused redistricting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bob Auth: Shared that SCC boundaries are contained in 3 different house districts and 3 different senate districts. Goal of resolution is to have redistricting board consider local, neighborhood boundaries rather than splitting up natural communities when they are redrawing maps for districts. Noted that Mountain View CC submitted comments to redistricting board outlining a similar argument. Clarified that resolution does not recommend a specific map.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kristen Doughty: Inquired if SCC submitted comments to the redistricting board hearings and clarified if SCC supports 1 of 6 proposed maps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bob Auth: Noted that council would have to vote before submitting testimony, and this resolution would be the participation in the process; and also noted that all maps split Spenard up; does not want to support specific map ○ Cheryl Lovegreen: Voiced understanding that redistricting board will take this letter into consideration and it could be evidence in future litigation. ○ Isley: Encouraged this same letter to apply for assembly/local elections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bob Auth: Noted understanding that city redistricting process happens after state redistricting process is finished; not happening concurrently. ○ Berger: Noted that he supports spirit of resolution, inquired about impact the SCC would have in redistricting process, asked if it is preferable for individuals to submit comments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Peggy Auth: Noted that SCC has been involved in previous processes. ■ Hajduk: Clarified that the resolution is purposefully taking a high-level view of recommending cohesion of council; encouraged members to individually advocate for specific maps if they feel strongly. ○ Gleason: Noted that when she reviewed the maps, Turnagain CC would be subdivided as well. Noted relevance is that legislators speak to CCs, and cited difficulty of having legislators provide updates at meetings. ○ Lovegreen: Noted that assembly districts have different criteria; recommends focusing on statewide redistricting and address assembly process at a different time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: Passes 21-0.
8:40 pm	<p>9. Education Topic: Trick or Treat Fish Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mielke: invited members to volunteer/host treat stations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to sign up to volunteer
8:40 pm	<p>10. Neighborhood & Community Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel Christiansen, Alaska Center: Shared information about Solarize Anchorage; outlined process and solicited interest for Solarize 2022. ● Celia Rozen: Introduced self as first-time attendee, thanked council for postcard that she received. ● Margaret Duncan: Inquired about Trick or Treat Fish Creek; inquired about having dog treats at station. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mielke: Commented that it was a great idea. ● Doughty: Introduced self as first attendee, excited to join neighborhood and see what is happening. ● Hajduk: Encouraged members to complete survey for Chugach Way project, encouraged members to propose resolutions via email to spenardcc@gmail.com. Provided update on Northwood Park Project, noted that progress has been held up due to shipping delays (part of global shipping delay problem.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link to Chugach Way survey

8:50 pm	11. “Door Prize” : Local gift card giveaway: Spenard Roadhouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="381 247 917 279">● Winners Grant Kinney and Sarah Preskitt!
8:55 pm	12. Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="381 350 971 382">● Next meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021