



Heights Herald

The Monthly Newsletter of the Airport Heights Community Council of Anchorage, Alaska

Ice Rink Improvements

We have been challenged by the Rasmussen Foundation and the Anchorage Parks Foundation to fund and rebuild the **Scotty Gomez Ice Rink** at Tikishla Park this summer.

We need volunteers to do fundraising for our share, up to \$35,000 in cash, materials, and labor. We need volunteers to schedule and run a skate-a-thon/ winter carnival, collect donations of materials and cash, and schedule labor for the summer.

If you have any ideas for these activities or can volunteer, please contact Mark Houston, houston.mark@gmail.com or call 244-4250. Let him know what you can do to help, and/or how much you would like to contribute in cash, materials, or labor.

We need to act **now**, because we are applying for the matching grant now, and cannot miss our deadlines. Summer will be here soon, and we need to be ready to tear down the old rink and begin constructing the new one.

You can also learn more about this opportunity at the Community Council meeting (see agenda in next column.)

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7 p.m.	Call to Order, administration notes, introductions (Chair)
7:05	Approval of minutes/agenda (Chair/Secretary)
7:10 Presentations/ Reports	Legislature Assembly PTA Parks Committee Traffic Committee
7:30	Anchorage School District 2008 Bond Propositions, ASD
8:00	Recess
8:10	Tikishla Park Hockey Rink Improvements (Mark Houston)
8:30	Land Use Enforcement (Duane Wyatt, MOA)
8:45	Community Concerns (3 minutes for any council member to speak on any community-related topic)
9:00	Ajourn

Why Start a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program?

The Crime Watch program enhances neighborhoods in many respects. From 2002 to 2006 Anchorage experienced 8,000 burglaries—Crime Watch neighborhoods experienced 3 of those 8,000. The program is effective, and it is free!

The program requires convening a meeting of a chosen set of households (as few as 2 will do) in an area where the residents can visually evaluate each other's homes and the surroundings. To get Crime Watch street signs requires 50% participation in inventorying and marking (as appropriate) personal valuables. Individual homes can obtain Operation ID stickers for their windows even if the 50% participation isn't obtained. Emails are also sent to participants when there are incidents in their area they should be alert to.

You probably already know many of your neighbors, please consider taking these few extra steps for them and you. Call NCW at 786-8585 for more information.

JANUARY 17, 2008 MINUTES

Chair Jon Spring convened the meeting at 705. Whitey Geddes made a motion to approve the November minutes, the motion was seconded and approved. Ed Brewer moved to approve the December minutes, the motion was seconded and approved. Ed Brewer moved to approve the agenda s submitted with the addition of an FCC report, the motion was seconded and approved. Spelling for name of Chemard was corrected.

Representative Sharon Cissna phoned in with a report on legislative training for ethics and focus on the Health and Social Services Finance Subcommittee budget process as the session starts.

The were no reports from the Anchorage Assembly or PTA.

Mark Houston discussed the hockey rink grant opportunity. The items that will be worked on were presented at the December meeting, those items have been moved to the design stage now, which the Alaska Parks Foundation is funding. We need to do fund raising and solicit time and materials for match for the grant, which is going to be about 1/3 of the \$100,000 grant, or about \$33,000 in actual money and the value of time and materials donations. . Mark hopes to have a fund raiser at the rink on a Saturday when there could also be volunteers signs up for the actual work this summer. There is still discussion of possibilities of adding a figure skating area, and the baseball field usage is also being examined.

Bill Boyd of the Traffic Committee suggested that the community begin thinking about what to do with the east end of 16th Avenue, which was removed from the final traffic plan for 16th Avenue at the last meeting. Jon said if bond issues pass in the spring the approved items will be funded. Bill said he would like the community to drive the process for the remainder of E. 16th, with a close look at aesthetics and calming.

The FCC report was proved by Chris Doucette. ASD discussed funding, and the MOA web site upgrade was discussed. A new manager will be hired soon at the center. The new APD SARA program will be discussed later on the agenda.

Jon Spring introduced the Public Safety agenda topic. He said the MyNeighborhood link from the MOA home page now provides crime statistics for neighborhoods. Karen Walker of Eastridge condominiums said vehicle break-ins and thefts have occurred in condos with carports at Eastride. She was also concerned about tent camps in the surrounding parks area, including Sitka Park. Mark Houston said there is also camping behind his house on 20th and along the spur trail. Ed Brewer has often worked on this and helps with the cleanup and move-outs. He said there is a proposal for the assembly to put up a camp on the old Native Hospital land with toilets, camp sites, etc. Fining the campers does no good as they do not have the dollars to pay the fines. Everyone is encouraged to place calls to the police department to report any and all suspicious activities, even if the police department doesn't seem to be able to help it will at least be entered into their database of calls. The drug house at 1810 Talkeenta had been finally addressed earlier this week and is now boarded up; the council has asked for information on when the house can be made available for re-occupancy as it is currently an eye-sore.

Wade Lacey presented on the Neighborhood Crime Watch program. As little as 2 homes can create a NH Watch neighborhood, and even if all houses don't participate in the property ID program those that do can get decals for their homes. He said from 2002 to date there have been 9,400 burglaries in Anchorage, there were only 5 in the 80 crime watch neighborhoods. His program includes email broadcasts to participating neighborhoods to alert people where there has been a problem in their area they should be aware of.

Sharon Chemard and Lee Ross of the Fairview Community Council discussed their Public Safety Committee efforts, which includes a community patrol. Their main function is identifying and conducting surveillance of known drug houses, with occasional random patrols. They said a lot of activity in a house doesn't mean drugs, but activities such as parking a car some distance away and walking to the house might be more suspicious. They suggested contacting and working with the the property owner if it's a rental house, or the mortgage holder if it is an owner-occupied home. There are municipal and state ordinance allowing a \$500 fine if properties receive more than 8 calls in one year. Representative Cissna said she would look into the details and see if these ordinances need refined for multiple-unit properties.

Chris Doucette reported on the new SARA (Scanning/Analysis/Response/Assessment) program by the Anchorage Police Department, a new policing program in partnership with the community using. a problem-oriented policing model. Sid Atwood said the Community Builders (former community patrol) group will meet soon and identify leaders to work on incorporating some of these ideas for the Airport Heights council area.

Chris Doucette moved to adjourn the meting, the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.