

**Spenard Community Council**

Spenard Recreation Center  
 2020 W 48th Ave  
 Anchorage, AK 99517  
 Wednesday, December 4, 2024 7:00-8:45 pm  
 Doors open at 6:30pm



**Minutes**

Topic	Discussion Leader
<p><b>Welcome/Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Consent Agenda</b> (Minutes from previous meeting 11/6/2024, Agenda for current meeting) 7:11pm called to order. Amendments to agenda - add an airport report after Assembly, no Fish Creek Trail Presentation, no objections. Motion to approve agenda and minutes, by Karen seconded by Riley.</li> <li>● <b>Introduce Executive Board</b></li> </ul>	<p>Sarah Preskitt, SCC</p>
<p>Brief reports (10 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Assembly Report</b> - Fish Creek Trail Connection Project - has some controversy going on with that, neighborhood members trying to stop the project and possibly the State. Marathon Oil and Parks &amp; Rec will be presenting tomorrow regarding Fish Creek Trail. See AMATS website for details to attend. Budget passed recently, Mayor’s proposed budget. Expansion of the Mobile Crisis Team to 24/7. Has been a very successful program so expansion is great. Improving retention in the Prosecutor’s pay, increase in the snow removal/plow drivers pay, increase in funding for traffic calming. Improvements to snow removal response. Questions: Peggy Auth - Does the Assembly have any say about setting the speed limits on city streets? If so, can you start reducing those speed limits? Answer: Currently in code, no. Speed limits are at the discretion of the Municipal Traffic Engineer. It’s been a long time since the code has been updated. The Transportation Committee of the Assembly is going to be examining this more closely in response to the many pedestrian deaths. Karen Button - Fish Creek Trail Extension - the property owners who are concerned about it but also the State. Can you elaborate the State part? Answer: Part of that will be addressed at the AMATS meeting. There is a rumor that the Governor does not support the project. McCarrey family that lives near the railroad is opposed.</li> <li>● <b>Airport Update:</b> New airline coming - West Jet, Canada’s 2nd largest airline. Will have direct flights from Anchorage to Calgary in Summer 2025. Student Holiday Art at the Airport in partnership with Camp Fire, Alaska Council. December is a busy season for the airport, particularly with cargo. Things will get calmer again in January. Yute Airline will also be flying out of Anchorage to SW Alaska starting in February. They are centered in Bethel. Question: Something about a trail in Kincaid and construction of some kind related to the airport.</li> </ul>	<p>Daniel Volland, District 1 Assembly Representative</p> <p>Erik Peterson, Ted Stevens International Airport</p>
<p><b>Introduction of Decision Topic: Letter on Chugach Way Design</b> - Reading of the letter regarding the SCC requests on the Study of Chugach Way.</p> <p><b>Introduction of Decision Topic: Letter to Assembly on Functional Classifications of Roadways in Spenard</b> - letter that includes information on the issue of speed limits on specific roadways in Spenard. (Minnesota, Northern Lights, Benson, and Fireweed)</p>	<p>Sarah Preskitt, SCC</p>

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<p>Questions: Karen Button - will there be time to discuss them before we vote on them? Answer: yes.</p>	
<p><b>Decision Topic: Meeting Dates in 2025</b> - Which meetings should be adjusted? All the meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month or just January and October. Vote held: only January and October will be adjusted.</p>	<p>Sarah Preskitt, SCC</p>
<p><b>Decision Topic: Midtown District Plan Vision and Goals</b> - discussion on West Anchorage District Plan and Spenard Corridor Plan and how they are already approved and incorporated into the Midtown District Plan. Adding language just after the first mention of Midtown District Plan to say, “authorized in the West Anchorage District Plan via Ordinance... June 2012 and the plan itself via Ordinance ... “ Motion of addition passes 14 to 1. Correction to an incomplete sentence. No objections to the correction of the error. Phil had comments of concern. Vote on the letter as a whole passes 12 to 2.</p>	<p>Sarah Preskitt, SCC</p>
<p><b>Decision Topic: Resolution 2024-04:</b> A resolution in response to the Public Hearing Draft of the 10-Year Review of Community Council Boundaries in Spenard - Bob explained the history of the change to the boundaries of the Spenard CC and the area of Spenard Beach Park. Voting on Resolution: Passes 15 to 0.</p>	<p>Bob Auth, SCC Member and past President</p>
<p><b>Information Topic: Homelessness Outreach</b> - update on shelter options that are now being offered in the Anchorage Municipality. Including the number of beds available in the variety of shelter operations. Also other services that are being offered in the shelters. All shelters have case management for the people using the shelters to help link them to other services. APD spoke of the combination of officers and social workers teaming to help make contact with people suffering from homelessness and helping to get them connected to services. APD has just completed an academy and has new officers who are coming on board. Questions/Comments: Bob Auth - sharing concerns about camps along Fish Creek Trail and how all he does is walk to document the camps and frustration about the trails. Other members talked about the Fish Creek Trail specifically, and how terrible the conditions on that trail were. Questions about the number of homeless in Anchorage. It is somewhere in the 2,000 range, but that includes people in overcrowded housing, transitional housing, not all living out on the streets. Anna Brawley shares the history of Brother Francis Shelter and how it came to be in the 1980’s.</p>	<p>Farina Brown, Special Assistant in Homelessness and Health, Office of the Mayor Lt. Brian Fuchs, Anchorage Police Department, Mobile Intervention Team</p>
<p><b>Information Topic: Anchor Gardens</b> - Work in neighborhoods to help people to learn how to grow all their own food and provide resources to help make that happen. Focus on neighborhood gardens. Been working on building more community gardens all throughout the community. Have coaches to help people learn how to grow their own food. You can find resources for free that you may need for gardening. Coaches help with understanding the different microclimates in Anchorage. Also help sponsor seed exchanges and seedling exchanges in the spring. Anchorgardens.org is the website. There are also Facebook groups for specific gardens. Offer composting classes and other classes.</p>	<p>Larissa Wright-Elson, Anchor Gardens</p>

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<p><b>Information Topic: Spenard 2nd Saturday</b> - Organization to champion creatives and local businesses and give back to the community. Have our website, on Facebook and Instagram. Volunteer run, looking to become sustainable as an organization. Partner with Anchorage Community Land Trust. Seeking support from neighbors and local businesses. <a href="mailto:spenard2ndsaturday@gmail.com">spenard2ndsaturday@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Helena Sarcone, Spenard 2nd Saturday</p>
<p><b>Community Announcements</b> - Daniel Volland: AMATS meeting - <a href="http://publicinput.com/AMATS">publicinput.com/AMATS</a> , use the tabs for meetings and events to get linked to the Fish Creek Trail Meeting. Anna Brawley: Parks and Rec - Midtown Cuddy Park Solstice Celebration 5-8pm on December 21st. Kristine Bunnell, Midtown District Plan - give kudos to Sarah Preskitt for her work on the Midtown District Plan. Phil Isley: Adams Center Guided Hypnotic Celebration at 7pm focuses on mindfulness. Suggested donation of \$10. Karen Button: Friends of Fish Creek art panel that has a map of the watershed and has QR codes that lead to the history of the area. The art panel is at Cuddy Park. Sarah Preskitt: Sign up for a committee!</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next Meeting: January 8, 7pm, Spenard Community Recreation Center 8:56pm - Peggy Auth moves to adjourn and Susana Becker seconds.</li> </ul>	