

South Addition Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm

Meeting held on Zoom

1. Call to order - called to order at 7:05 p.m.
 - a. Approval of the agenda, Hans Thompson and Tom Begich seconded
 - b. Approval of March 2024 meeting minutes, Tom B and Hans T seconded
2. Standing Reports
 - a. SACC President John Thurber
 - i. Exploring hybrid meeting options with the support of the FCC for upcoming meetings – will be test running the tech and possibly switching to hybrid in the Fall of 2024
 - b. Legislature: Representative Fields, & Senator Tobin
 - i. Rep Fields: worked with Senator Tobin to include funding for community council priorities. We will find out this week regarding the park foundation grant Rep Fields applied to for the Valley of the Moon pump track. Correspondence Schools issues. Personal legislation: mammograms
 1. Q: Can you further explain the correspondence issue? A: Ideally, we would pass a bill or DEED could issue regulation but there doesn't seem to be energy from the governor to pursue those options so it remains to be seen what the path forward will be.
 2. Q: Marijuana tax bill? A: Yes I have been tracking it, I think we need to work to establish the right tax rate to ensure we don't create an illegal industry. Working to pass individual bills and find opportunities to bundle important policies
 - ii. Senator Tobin: No Report this meeting.
 - c. C. Mayor's Office: Trista Espe, No Report this meeting.
 - d. D. Assembly: Christopher Constant
 - i. Ballots for the runoff will be mailed in 5 days and you can track your ballot – election was certified last Tuesday
 - ii. New HOME Initiative website for the proposal
 - iii. Mayoral laid on the table Sprung tent, conversation currently on hold
 - e. E. Anchorage Fire and Police Departments
 - i. Anchorage Fire department: Captain Simons from Fire Station 1:
 1. AFD in the process of hiring a Wild land firefighting coordinator
 2. They are replacing two ambulances
 3. The wood lot will not be open this summer so AFD is working with SWS to find an alternative, free home/land inspections to

make recommendations for how to mitigate wild-land fire impacts on homes (find more information at muni.org/fire)

4. Mobile crisis team to respond to mental health crisis and that reduces emergency ambulance usage and allows for follow up, moving to 24/7 service
 5. 2024 academy is about to graduate 15 new firefighters
 6. Download the pulse point app which alerts you if someone near you needs CPR so you could possibly respond faster than AFD/APD to these cardiac events where early intervention could save a life
 - a. Q: Why is the wood lot being closed? A: I'm not sure
 - b. Q: What is the upcoming fire season looking like? A: We can't exactly interpret, but the dry grass dries out quickly. The snow pack might help but it won't take long with environmental factors to dry up fuel.
- f. Anchorage School Board - Dave Donley
- i. New Inlet View school could possibly be complete in Dec 2025.
 1. Cornerstone has been awarded the contract for the work and will possibly start this summer of 2024
- g. G. Transportation Committee – Anna Bosin
- i. AMATS TIP was approved. The Assembly is having a quarterly transportation committee, and they are considering no right on red in downtown. There's a protected bike lane coming to 6th Ave this summer. There will be an AMATS meeting next Thursday.
 1. Q: What is the right on red meeting about? A: Right on red takes driver attention away from the pedestrian crossing. It is being proposed for Downtown Anchorage since there are a lot of pedestrians in Downtown.
- h. Neighborhood Plan – Tamas Deak
- i. The neighborhood plan has been submitted to the planning and Zoning Commission
3. Council Business
- a. Old Business
 - b. New Business
 - i. Vehicle Noise Enforcement – Hans Thompson
 1. Draft proposal to introduce, motion to introduce by Moira Smith and seconded by Tom Begich resolution has been introduced. The proposal would commend APD for their work.

2. Context: Hans lives between I and L and it was not too loud ten years ago and it has only gotten louder over the years, specifically gotten worse over COVID
 3. Ombudsman report on the vehicle noise and enforcement has increased since then, along with the increase in fines from \$100 to \$300
 4. State mandated vehicle inspections have stopped due to newer cars emitted less carbon monoxide
- ii. HOME Initiative – Nancy Pease, Rabbit Creek Community Council
1. Brief overview of the HOME Initiative – current land use zoning has multiple zones and proposed ordinance would simplify those
 2. Pease believes the ordinance if passed will create traffic and incompatible uses. Concerned about commercial uses in residential areas.
 3. Would like the HOME Initiative to require compliance with existing plans, e.g. the 2040 Land Use Plans. These plans stress design standards such as sunlight and setbacks
 4. Would like to see targeted infill and would like to tie land use to density and transit use. Certain parts of town do not have AWWU and there are ground water uses, no permits required to limit those expansions
 5. Nancy believes that no data has been shown that this change will bring additional affordable housing – there is correlation without causation. Homeowners would like more predictable for what could happen in their neighborhoods. This is a fairly new approach, so it's difficult to find examples from other cities.
 6. This plan has lacked broad community input, and there have been multiple different drafts which reduce times for community input and proper consideration. The legal considerations of the notification for homeowners, and for the tax assessment impacts
 7. Concerns about more recent ordinances proposed to change zoning policies
 8. The ordinance is still with the Planning and Zoning Commission and will be voting on this, public comments can be submitted via email, it will go back to the Assembly at this time
 9. Question and Answer session regarding the presentation
 10. Patrice Parker makes a motion, Trish O seconds

MOTION:

South Addition residents value our neighborhood's low-density residential character, with its one- and two- story houses, its variety of housing choices, sidewalks and alleys, and landscaped yards.

South Addition also includes large tracts of land (Bootleggers Cove, 3rd Addition east of C) for medium and high density housing.

Unfortunately, current zoning rules and standards are not protecting the historic South Addition's low density residential character, leaving it up to residents to reinforce the characteristics that make our neighborhood an exceptional place to live.

We support development standards that:

- protect sunlight into our yards and windows;
- support traditional 2.5 story height standards on duplex lots, [not 3 stories with flat roofs];
- prevent [ensure that] 3-story apartments from being built [are not allowed] on [those] small, duplex lots;
- keep high density residential and commercial development downtown, north of the Park Strip;
- build higher density housing where it's recommended in the 2040 Land Use Plan - along our transit corridors, such as between A and C Streets - not scattered along our low density streets where they will generate more unwanted traffic.

We ask the Anchorage Assembly to work with neighborhoods and the city's professional planners to

- implement Anchorage 2020 and 2040 in good faith,
- provide data to guide zoning changes;
- work with residents to reexamine the 'vision' established 20 years ago and update it if needed.

a. Discussion on the motion, Moira S calls the question and motion to close debate passes

b. Vote on the motion, 15Y-7N

4. Community Comments (3 minutes each) VII. Adjournment – vote to extend to 9pm passed, motion by Cheryl R and seconded by Pam T

- a. Comments from Jeff M: CIP List on the site seems to only go up to 2022 and I would like to have the road on the 13th between I and L
 - i. Response: We will add that to our list for the upcoming year
- b. Comments from Sami G: I would like have in person meetings
 - i. Response: We are working on getting that tech set up