

Spenard Community Council Minute

March 2, 2005

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its March meeting with a Legislative Teleconference. Rep. Eric Croft and Sen. Hollis French reported from Juneau.

Legislative Teleconference

Rep. Croft reported that things are picking up a little in Juneau. There is some hope that the gas line discussions will also get going soon. The Legislative Budget & Audit Committee (LB&A) met through the summer, holding hearings on issues like FERC regulations, costs, access to the pipeline for in-state uses, etc. At this point, everyone is still waiting for the Governor and the Producers to do something. The ANWR resolution passed the House. The biggest discussions surround the Education Funding Bill, HB 1. The Governor's proposal is the starting point (\$4880 per student) with several other variations for increased funding. The PERS/TRS cost increases are a major concern throughout the state. HB 1, in its present form, doesn't provide what the Anchorage School District wants as a funding level. A new district cost study is causing some distractions at this time.

Sen. French also was hoping to see an Education Bill soon. The biggest thing lately for Anchorage has been Sen. Huggins' recent update in Wasilla on the Knik Arm Bridge. The bridge will mostly likely be a toll bridge, the details haven't all been resolved yet. The estimated cost is expected to be in the \$400-\$600 million range. Many believe this estimate is low. A growing concern that has been heard is that the commute time to Anchorage would not change with the bridge. Members of the public asked several questions about the bridge plan related to the adequacy of a two-lane concept and the costs. Hollis also reported on two other bills he and Eric are working on; one to regulate the over-the-counter ingredients used in the manufacture of crystal meth, and another dealing with sex trafficking. Hearings on both bills are expected in March.

Announcements

School Board candidate John Steiner offered the attendees information about his campaign.

Habitat for Humanity provided a sign-up form for those interested in offering design ideas related to their project on Spenard Road.

Officer Stanton provided an update on several issues. The Chateau is the subject of an ongoing Federal investigation with the FBI. The owners of the property have donated it to the Catholic Church. The Bunny Club, Miss Suzie's and the Moon House have all been shut down. These locations have been the subject of many complaints and an ongoing effort to clean up Spenard. The after-hours joint on 40th is being watched at this point. There has not been enough specific information to go farther at this time. In and Out Liquor's police calls history was reviewed following concerns last month. At this time, only 3 calls have occurred related to inebriates at that location. There had been a wave of

burglaries and vandalism over the weekend. It was recommended that business leave out the empty cash register to deter break-ins. There were questions from the public related to gang activity and graffiti.

The Northwoods Drive upgrades will be the subject of a public meeting on March 9th at the Spindard Rec. Center. The McRae Road/35th Avenue upgrade will be discussed at Lake Hood Elementary also on March 9th. Both meetings begin at 7 pm.

The Parks Plan is being updated and will have a public hearing on March 14th. The Lake Hood Aviation Plan update will be provided March 8th at the DOT office on Aviation Drive.

The Minutes from the January meeting and February Agenda were both approved as drafted.

Assembly Reports

Dan Sullivan was present to provide this month's Assembly Report. There have been a couple of Assembly meetings this past month. Much of the work has been in preparation for the upcoming April election, getting items ready for the ballot. The convention center and a new voting threshold will be addressed together. There are no parks & rec. bonds on this ballot. There was some controversy over an ordinance dealing with underground utilities and ACS at the first March meeting. Access to the Chugach State Park was also addressed in a rezone request.

Alaska Railroad Capital Improvements

Stephanie Wheeler provided the council an overview of the ARR capital improvements plan. Highlights included the Ship Creek Intermodal Center going into design and Rail Capacity work plans. Member of the public expressed some concern over vibration and train whistle noise. A Whistle Reduction system is in the works and is being tested at one location.

Roads and Drainage Bonds

Bill Johnson, representing Anchorage Tomorrow, spoke in favor of Propositions 4 & 5. Anchorage Tomorrow was formed by a group of civil engineers to support these bond propositions.

Candidate Forum

Candidates for the Westside Assembly seat, Dan Sullivan (incumbent) and Matt Claman were afforded 15 minutes each to provide the membership information related to their campaign efforts. Each candidate took audience questions.

Boettcher Subdivision Plans

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of a potential developer last month. No one showed up to speak on the issue however.

Committee Reports

Committee Reports were deferred in the interest of time. This topic will be continued at next month's meeting.

Old/New Business

The General Aviation Master Plan is up for discussion. The chair reported that Spenard Beach Park may have slips for float plans added. Certain areas of the beach may also be fenced off as security areas. The issue is brought to the attention of the membership to solicit comments and a general consensus regarding changes to the uses of the Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 6 at 7pm.

SCC minutes Feb. 2, 2005

Page PAGE 2 of NUMPAGES 2