

Spenard Community Council

Spenard Recreation Center

2020 W 48th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99517

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:00-8:30 pm



Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to Order

- President Meg Mielke called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
- Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 01/03/2024, Agenda for current meeting)
 - **Irene Persson-Gamble moved to approve the consent agenda; Margaret McDonagh seconded. No objection, consent agenda passes.**
- Mielke introduced the Executive Board

2. Brief reports (10 mins each)

- **Airport Report: Erik Petersen**, new communications director. 4 new actual routes, 2 brand new. AK going to JFK and San Diego. Delta going to Detroit, United to Dulles. New Cargo airline, Air Logic once per week. Environmental assessment for FedEx expansion available at Loussac Library. Assessment says they can move forward with expansion if they choose.
- **Assembly Report: Daniel Volland**. Gave update on emergency cold weather shelter. Plan extended to May 31. Report on Mobile Crisis Team in 2023: responded to 3634 calls. 90% that started as 911 calls were able to stay on location, helping emergency rooms. Will be funded with operating funds going forward to free up alcohol tax funds. Assembly recently approved anniversaries of the Nordic Ski Association, pipeline, ballots including bonds and traffic calming, authorized disposal of property for Holton Hills property with two lots set aside for another party to use for affordable housing. Upcoming Assembly agendas include: Feb 13: ordinance to prohibit vehicular traffic from turning right on red downtown. Feb 27: ordinance to create permitting process for short term rental units; ordinance to allow optional review of constructional permits; port revenue bond. June 12: Home initiative scheduled for a public hearing, would consolidate residential zones from 15 to 5.
- **APD report: Officer Trevor Mumma**: answered questions from attendees re: rise in crime, rise in crime that coincides with decrease in temperatures, whether or not houses of ill repute were still operating in Spenard, Northwood property - advised to talk to CAP team about situations similar to Northwood. Brief discussion of history of property.

3. Decision Topic: "Move the Moose"

- Sheila Wynne and Laura Oden presented on Resolution 2024-01, requesting that the Moose on Concourse B at Anchorage International Airport be moved so it does not block the art installation Canopy by the artist.
- **Margaret McDonagh moved to discuss the resolution, Irene Persson-Gamble seconded.**
- Attendees discussed.
- **Laura Oden moved to approve, Dave Shimiek seconded.**
 - **13 in favor, 1 opposed. Resolution passes.**

4. Decision Topic: Elections/Candidate Statements

Sarah Preskitt (President)
Matt Duncan (Vice President)
Margaret McDonagh (Secretary)
Julie Leonard (Treasurer)
Irene Persson-Gamble (Auditor)
Margaret Auth (Auditor)
Barbara Lonsdale (Auditor)

Candidates gave brief statements.

Vote results below as last item.

5. Info topic: Department of Transportation

Sean Baski, Head of Design Section, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities was present to collect feedback, comments, and questions about the Minnesota Project, sometimes referred to as the Minnesota Wall.

Discussion highlights:

Baski said more discussion should have occurred. Said he has lots of excuses which he knows we don't want to hear. AK DOT&PF currently has a 25% vacancy rate.

Feds have paid for the project, so in order to remove the wall someone would have to fund it and it would have to be agreed to by all parties. AMATS decides how to spend federal funds. Assembly Member Volland asked how expensive it would be to take it down. Feds want to see it in place for 5 years. DOT can ask if they can take it down without having to give back the money. Baski will check with traffic data section on pedestrian stats in that area.

RE: crosswalks, there are many complications, particularly that existing crosswalks don't meet current standards. These crosswalks would have to be updated to meet ADA requirements. The Municipality operates all of the State of Alaska's pedestrian signals. AMATS has provided funding to improve pedestrian facilities on Minnesota Blvd. The Minnesota Corridor study is going to work to re envision Minnesota. All projects that the department moves forward have some public engagement. Need to focus on engagement and not paper pushing. When asked if there was a potential for a change order, yes or no, Baski said that he is not on the construction side, so can't answer.

6. Community Announcements

- **Phil Isley:** Monday night the 12th, guided Hypnotic meditation on health at Adams Center, lasts about an hour, starts at 7pm. Also running for Mayor, stop by and say hi
- **Adam Bryant,** Lutheran Church of Hope: Recentering thoughts to Spenard, interested in feeding people, hosts Tuesday night food pantry, harvest of Hope gardening project.
- **Oleks Lushchuk:** A week from tonight at Rage City Vintage, Open Mic Night 6-9pm, sober activity.

7. Adjourn/Announcement of Results

- **18 votes in favor, no write ins or nos.**
 - **All candidates elected.**
- **John Schultz moved to adjourn the meeting; Oleks Lushchuk seconded.**
 - **Mielke adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.**

To add agenda items to future meetings, email SpenardCC@gmail.com