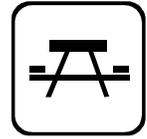




Heights Herald



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

MEETING AGENDA THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008 7-9 PM, AIRPORT HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,

AHCC complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is an equal opportunity employer. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities on request. Contact the Community Councils Center, 277-1977 at least 10 days prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

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|---------------------------|---|
| 7 p.m. | Call to Order, administration notes, introductions (Chair) |
| 7:05 | Approval of minutes/agenda (Chair/Secretary) |
| 7:10 | Legislature |
| Presentations/
Reports | PTA |
| | Parks Committee |
| | Traffic Committee |
| 7:20 | Gomez Ice Rink Expansion (Mark Houston) |
| 7:40 | Bragaw Interchange Lighting |
| 8:00 | Recess |
| 8:10 | 2008 Capital Improvement Project Priorities |
| 8:50 | Community concerns (3 minutes for any council member to speak on any community-related topic) |
| 9:00 | Adjourn |

Mark Your Calendars—Annual Airport Heights Community Council Picnic is Saturday, June 14

From 1:00 to 4:00, at Tikishla Park, 20th and Sunrise. Want to help? Please call Dawn at 223-4001.

“Images of Youth” Summer Drama Camps at Out North

These camps are for youth starting 7th through 12th grades next school year.

The first camp will run May 27 - June 13 from 9-1, Mondays through Fridays, to help students develop their own stories for the stage and create a short film. Local teaching artist Betsy Douds will work with students, she is currently running Out North’s Drama Program for Hmong students at Begich Middle School. Another camp will run July 7 - 17, from 9-1, Mondays through Fridays, where students will learn the basics of cooking soup, will explore their own cultural cooking roots, and will create a performance based on stories from these cooking experiences. National performing artists Robert Karimi, a seasoned performing artist, and John Castro, a professional chef, will work with the students for the cooking and creating efforts!

Cost is \$225 per camp, full scholarships are available for disabled and/or low to moderate income families. Call 279-8099 or email art@outnorth.org for details.

APRIL 17, 2008 MINUTES

Airport Heights Community Council

Chair Jon Spring convened the meeting at 7:01. Ed Brewer moved to approve the minutes of the March 2008 AHCC meeting. The motion was seconded and approved. The agenda was approved as presented.

Mike Webb, Principal of Airport Heights Elementary School, reported the Campfire program will occupy the school the entire summer and that Airport Heights Elementary School is part of the safe schools grant project so all school walking routes will be re-viewed and re-evaluated.

Parks Committee member Elaine Pratt reported that the AHCC was awarded a \$14,685 Challenge Grant for 2008 for Nichols Park improvements, to include seeding, tree planting, securing boundaries with bollards and natural rock, and removing the baseball field fence. The Chair also announced that a second 2008 Challenge Grant was awarded to the AHCC for the Gomez Ice Rink Improvements in the amount of \$40,000.

No report was made by the Traffic Committee. Kevin Apgar stated the new median proposed west of Alder on 16th will hinder several Kobuk Circle home from accessing their property via backyard gates on 16th. Mr. Apgar asked why property owners along the circle were not notified of the improvements which affected their property. The Chair explained the public process included the formation of a traffic calming advisory committee. The project was also extensively discussed and ultimately approved at the December 20, 2007 AHCC meeting. Barbara Karl offered to meet with Mr. Apgar to discuss this issue.

SaraEllen Hutchison from the Alaska Center for the Environment discussed the proposed curbside recycling program for consideration by the Municipal Assembly in the near future. Parts of the Airport Heights Community Council are included in the initial startup of the new program, which will include curbside pickup of a 96-gallon container for plastic bottles and bags, steel and aluminum cans, paper and newspaper; collection shall be twice monthly, with service beginning Fall 2008 for roughly 1/3 of Solid Waste Services customers and expanding over the next couple years. Outreach and education will target schools, community groups, and municipal employees. Members expressed concern that this program could be a burden on the elderly who may not be able to handle the 96 gallon containers and where the containers would be picked up as many residents have alley garbage pick-up and would have difficulty placing containers in front of their house if this was a requirement of the program.

Dwayne Adams, a consultant from Land Design North, discussed the Russian Jack Golf Course Improvement project. The original plan called for the creation of an advanced executive type course with irrigation and a driving range requiring the clearing of about 25 acres of trees. In response to objections to the tree clearing, a new plan has been created which scales back the golf course improvements and limits clearing to about 7.5 acres, 5.7 acres of which are for the new driving range to be located at the northwest corner of the park. He explained the driving range is needed to help finance the operation of the 1st tee program, a golf program for low-income youth. He discovered when meeting with the Nordic Ski Club that the improvements may benefit skiers as it would allow a more efficient and smoother start area than currently used. Members asked about the impact on water quality, particularly the springs in the park which gives it its name; he said water quality will be monitored as a part of the project. Only tees and greens will be watered thus reducing the amount of fertilizer run-off. Members discussed the importance of the program to kids in the area and expressed appreciation that the proposed improvements could co-exist with the Nordic ski trails.

Jim White, Planning and Development Chief for the Anchorage Fire Department, discussed improvements to the Fire Training Center located on the west side of Airport Heights Road between Debarr Road and Penland Parkway. The \$21 million project will include new classroom and training building, additional stories to the existing training tower, renovation of the existing office and classroom building. The plan includes Alaska-appropriate landscaping, a new sidewalk along Airport Heights Road, and access via Merrill Field Road instead of Airport Heights Drive. No changes will be made in the hours of operation. Only clean burning natural gas and LP gas will be used in the training center. Site work is expected to start July or August 2008 and be completed by September 2009. Mr. White also mentioned that the replacement of the existing fire station (the oldest in town) is included in the State Capital budget.

Representative Cissna discussed the final days of the legislative session. An additional \$30,000 was added from state funding for the Gomez Ice Rink improvements.

Under community concerns, members discussed issues related to Tikishla Park safety, with particular concern on reported drug dealing activity in the park. There were also reports that the gate is not being locked at night. It was pointed out that the gate locking relies on neighborhood volunteers and more volunteers are needed. Members discussed the feasibility of setting up a web-based surveillance camera to monitor activity in the park. It was suggested that money from the community patrol grant could be used to fund the camera setup.

Mark Fish moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Free Summer Lunch Program for Youth 18 years or Younger will be 7 Days a Week this Summer!

Paddleboat Café at Goose Lake will once again sponsor this program for free lunches from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. seven a days a week. There is no requirement other than age of 18 or less, all youth are encouraged to participate. The program starts May 23 and ends the day before school starts. If you are over 18 and still want to participate you are encouraged to do so and can eat lunch for a modest \$5 cost. This is a wonderful program to assure all youth are well fed during the summer when the school lunch program is not in effect; please let others know about the program and consider dropping by for \$5 lunch yourself!