

**Spenard Community Council**  
 Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 7:00-8:45 pm  
 Link to meeting recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIJXdtcmzEM&t=50s>



**Agenda**

	Topic
6:30 pm	<p><b>Zoom Happy Hour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irene Persson-Gamble welcomed council members and guests.</li> </ul>
7:00 pm	<p><b>1. Welcome/Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lindsey Hajduk led an orientation to Zoom.</li> <li>Consent Agenda (minutes from previous meeting on 10/06/2021, agenda for current meeting.)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Motion:</b> Tom McGrath moved to approve, Irene Persson-Gamble seconded. Consent agenda passes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Hajduk reviewed the agenda and introduced the executive board.</li> </ul>
7:06 pm	<p><b>3. Brief reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anchorage School Board Report, Margo Bellamy: Shared that superintendent is retiring, noted that the board is organizing to compile a plan for hiring a replacement. Noted that the ASD is hosting upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics (for 5 years+). Shared that the next board meeting will be 11/16/2021; hope to finalize the bond package to then go before the assembly. Reminded attendees that November is Native American Heritage Month.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Link to ASD vaccine clinic schedule</a></li> <li>Tahnee Secareccia: Inquired about work sessions on budget concerning the Mayor's reductions to municipal pools/School Resource Officers and inquired about initial conversations regarding those items.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bellamy: Noted that the board has asked the superintendent to gather data on SROs; and the board has not yet discussed the mayor's budget yet in terms of wanting to continue to fund SROs. Recognized that timing is not ideal but shared understanding that the Assembly will not send budget recommendations to admin until sometime between 11/23/2021-12/10/2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Airport Report, John Johansen: Shared that DHHS still has free vaccinations and tests at the airport. Noted that the airport is restricting access to commercial curbs (general public will not be able to access.)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Megan Peters: Introduced self as new communications manager, encouraged attendees to contact her with questions/concerns, shared contact info (<a href="mailto:megan.peters@alaska.gov">megan.peters@alaska.gov</a>)</li> <li>Hajduk: Shared question from chat on status of relocating the moose that is blocking artwork on ceiling.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peters: Noted that she would look into that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Peggy Auth: Shared understanding of new development occurring near airport; inquired if planning team is considering extra traffic that may be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>routed down Spenard Road; encouraged extra traffic to be routed toward W. International instead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Peters: Noted that a website is being created to share information about the project. Noted that she was not sure about the traffic plan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to airport report</a></li> <li>● Assembly Report, Kameron Perez-Verdia: Shared good news that COVID reproduction rate is 0.94 (below 1.0 for the first time in a long time) and bad news that hospitalizations are still high. Noted that the Assembly passed emergency funding which allows for the increase of COVID testing. Shared core disagreements occurring between administration and assembly. Noted that APD is seeking comments on draft of body-worn camera policy. Noted that assembly is continuing to move forward to establish a new dump site for snow in Connors Bog (noted that Sand Lake CC passed a resolution of support.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to Body Worn Camera Policy Feedback</a></li> <li>○ Hajduk: Inquired about recurring concern regarding the Northwood Dr. private property; voiced comment from chat regarding safety concern from residents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Noted that he does not have an update; shared that he and other assembly members are working hard to follow up with the city. Noted that reorganization of administration is requiring all communication to go through the municipal manager which is creating a bottleneck of communication.</li> <li>■ Geneva Luteria (staff to Austin Quinn-Davidson): Echoed Perez-Verdia’s concern, noted that Quinn-Davidson is seeking approval of property being labeled a nuisance property to get additional funding.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Allison Kelley: Inquired why there have not been citations issued; noted that property owner refused help. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Noted he does not have an answer; noted that pressure is continuing to be on administration to get an answer. Noted that he realized just today that the chief of police was not included on some recent emails, but has recently been included.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Seccareccia: Inquired how many code-enforcement officers there are in Anchorage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Do not have an answer to that, but will ask and report back.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ McGrath: Noted that code enforcement has been a problem in Spenard for 20 years; noted that there are issues that never get responses.</li> <li>○ Peggy Auth: Agreed with McGrath; noted that she and husband went to an assembly meeting roughly 20 years ago asking the assembly to increase the number of code enforcement officers; noted that they did, citing that she knows it can be done.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:35 pm	<p>4. <b>Discussion Topic:</b> Overview of <a href="#">proposed FY22 Municipal Budget</a>, with emphasis on Spenard impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perez-Verdia: Shared that the mayor's intent is to cut spending in order to lower</li> </ul>

	<p>property taxes and encourage the city to operate more efficiently. Noted that there are a lot of concerning issues. Shared timeline: November 9 (public comment), November 19 (amendments from assembly), November 23 (debate and potential approval)--noted that in the past, it has taken a month to work through the budget. Parts of the budget are expected to be funded by alcohol tax; and voiced concern about reduction of mobile crisis team in conflict with the goal of alcohol tax. Voiced concern about the library being moved into the parks department and \$1million reduction in pre-k funding as well as cuts to community grants. Commented on potential inclusion of Fish Creek feasibility study on the drainage bond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seccareccia: Voiced concern about budget reductions to municipal attorneys, especially since COVID delayed cases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Noted that rationale is that work of municipal attorneys' office ebbs and flows; noted that current positions are not filled and it may be easier to make the cuts at this time. Noted that others voiced similar concern about reduced caseload.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Hajduk: Shared the executive board wanted to spend a little more time on budget during this meeting; did not create resolution but wanted opportunity for members to learn more.</li> <li>○ Karen Button: Sought clarification about feasibility study for daylighting fish creek. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Perez-Verdia: Agreed to follow up one-on-one.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to submit written testimony on budget</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Link to sign up for phone testimony on budget</a></li> </ul>
7:55 pm	<p><b>5. Education Topic:</b> Chugach Way Elements Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● LaQuita Chmielkowski, DOWL: Shared project vision as well as recent progress on existing conditions summary report as well as existing development projects. Provided info about proposed alternatives (including pros and cons.) Outlined timeline: November 2021 (finish gathering stakeholder testimony), December 2021 (finalize Chugach Way elements report), then MOA will take recommendations and will be able to move them forward into design.</li> <li>● <a href="http://chugachway.com">chugachway.com</a></li> </ul>
8:08 pm	<p><b>6. Decision Topic:</b> Spenard Corridor Plan Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hajduk: Introduced ideas for the task force and encouraged members to join standing work group to more closely look at transportation alternatives and provide feedback.</li> </ul>
8:12 pm	<p><b>8. Thank-you</b> to volunteers for Trick or Treat Fish Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meg Mielke &amp; Hajduk: Thanked all volunteers and attendees for 2nd annual trick or treat fish creek. Special thanks to Tahnee Seccareccia, Karen Button, Matthew Duncan &amp; Margaret McDonagh, Irene Persson-Gamble &amp; Jim Gamble, Celia Rozen, Schawna Thoma, and many other members!</li> </ul>
8:15 pm	<p><b>9. Neighborhood &amp; Community Announcements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kelley: Noted that MOA cleaned areas around railroad tracks, encouraged use of walking in the neighborhood while it is still trash-free.</li> <li>● Persson-Gamble: Shared thank you letter from Anchorage Park Foundation for donation to Spenard Beach Park.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hajduk: Clarified that it was part of a Challenge Grant (project facilitated by Turnagain CC.)</li> <li>● Seccareccia: Encouraged members to testify at upcoming assembly meeting regarding budget; noted that while property taxes might be reduced in short-term, will be deferred cost to long-term.</li> <li>● Button: Encouraged feasibility study of daylighting fish creek, encouraged members to testify.</li> </ul>
8:20 pm	<p>10. <b>Treasurer's Report and "Door Prize"</b>: Local gift card giveaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arina Filippenko: Gave update on spending; SCC spent \$206 on supplies for Trick or Treat Fish Creek and ran \$50 of facebook ads; and gave out \$50 in monthly gift cards last month; under budget based on estimate.</li> <li>● Michelle Semerad and Tahnee Seccareccia are the winners!</li> </ul>
8:25 pm	<p>11. <b>Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next meeting: Wednesday, December 1, 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Motion:</b> Tom McGrath moved to approve, Persson-Gamble seconded.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Meeting adjourns.</p>