

## Spenard Community Council

Spenard Recreation Center

2020 W 48th Ave

Anchorage, AK 99517

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 7:00-8:45 pm



# Minutes

| Item | Topic  | Discussion Leader                   |
|------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1    | <b>Welcome/Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consent Agenda (Minutes from previous meeting 06/05/2023, Agenda for current meeting) - meeting called to order at 7:02pm, motion to approve agenda Peggy Auth, second by Julie Leonard. Approved.</li><li>Introduce Executive Board</li></ul>  | Sarah Preskitt, SCC                 |
| 2    | <b>President's Report</b> - Met with Municipal Depts. And members of the Assembly re: Wilson St., 3200 Spenard, and Northwood Park. Came up with six goals for our community for the 24-25 year. Sarah reviewed these goals. Possibility of forming different committees.  | Sarah Preskitt, SCC                 |
| 3    | <b>Brief reports</b> (10 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assembly Report - reported on homeless camps in the area of Northwood Park. Had representative from APD to speak about the Northwood Park camp, reported on 2 officer team working on homeless camps, an officer and a clinician. Talked about signage, no trespassing signs being posted and the process for enforcing the trespassing rules. Have reached out to the private property owner to have signage posted and how to enforce the trespassing laws. Question: How many people are arrested, going to jail and staying in jail? What is the Assembly doing to support this rehabilitation? APD: Arrest is always our last option, particularly when there is evidence of mental illness, or need of other assistance. Can involuntarily hospitalize a person who we deem has a mental illness so that they can be stabilized and on medication. HOPE Team and their mission to help with the homeless population. It is a balance though, when there is a person committing a crime then they will prosecute. KP-V: This is a great conversation, a more in-depth conversation. Assembly role to create policy and allocate funds to help work on these problems. There are a number of things we are trying to do to keep people safe and keep crime low. ? - Questions regarding the Chelsea Inn and Lois Drive, where is the police presence there? APD - Chelsea Inn is harder to address since it is a privately owned business. Plan to have a special meeting to discuss the specifics of the Chelsea Inn and Lois Dr./Spenard area. K P-V: Wilson property, code enforcement and APD have been to the property, they cleared the property and boarded it up. People broke back in and then were cleared a second time. 3200 Spenard: Code Enforcement has been working with the</li></ul> | Kameron Perez-Verdia<br>Dora Wilson |

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|   | <p>property owner to clear the lower level of that property. Conversations in the community re: officer involved shootings. There is a lot going on around these events. Being reviewed by APD and by an external agency from the Mayor. Public Safety Commission sunset, so it no longer exists. K P-V along with Anna Brawley are working to bring back that commission. Want it to be a meaningful place for the community and APD. ?: Any updates on CIP? Anna Brawley - not yet, that process will get going soon, have all the input from the different community councils. More information coming on CIP. Bob Auth - part of summertime meeting, issues regarding campers on Fish Creek Trail and Park, the trail is not safe. Heading into the third winter of those encampments happening on Fish Creek Trail, need jersey barriers or ballards to keep people from being able to drive. ?: Is there a higher trespassing penalty than a misdemeanor? APD - no there isn't, there is a process for a repeat offender. ?: Can we ask property owners of vacant property to present to SCC so we can find out how we can encourage them to sell that property? Lindsey Hadjuk - want to thank APD for the work that was done at Wilson Street property. Has made a huge positive impact on that neighborhood. Sarah Preskitt - we should move forward with a special meeting to address these issues. K. P.-V. - will make sure that the whole commission is present to discuss the issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Board Report - No School Board representative present.</li> </ul> |   |
| 4 | <p><b>Decision topic:</b> Double Eagle Cannabis Business Plan and MOU - 2500 Spenard, across from Chilkoot Charlie's, was a Shell Station gas station. First year, a representative of the business comes to the meetings to answer questions. After that they attend one meeting per year. Standard practice with cannabis and alcohol businesses in Spenard. Jared Karr - we try to support the community by hiring from within the community and help support the overall well being of the community. We want to be a good business partner with the community. ?: Sarah Preskitt - what exactly are you selling in your business? Jared Karr - standard marijuana store products, no consumption on the property. Marijuana Taxes - go to early childcare and education. Anchorage Childcare and Early Education Fund (ACE). The Assembly approves the Board of community members and experts in childcare and early education. Motion to approve MOA by Matt Duncan, seconded by Peggy Auth. MOA passed without objection.</p>  | Jared Karr and Naim Sabini, Double Eagle Cannabis |
| 5 | <p><b>Info Topic:</b> 48th and Van Buren Traffic Calming - Zakary Hartman providing input and information on the project that was first presented in April. Speeding on 45th - 48th Avenues, plans for speed cushions on 45th, 46th and 47th with a raised crosswalk on 48th. Three way stop on 48th and Van Buren. The stop sign isn't really working. Hoping to make a permanent change to slow down traffic in this neighborhood. ?: How does one initiate a traffic calming process? Z H - Citizens call the MOA Traffic Engineering Dept., but community council resolutions are even more impactful. Comment about the improvements on Lois Drive and what a positive impact the speed humps have had. Peggy Auth - the improvements on Lois were partially due to the tireless work of the Spenard Community Council for a</p>   | Zakary Hartman, MOA Traffic Engineering           |

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|   | number of years. Problems of the intersections at 45th and Northwood. ZH - remembers discussing this corner back at the April meeting and that work is being looked at for it.   |   |
| 6 | <b>Info Topic:</b> Midtown District Plan - ACDA - Melinda wrote the grant for a Midtown District Plan. Began with the Spenard District Plan. This plan has a Steering Committee, has representatives from the SCC (Sarah and Matt), encourages people physically attending the meeting, but meetings are also hybrid for folks who can't attend. Use QR Code for getting information on the meetings. Create a plan to lead to actions tied to vision and goals. Right now there is a survey about people if they live, work or play in Midtown? Survey is closing at the end of September. Hoping to have over 100 people attend the next meeting. ?: How is it being paid for? MG - paid for by grant, no more money needed after the creation of the guiding document. ?: Will this process have an impact on property taxes? MG - incentive on property tax abatement for investment.  | Melinda Gant,<br>Anchorage<br>Community<br>Development<br>Authority |
| 7 | <b>Info Topic:</b> Alaska Bookmobile - An artist run project that lives in Spenard. Retired bus that was designed to be a library. A mobile free library and art space. Did outdoor film screenings. Purchased land from Sheila Wyne to store the Bookmobile and have been developing the space to be a small park, "Young Hermit Park". Got funding from the Park Foundation. Example - garden beds that were built, planted 20# of seed potatoes. Working with Aquarian Charter School to dig up the potatoes. Could use some help with the mechanical work on the bus. Lots of ways for folks to get involved. Can be reached through SCC. Help with building a "haunted shack" for ToTFC. List of ideas on how people can help.  | Jimmy Riordan,<br>Alaska Bookmobile                                 |
| 8 | <b>Info Topic:</b> Trick or Treat Fish Creek - Thursday, October 31st, 6-8pm.  | Margaret<br>McDonagh, SCC   |
| 9 | <b>Info Topic:</b> Project Anchorage - New 3% sales tax, 2% to offset property tax and 1% to increase quality of life in Anchorage. ProjectAnchorage.com Started 2 years ago, interested in how to keep people in the community of Anchorage, stop the outmigration, particularly of the youth. Developed proposal based on two years of study. How to better invest in facilities and public spaces on how to keep people wanting to live and work in Anchorage. Using a tax model to invest in the city. Economic Research Center at UAA. Most of the funds will come from taxing out of state visitors. There are exemptions: groceries, rent, healthcare, childcare, financial transactions for businesses, proposed maximum cap on transactions. All a proposal has to go before Assembly and then before voters. Capital projects - applications for nominations close on September 15th. Form on the website for nominations. Voting on the whole project and specific projects in the plan. Questions on taxes, will the tax be added to marijuana and alcohol and bed taxes. Why invest in capital projects instead of investing in education and young people? Examples of OK and GA. Concerns for renters and lower income community members, what about the 40% of their income that are not part of the exemption categories. Specifically exempting utilities. | Radhika Krishna,<br>Project Anchorage                               |

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| <p><b>10</b></p> | <p><b>Community Announcements</b></p> <p>*Alyse Galvin Staff - Update, spent summer listening to neighbors and learning what is important to them, on 9/23 at LIO hosting an Education Summit, plans to tour prisons and ride along with APD. Bill signings over the summer, vetoed bills also happened over the summer. Can reach out to Alyse's office for help.</p> <p>*Helena Sarcone - Spenard 2nd Saturday - Speaker Series - at Bear Tooth on Spenard History in September, October, and November. All at 11am, tickets are free but you must get tickets in advance.</p> <p>*Evan Leaf - FCC Town Hall Series at Loussac Library focusing on outreach and demystifying CC and how they work. Better understanding of community councils and how they work.</p> <p>*Lindsey Hajduk - Spenard Corridor Task Force, plans regarding transportation in Spenard. Usually meets the second Tuesday of the month but currently looking at rescheduling.</p> <p>*Alison Kelley - Wants to form a group of 4-6 to work on specific actions and issues of homelessness in Spenard.</p> <p>*Sarah Preskitt - best way to get information about Spenard is to sign up for the listserve at FCC. Communitycouncils.org, scroll to "Join your council emails"</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p><b>11</b></p> | <p><b>Adjourn</b> Lindsey Hadjuk - motion to adjourn, Erica Filburn second. Adjourn at 8:45pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Next Meeting: October 2, 7pm, Spenard Community Recreation Center</li> </ul>   |            |