

South Addition Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm

Meeting held on Zoom

1. Call to order - quorum established at 7:03 p.m.
 - a. Approval of the agenda, Eleanor A moved, Pam seconds
 - b. Approval of May 2024 meeting minutes, Tom B moves, Ira S seconds

2. Inlet View School Construction Presentation
 - a. Groundbreaking happened this month!
 - b. Waiting to do the north side compacting, water line being worked on today. Using a small compactor as best they can to reduce the neighborhood noise impacts of the large compacting. Saving all the trees and landscaping they can, but code requirements and the work do require some to come down.
 - c. Building a berm to mitigate water concerns
 - d. Constituents express thanks to crew responsiveness and how nice the crew members have been
 - e. The team is keeping a blog to report updates –
<https://inletviewreplacement.com/project-details>

3. Standing Reports
 - a. SACC President John Thurber
 - i. We will be having hybrid meetings starting in September
 - b. Legislature: Representative Fields, & Senator Tobin
 - i. Senator Tobin: we're on break from legislative session. The deadline for the Governor to sign the budget is tomorrow (Friday, June 28th). Achievement in putting funds above the Base Student Allocation, and additional funds included to support the Alaska Reads Act. Juneteenth bill signed into law today. This weekend is the Anchorage Pride parade, Sen Tobin will be marching in the parade and invites everyone to attend the celebration. While in the interim, her staff is researching policy bills on the topics of emergency protective orders, renewable energy, and a possible welcoming center for refugee and immigrant Alaskans.
 - ii. If you have any bill ideas or concerns, please reach out to our office sen.loki.tobin!@akleg.gov – office will be putting out newsletter via lgtobin.substack.com
 - iii. Looking for volunteers for the Fairview Block Party to help get residents registered to vote
 - iv. Constituent questions:

1. Pre-K policy into a piece of legislation – has it been signed yet?
 - a. The bill has not been transmitted to the governor at this time, we are staying in communication with and are keeping an eye on the bills that were passed and are in that holding pattern.
2. How do you determine adequate and equitable funding for schools?
 - a. Sen Tobin held a hearing on this topic, hearing from vendors who were brought in to analyze that question and recommend what proper funding would look like for our schools
3. Could you tell us more about DOT, a lot of our problems in this neighborhood are transportation related?
 - a. Sen Tobin’s intent is to pursue a rolling STIP process alongside her colleague Sen Kaufman. Staying very engaged on the Seward to Glenn PEL and the Reconnecting Fairview grant. She will continue to build a coalition with other colleagues who are looking to make DOT more responsive to our communities
4. The food worker at Inlet View broke her wrist, and the students were provided shelf stable options for food options with parents unable to fill the gap due to safety and licensing stipulations
 - a. Sen Tobin cannot speak to ASD policies, but the food situation for students was a point that was brought up in committee and is a compelling reason for additional supports.
- c. LaFrance Administration Transition Update: Eleanor Andrews
 - i. Four transition teams have been formed to make recommendations and identify action items within sectors. Department heads have not yet been appointed.
- d. Assembly: Christopher Constant & Daniel Volland
 - i. No report
- e. Anchorage Fire and Police Departments
 - i. AFD, Captain Ben Simonds
 1. Wood lot in South Anchorage will not be open this year, but there will be one at the old SWS site
 2. AFD has a wildland fire coordinator to help train AFD staff and to help educate the public on how to prevent, prepare, and respond if we do have a wildland fire event. [Firewise program for home inspection](#), free from AFD.

3. Lithium batteries are a growing problem, please use the SWS free disposal site
 4. AFD is giving out bike helmets to children for free! You can bring or direct youth to their local fire stations to get fitted with helmets
 5. Please check your fire alarm batteries! We had 11 fatal fires that were preventable
 6. Feel free to stop by fire station one downtown any time
 7. Fire Chief Schrage is maintaining his position under Mayor LaFrance
 8. Questions:
 - a. What was the midtown smoke I saw earlier? Fire at 25th and A St earlier today and 2 people were transported to the hospital.
 - b. AFD used to do home visits to advise on fire questions, is that still going on? You can still come to the station or call, but we don't often do house calls under a specific program at this time.
 - c. What is the fire outlook at this time? And who do we call if we see smoke in our neighborhood? Thanks to our wildland fire program, we are monitoring the fire outlook every day. We have a brush truck and are monitoring it – please call 911 if you see smoke. Some fires are from unhoused folks for warmth, and if it is contained/keeping those folks alive we allow for that.
 - f. Anchorage School Board - Dave Donley
 - i. No report
 - g. Transportation Committee – Anna Bosin
 - i. AMATS meeting recommended where they would like additional safety investments under the HSIP program. Currently waiting to find out if Anchorage will receive a Safe Streets for All grant on/around the Bragaw area.
 - h. Neighborhood Plan – Tamas Deak
 - i. Neighborhood Plan Committee working with the Planning Department to finalize the plan for public consumption, the end of August is the goal for it to be reviewed by stakeholders and the draft will be open for public comment. A public hearing at the Planning and Zoning Commission is upcoming in the fall.
4. Council Business
 - a. Old Business

- i. Neighborhood Trees – Deborah Hansen: working to get a beautification permit from the SOA. Meeting with a representative on Monday to go over the plan. Deborah is still waiting to hear back about the grant and will continue on the permit process.
- b. New Business
 - i. [Project Anchorage Sales Tax Proposal](#) – Ira Slomski-Pritz
 1. Proposal would ideally lower property taxes, capture additional funds from visitors. This would be a 3% sales tax going towards specific projects and property tax reduction. Inspired by Oklahoma City, which did a 1% sales tax (called MAPS) which helped them solve similar issues to what Anchorage is facing. The Project Anchorage team has an open call for proposals, with specific projects being on the ballot. It is anticipated that 20% of the new revenue would be from visitor spending.
 2. Basic necessities would be exempted
 3. Final proposal language still in flux, asking Anchorage residents to imagine what our community can look like.
 4. Questions:
 - a. Is the website translated into multiple languages? No, but thank you for that great suggestion!
 - b. Why is gas exempted? We already have a gas tax, so I believe that's why the project team chose to exempt that.
 - ii. Executive Board Elections – Tom Begich
 1. Positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the 4 at-large members.
 2. Candidates for each position:
 - a. President: John Thurber
 - b. Vice President: Harry Need
 - c. Treasurer: Tamas Deak
 - d. Secretary: Mackenzie Pope
 - e. At Large: William Hurr, Anna Bosin, Eleanor Andrews, and Deborah Hansen
 3. Tom Begich moves that the slate of candidates are adopted by unanimous consent at the recommendation of the executive committee.
5. Community Comments (3 minutes each)
 - a. Comments from new Executive Committee Members: Eleanor, Deborah, and Will
6. Adjournment – 8:26 p.m.