

## **Spenard Community Council Minutes April 6, 2005**

### **Call to Order**

The Spenard Community Council began it's April meeting with a planned Legislative Teleconference. However, this item was deferred. The Minutes from the March meeting and the April Agenda were both approved as drafted.

### **Assembly Reports**

Pamela Jennings provided the Assembly report for this month. Ms. Jennings gave us an update on the Citizens Academy she attended. The Citizens Academy is sponsored by APD for citizens interested in learning more about the functions of the Anchorage Police Department. She said it was an eye-opening experience. The academy included ride-alongs with officers, information on department operations, crime scene investigation techniques, information about crimes against children, and how applicants for officer positions are tested. The Citizens Academy is a 7-8 week long process open to everyone.

Ms. Jennings also took questions from the council related Neighborhood Watch programs, the status of the Assisted Living Ordinance and two upcoming proposed ordinances related to Pesticides and Bicycle Helmets.

### **35<sup>th</sup> & McRae Road Project**

An update and Public Meeting was held last month at Lake Hood Elementary related to the project. Chairman Auth provided testimony. The Turnagain Community Council has also provided testimony in opposition to the proposal.

A lot of opposition has been expressed related to the project by neighbors. Comments related to maintaining the basic design of the street, limiting speeds to 25 mph, improving pedestrian access, and providing a link to the existing bike path. The biggest impacts from changes would be related to increased speed and design changes that would directly affect the neighborhood. Many residents were opposed to the general concept of the project, while some expressed specific concerns related to individual elements of the design. Some feel that the sole purpose of the project is to increase speeds for the traffic cutting through between Spenard and Wisconsin. This design concept appears to be in conflict with present standards.

The Project remains a work-in-progress. A new draft design report will follow from the public comments.

### **Anchorage West Little League**

Mark Cristoff made a presentation seeking a resolution of support from the council related to Brethren Field (next to the Spenard Rec. Center). Little League teams in the area currently travel to the fields at 16<sup>th</sup> and A Street for their games. The Dimond West Little League controls access to Brethren Field. A conflict exists between the Little Leagues over past agreements for field use and maintenance. The Anchorage West Little League will not get access to the Spenard-area field until Dimond West relinquishes

control, according to Parks and Rec. Brethren Field is one of only a few fields in the city that can accommodate games for the older age brackets.

Matt Zensy, the Anchorage West League President, provided additional information to the council. There are 3 or 4 teams in the older age bracket that must make the longer trip downtown for games. They are willing to share access this year and work out a transition plan until the new Jade Park field is available in South Anchorage. The Anchorage West League has a gaming permit and wants access to the snack shack as a source of revenue to provide services like increase field maintenance. They claim this proposal will not disadvantage the Dimond West league. No financial commitment is required of the Spenard Community Council.

A motion was made to approve the draft resolution provided by the Anchorage West Little League. There were mixed feelings among the attendees. Some wanted to hear from the Dimond West Little League prior to making a decision. When the question was called on the resolution, it passed by a vote of 10 to 4 in favor of adoption of the draft. The chair will work on minor wording revisions to reflect a sense of the council and provide an executed copy to the Anchorage West Little League representatives.

#### **APD Community Liaison Report – Officer Stanton**

Officer Stanton provided follow up information to questions asked during the last council meeting. One area she is still working on is the general question of how the Spenard Community Council compares to other Community Councils with respect to crime statistics.

Some members asked about the number of prostitutes in Anchorage. It was reported that over 300 have been identified according to APD records.

A discussion also occurred related to the CSP (sleep-off center). Staffing at the CSP is down to 1 employee now. When the CSP is at capacity, APD staff are diverted from other activities. Without additional volunteers or other staff, this causes delays in response times for APD for other calls.

A question was raised about the recent increase in graffiti, specifically LSK letters. A West High group, the Lime Street Kiwis, is said to be responsible. If graffiti is noticed, call 343-GONE, to get ahold of the group that cleans up.

#### **LAKE HOOD MASTER PLAN**

Diana Rigg from the Airport led a discussion of the four alternatives being considered for the Lake Hood Master Plan. Alternative A is a no change option. Alternative B is full security, which everybody hates. It includes full perimeter fencing and access is eliminated. Alternative C provides for slips at Lake Spenard Beach Park. Alternative D eliminates the gravel slip and provides for a paved runway; it also includes many more slips and would cost \$83 million. The deadline for comments on the alternatives is the middle of May.

**Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 4 at 7pm.