

Airport Heights Community Council Minutes

January 18, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Fish at 7:00 p.m. in the Airport Heights Elementary School library.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

MOVE to approve November 2006 minutes and January Meeting Agenda by Bill Boyd, second by Barbara Karl. Passed with no objections.

Traffic Calming at 16th and Columbine, 16th and Norene

Dennis Linnell, HDL Engineering, provided handouts of overhead views of plans for traffic calming at the above intersections. These projects were in the Airport Heights Transportation Study that the community council worked on. The texturing has been removed from all future intersection treatments because it is now known to cause discomfort to individuals in wheelchairs and other personal vehicles. Road narrowing and vertical elements such as plants and bollards (not yet determined for these two intersections) are known to slow and calm traffic. He said the stop signs will remain as they are at these intersections. The work is scheduled for July, and should be completed at the latest by the end of the summer.

Athenium School

Lidia Sorgum, founding director, talked about this private school which focuses on the classics. A current science project is converting a 1968 Datsun Roadster to use renewable energy; they were invited to bring the converted vehicle to the AHCC picnic next June.

Reports

Legislature

George Laurito reported for Representative Sharon Cissna. The session just started, and they had just completed one day of ethics training. The toll-free number to reach Representative Cissna in Juneau is 1-800-922-3875.

Assembly

Dick Traini reported the assembly has been "quiet." A committee has been formed to make recommendations on naming something after recently deceased Ruth Moulton, a tireless community advocate who worked over 20 years to protect the Town Square. He said he supports 4th Avenue Theater efforts if no tax dollars are spent on the effort, he is concerned with cost for removal of asbestos. The Assembly is addressing measures to save the theater at its January 23rd meeting.

MOVE by Barbara Karl to support saving the 4th Avenue Theater by whatever means possible. Second by Robert Pelz. Motion passed.

APD

Officer Cindi Stanton reported there was a recent Police Academy graduation and a new academy starts on January 29th. Visit <http://www.muni.org/APD1/CitAcademy.cfm> for further information on

these citizen trainings. She provided rough statistics for police calls for the last 30 days. There were 272 calls for service, compared to 305 calls the prior 30 days. She will provide refined statistics next month with some comparative data for prior months. Cindy is moving to Crimes Against Children unit, and someone else will take over her community council liaison position. . The council issued a special thank you to Cindy for all of her work with the community councils.

Secretary/Treasurer

Dawn Scott reported the existing bank account has been declared inactive by the bank and the balance of about \$40 will be mailed to the former treasurer, Bill Boyd, who will turn it over to the council. The account was opened for funds for landscaping of 16th and Lake Otis triangle. The need for setting up another bank account was discussed.

Move to let the secretary/treasurer do what needs to be done with banking accounts by Dick Snider, second by Barbara Karl. Motion passed unanimously.

Federation of Community Councils (FCC)

Debbie Bower is now the only employee at the FCC. Mark Fish, FCC representative from this community council, reported all councils are required to comply with the Americans for Disabilities Act and will be assuring such compliance this year.

Traffic

Bill Boyd reported snow removal problems continue in the entire city.

Zoning

Bill Boyd reported the house at 1556 Columbine (Snowzilla's home) has been known by the city for 10 years as a cleanup issue. He said the city reports they have money and the order exists, so the yard will be cleaned up this spring.

Parks

The Parks Committee has no members. Dawn Scott reported on possible grants from the Anchorage Parks Foundation. Grants were made available last year and there were several individuals in our area interested in improving Tikishla Park, but no funds were granted. She indicated much of the Tikishla Park was purchased many years ago by property owners in our community council area and donated to the municipality for park land. Scottie Gomez, professional hockey player with the New Jersey Devils, was raised on Toklat Street and the ice hockey facility at the park is named after him. There is much community interest in improvements of the playground, ball fields, and ice hockey area. The Parks Committee needs a chairperson to help focus a grant application effort if the funds become available this year. Board member Dawn Scott will work with the committee to provide background and assistance. Contact Mark Fish at 561-5327 if you are interested in parklands in our community council area and wish to help with this committee and possible grant efforts.

New Business

Emergency Watch Program

This program provides a neighbor-led community education initiative designed to prepare neighborhoods for the reality that city services will be overextended for up to seven days after a

disaster. Further details on this program are available at <http://www.muni.org/oem/EmergencyWatch.cfm>. The next Neighborhood Leader Orientation will be held at the Office of Emergency Management located at 1305 E St. from 5:30 to 7:00pm on January 25, 2007. Phil McGuire volunteered to attend this orientation and report back to the community council. If you are interested in participating in this Emergency Watch program please contact Dawn Scott at sos@alaska.net or 223-4001.

Snowzilla

Mark Fish said some concerns had been expressed as to the public safety of the large snowman at 1556 Columbine, affectionately entitled Snowzilla. Following discussion it was determined the property owner had built the snowman on a frame and that it is entirely on private property and should just melt as temperatures increase. No action was taken by the council.

New Business

MOVE by Barbara Karl to pass AHCC resolution # 2007-1 to rename Town Square to Ruth Moulton Town Square, seconded by Dick Snider. Vote was unanimously in favor.

Old Business

Community Patrol Reorg

Fred Schurman resigned as chair of the community patrol as of December 31, 2006. All current patrol members wish to continue to participate in the program. The community council board created a pro tem community patrol committee and will consider it for permanent status at a later date. The committee is currently updating procedures for the patrol. Phil McGuire, a long-time patrol member, volunteered to work with Mark Phillips, chair of the community patrol pro tem committee, to clarify prior procedures and provide ideas for the future needs of the patrol. There is a \$10,000 grant for the patrol, issued to the Airport Heights Community Council. Financial administration for the grant will be managed through the Federation of Community Councils, while the AHCC will provide oversight of the spending. It is important that the pro tem committee move quickly to set spending priorities for the grant to avoid possible reallocation of the funds. Bev McGuire said Fred had excellent rapport with the police department and we should work diligently to assure continued good communications with the APD.

Move to adjourn by Barb Karl, motion was seconded and passed.