

Spenard Community Council Minutes June 1, 2005

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its June meeting shortly after 7 pm. No legislative teleconference was planned this month. The Minutes from the May meeting and the June Agenda were both approved as drafted.

Special Announcements

The Northwood Drive project design is basically complete. The work goes out to bid in mid June with start date planned for mid August. Construction work will to be completed over the next two work seasons. Updates are available on Dowl Engineering's website, HYPERLINK "http://www.dowl.com" www.dowl.com .

The Harding/Tudor intersection work is also out to bid. The award is expected this summer for the work. The project excludes work on the rest of Harding Drive.

Ravenite Update

It's all gone, closed down. The location is now vacated on the south side of the Buckaroo Club. The Ravenite was the last business of its type to actually advertise with a sign on the building.

Assembly Reports

Pamela Jennings provided the Assembly report for this month. Ms. Jennings discussed the Chip Sealing Schedule and the Long Range Transportation Plan. She also described the changes in the Pesticide Ordinance. Road and Drainage Projects for 2005 in the Spenard area include Arctic, Tudor (south bound) and Aero.

The Alaska Forest Health Protection survey was discussed. The Anchorage Police Department has decided they don't want to enforce the Graffiti Ordinance. The Ethics Ordinance doesn't include information relating to access to information necessary to investigate or prove and ethics violation, making it pretty unusable.

There was some concern raised about the cost of resources necessary to respond to the Frontage Road fire near the airport. The fires appeared to be started in one of the tent camps. The discussion tied in to Ed O'Neil's work toward an "official Tent City" for the houseless, and the panhandling ordinance. Members of the council suggested that violators of the trespass laws (houseless) be required to perform community service cleaning up tent camps. Similarly, some type of PSA should be put together explaining to people that the panhandlers are the law-breakers for asking for money – it's the car operator for handing money out of a running car in the road.

APD Community Liaison Report – Officer Stanton

Officer Stanton provided follow up information to Ms. Jennings' discussion on the panhandlers. It is not illegal to stand next to the street, but it is not legal to hand money out of your car. The discussion of using some type of public service announcement for

panhandling information continued.

The Call of the Wild was also discussed. Several noise issues have come up related to that location in addition to the liquor license issues from last month's meeting.

Ed O'Neil's group continues to be working with APD to cleanup the Homeless Camps scattered around Anchorage. They are starting in the downtown area. If anyone has knowledge of active camps site and wishes to report them, call 563-3815 ext. 225.

Speeding and red light running issues were also mentioned. As summer starts, drivers seem to forget other people are on the road with them.

CIP/Long Range Transportation Plan

The list of tentative projects in our area was distributed at last month's meeting. Pam Jennings was going to look into the status of certain items that have changed since last year's list. Some concerns were expressed about work that has been decoupled from the Harding/Tudor project.

A series of motions were made and passed related to the prioritization of the projects on the list. In summary, the Harding Drive work that was last year's number 1 priority will remain our top priority. The main issue is that it's original scope be fully funded and constructed to eliminate the heavy truck traffic in the residential neighborhoods. Priorities starting with #2 on last year's list through the end of the list will remain and retain their ranking priority again. The 35th and McRae project that we opposed last year remains a project that we strongly oppose again. Any reference to "as designed" should be deleted from the project description and items such as safety amenities, resurfacing and pedestrian pathways should be added.

By-Laws Update

Chairman Auth will update the By-Laws to comply with various ordinance issues and boundary changes and update the council as soon as he can.

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

The Airport Master Plan is still under discussion. Spenard Park is off the table now. There are certain safety concerns in the General Aviation area. The concept of a trail following the lake edge is being looked at along with some fencing. Complaints continue about small aircraft noise both early in the morning and late at night.

Steve Nobel at Dowl is continuing to provide updates to everyone on the Northwood Drive Project.

Bart Green's house has been sold. The old Affordable Used Cars building also has a new owner.

Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Sam reported on another successful Walk for Hope. The Torch Run generated record-high donations this year. The Connor's Bog fire (same fire mentioned above – Frontage Road near the airport) used a lot of city resources. We were all lucky the winds were from the north at the time.

The Public Safety Advisory Committee would like comments on safety issues at 48th and Harding.

The meeting adjourned just after 9:20 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, August 3 at 7pm.