

Spenard Community Council
 Spenard Recreation Center
 2020 W 48th Ave
 Anchorage, AK 99517
 Wednesday, May 1, 2024 7:00-8:30 pm



Minutes

Item No	Clock	Topic	Discussion Leader	Time
	6:30 pm	Happy Half Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect with neighbors and help set up for the meeting 		
1	7:00 pm	Welcome/Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 04/03/2023, Agenda for current meeting) - Called to order at 7:04pm Moved to approve by Irene Pearson-Gambell, seconded by Peggy Auth Introduce Executive Board 	Sarah Preskitt, SCC	5 mins
2	7:05 pm	Brief reports (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembly Report - Felix Rivera - Election: Mayoral runoff, ballots out in the mail yesterday, last day to vote is May 14th. Budget - approved first quarter budget revisions, set mil rates for the general government and the school district. Amendments made for more money for snow removal, also recruitment and retention of Municipal workforce, and on a recurring basis set aside funding for cold weather shelter. Eklutna - utilities sent proposals to the Governor. Assembly asked the utilities to extend 2 years and do more research, but the utilities chose not to do this. There is a tax implication - creates a bill that the Muni will have to pay, a \$10 million property tax bill. Second issue is water rights, ordinance put forward to de-couple the water rights and traditional rights. Housing - finding more housing for more individuals, about 300 over the next 8 months. On May 6th, the Alex Hotel is closing as a homeless shelter. Aviator plans to get to zero by the end of the month. Still has some money to 	Felix Rivera Dave Donley	20 min

		<p>keep the cold weather shelter open in the summer months. Depends on the Governor's approval. Abatement - special meeting to develop a plan, safe parking areas approved for up to 25 vehicles, Mayor criminalizing encampments was voted down, resolution to create a registry that would allow private, non-profit, etc. to allow up to 3 tents on their property. Administration has some concerns about having this type of registry. Felix Rivera bringing back an ordinance on abatements, limiting camping areas to 25 shelters/tents. Putting a one mile barrier around shelters where camping isn't allowed. Questions: Bob Auth - we have a serious issue of homelessness on Fish Creek Trail, dozens of homeless people living on either side of the trail on private property and easements, tons of garbage, polluting Fish Creek, very close to the Alex Hotel, makes the trail unsafe to walk on, nothing being done. A: I'm happy to reach out to the administration to see what the plan is for the summer. Q: Irene Pearson-Gambell - housing on Spenard Road, what is going on with the Barrett Hotel? A: Last update was that it was still being worked on to update kitchens etc. to qualify for housing vouchers. It is being used, but may not be at maximum occupancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Board Report - Dave Donley - Elected Andy Holleman to be the next President of the School Board. Administration going out into the community to do targeted conversations about closing schools, up to ten possible schools closing. Closing schools is one of the hardest things to do. Northwood was on the list last time and could be again next time. Issue of class sizes and extra large class sizes. How do we manage this with the Academies of Anchorage? The Academies are being funded through federal money. It's a very exciting concept. \$960 million budget, 490,000 students. Questions - is there a list of schools that will be closing? A: No, there is no set decisions, they are doing community outreach first to develop a list. 		
3	7:25 pm	<p>Decision topic: Resolution 2024-03: A Resolution in Support of SB 77 - Senate bill from</p>	Peggy Auth, SCC	10 min

		<p>Forrest Dunbar, first proposed last year. Is in regards to abating and tax blighted property. The bill addresses abandoned and derelict homes and buildings. Allow exemptions in property taxes to encourage owners to bring the property up to code and allow for development. If they are not doing this, and this happens to many buildings that are owned by people who live out of State and don't have an incentive to maintain the property, then the State can take over ownership of the property. Property law indifference to whether or not property owners can leave properties derelict and unused. 2.7% of housing units in the US are likely criminally vacant. Could help solve the homelessness problem in the US. Peggy Auth read the proposed resolution out loud to the group. Spenard Community Council supports passage of SB 77. Last chance to get this bill passed.</p> <p>Questions: Owen Stanton - can the SCC maintain a list of the houses that fall into this category? How would the list be developed? A: That is determined by each local entity, so each community will do it their own way. So, in Anchorage, it would come from the Assembly. There are tax roll lists of vacant properties already in existence. Steve Reidell - lives in Homer, owns a piece of property in Spenard that he's been trying to develop for the past ten years. Ordinances make development almost impossible. How about making property development easier? A: That is something that the assembly is working on. This deals with deteriorated houses and buildings. The problem is the legal infrastructure for the municipality to be able to say you need to do this or we take it over. We want to lend our support to the bill in Juneau right now. Matt Duncan move to approve the resolution, Celia Rosen seconds. Resolution passes: 18 to 0.</p>		
4	7:35 pm	<p>Info topic: Lois Drive Reconstruction - Muni of Anchorage project, became an AMATS project. No longer redoing the intersection of Lois and 32nd Avenue. Questions - Matt Duncan: Pedestrian pathway by Aquarian is so bad with trash and then all the traffic from the school is terrible. Needs traffic calming for the school. A: Traffic calming is part of the project. Lindsay Hadjuk - looking at the website and there were</p>	Rob Burdick, PE, CRW Engineering Group, Inc.	10 min

		<p>four different intersection options and now there seems to be one chosen without any community input on the design. What about the buffer and the driving lane? A: most of the decision had to do with a property owner and avoiding the light pole. We are just trying to keep the project moving ahead and so that was why decisions were made. Public Open House will happen after the 65% area design will happen, probably in October. Irene Pearson-Gambell - that sounds like a time? A: Surveyors have to go out to gather information. Peggy Auth - what happens where the pathway stops? That isn't showing clearly on the schematic.</p>		
5	7:45 pm	<p>Info topic: 2025 Spenard Capital Improvement Program Priorities Interactive opportunity to select the 2025 Capital Improvement Program Priorities for Spenard. No powered technology required! - Sarah introduced the CIP and the activity. Felix Rivera explains what the Assembly does with the information that they receive on the CIP from the different Community Councils. It is used to create the Bonds that get put on the Municipal ballots every April. This part is the public process to develop the priorities of each community.</p>	SCC Executive Board Members	20 min
6	8:05 pm	<p>Community Announcements Peggy Auth - Recognizing Lindsey Hadjuk for her 40 Under 40 Award. Lindsay Hadjuk - May is city-wide clean up month, we can organize the clean up for Spenard. Midtown District Plan having a kick off 5/14 at 6pm at Natural Pantry that includes a part of Spenard in it. Spenard Corridor Task Force the second Tuesday or Monday of the month. Shawna Calt - Spenard Neighborhood Clean Up, on May 11th donated dumpsters to help clean up the neighborhood. Dumpsters at 1900 W Benson Blvd. She is with Keller Williams Realty. Also Habitat for Humanity, wants to get volunteer applications out to community members, so see Shawna for an application. She provided a description of the work of Habitat for Humanity, trying to build another 12-14 homes over the next three years. Golf Tournament at Fox Hollow in June to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Irene Pearson-Gambell - ASSC - looking for</p>	All	10 min

		<p>people who would like to host an exchange student from all around the world.</p> <p>Steve Riedel - Fish Creek Clean Up - questions about when that would happen. Lindsey Hadjuk has the answer - Anchorage Waterways Council</p> <p>Sarah Preskitt - the transportation study for the new transit center is open until May 3rd.</p>		
7	8:15 pm	<p>Adjourn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting: June 5, 7pm, Spenard Community Recreation Center - Peggy Auth moves to adjourn, Irene Pearson-Gambell seconds. Adjourn at 8:26pm. 		

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