

Spenard Community Council Minutes September 7th, 2005

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its September meeting shortly after 7 pm. No legislative teleconference was planned this month. The Minutes from the August meeting were unavailable at meeting time.

Special Announcements

West High and Romig Assessment Meeting has been moved to September 21, 2005

Assembly Reports

Dan Sullivan reported on what the Assembly accomplished over the past few months.

Towing Operations in the city are now regulated and licensed

Bike Helmet Law has been passed (Dan Voted for it)

One change to the bill was there is just a warning and no fine involved

Some things that are coming up

Property Tax Relief—some things that they will be exploring is to completely replace property tax with a Sales Tax

Fantasy's on 5th will be brought before the assembly and they will be deciding on whether or not to allow the renovation they are proposing.

Long Rang Transportation Plan -- it has been stated that there will be upwards of 80,000 more vehicles in Anchorage in the next 10 years. They want to explore connecting the Glen to the Seward Highway via Tunnel.

The Assembly will get a glimpse at the Budget at the next meeting. Dan stated that he plans to keep spending level and there will be no surprises.

Questions from Tom McGrath

There has been a request from the Mayor to take the Museum off the Budget and give them separate funding. What are Dan's thought on this?

Dan stated that if the Mayor wanted to take the Museum off the budget, then they need to be self-supporting, otherwise it needs to stay as a budget line item.

Skateboard Park and Speed Skate Oval, why has this not been done. Over a Million has been given to the city, but they have not been built yet. A resolution passed 2 years ago for Mid-Town Park to be the site by the SCC.

Dan stated that there has been some holdup with the change in Administration. They were also looking at the Cuddy Mid-Town Park for this.

Question from Sam O'Conner

Sam asked Dan Sullivan about circumstances of the firing of the Budget clerk.

Dan stated that the Assembly reorganized the division. They were laid off, not fired.

Questions and Concerns about Minnesota Park

There were several residents from the area around Minnesota Park that were concerned about problems with kids at the park. Lots of drugs, traffic and problems with them destroying property and starting fires in and around the park.

Doe Anderson (NW District Manager Parks & Recreation) stated that she has taken a team of volunteers in there and cleaned and repaired half of the park one weekend and it was destroyed buy the next weekend when they came back to finish the other half. She did say that there was money slated to revanp the tennis courts by next spring. Dan Sullivan questioned the viability of spending money there on the Tennis courts when they don't really get used.

Sam O'Connor stated that the patrol will put some pressure on the park and hopefully the problems the residents are experiencing will diminish.

Questions and Concerns about the Tudor and Wilson Intersection.

A member of the community who lives at that corner stated that it seemed to be taking a long time to get the barriers finished at that intersection. The orange barrels that are there are a visual hazard. You have to pull out quite far into the lane to see around them. She has also seen people are still making left turns by going around the barriers as they did not make the barriers long enough.

Dan stated that he would look into it.

Airport Update -- Diana Rigg and Donna Wilson

Discuss an expansion of General Aviation Tie downs called Echo II. They will be a an Environmental Assessment done with a public hearing in November of this year. In conjunction with the additional parking, there is a plan for a path around the lake along the shore. They are planning to do about 500 feet of trail for early next spring, so they can see how the public will react to it. They are looking for volunteers to help with the planning of the trail.

Earl Akers lives in the area and is opposed to the expansion of the Lake Hood General Aviation tie downs until some other issues have been resolved. He is unhappy with aircraft departing at 2 am, which turn and go over the neighborhood. Previously this had been prohibited unless wind was over 10 knots. Also lake hood is full of grass and collects on the rudders of the aircraft and it falls off of the airplanes over the neighborhood. He wanted a resolution from SCC that they are on Record as opposing the expansion. He also stated that he would like to know who is responsible for an accident at the lake. There was a fuel spill a year or so back and no one responded to get it fixed. No one seems to know who is responsible.

Kirsten Hatley (Vice Chair of SCC) stated that in order to make a resolution it needs to be put on the agenda prior to the meeting, so it could be discussed.

Diana Rigg acknowledged that there was a vegetation problem at the lake. There is a Vegetation management plan being discussed. She stated that she would send out copies and bring it to the next meeting. She was asked to be able to sum up the methods of getting rid of the weeds at the next meeting.

Cathy Gleason (Vice President, Turnagain Community Council; Member, Airport Technical Committee) stated that the last permit from the Corp of Engineers was issued with the caveat that there were not going to be No Net Gain in tie downs for General Aviation. The airport wants to add a minimum of 27 additional tie downs with the addition of Echo II. They only became aware of this very recently as it is not in the Airport Master Plan and it has never been brought up to the Airport Technical Committee. She stated that there was some confusion as to what numbers (No Net Gain) General Aviation is referring to. She feels that this project and others like it should be included in the Airport Master Plan. This project was not included specifically to skirt the issue of the no Net Gain of General Aviation Tie downs.

Diana Rigg stated that there are currently 30 people on the wait list at ECHO, but 20 vacant in Charlie and 2 vacant in Alpha

APD Community Liaison Report – Officer Stanton

Officer Stanton reported that a gang taskforce has been started. No additional officers have been hired specifically to form this unit, it has been created by shuffling current staff.

The latest shootings were definitely gang related but it not advertised in the newspaper as the gangs feed off of that. There are between 200 and 500 gang members, from up to 15 different gangs in the city.

They are finding that the gangs are culturally based than they have been in the past and that can work to their advantage as they can work with the leaders of those communities to put pressure on the gangs to work out their differences non-violently.

Parks And Trails Improvements -Doe Anderson (NW District Manager)

Looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to help Parks and Rec decide where they are going to put their resources for the next year.

The Rasmussen Foundation has donated \$400,000 more in funds for Parks and Rec.

Harding Drive Update – Tom McGrath

3.4 million has been allocated to complete the road from Tudor to the Omni Fast Freight property. So far they have only reconstructed the Tudor and Harding intersection. The City owns the right of way and needs to build the road.

The road project stopped with Begich became mayor.

Dan Sullivan stated that the City did not see the cost to benefit ratio. The money has been reallocated to the Tudor and Harding intersection and to 3 other road projects

without any consultation. He will work with Lance to see if we can it to a driveway standard instead of a road standard. That may save money.

Tom McGrath moved that a resolution be made by the SCC to encourage Dan Sullivan to get the road built by going through the Assembly. The motion was seconded and approved by the SCC.

Long Range Transportation Plan – Cheryl Richardson, Anchorage Citizens Coalition

Anchorage Citizens Coalition is making a case for not building more roads, but to increase ridership for mass transit.

Comments for the first major rewrite of the Long Range Transportation Plan is due September 25th. More information can be gotten at [HYPERLINK](http://www.muni.org/transplan/20/04LRTP.cfm)

"<http://www.muni.org/transplan/20/04LRTP.cfm>"

<http://www.muni.org/transplan/20/04LRTP.cfm>

Some of the high points of her presentation

Anchorage is the least congested of the 85 cities studied by the national authority Texas Transportation Institute.

More roads generate more traffic, After a new road is built half the traffic comes from existing drivers driving more miles and taking longer trips.

City's with more road building have the same amount of congestion as cities with less construction.

Transit riders can avoid congestion when transit is available.

Even with building more new roads, anchorage will have more congestion in 2020 than today predicting Gridlock at the following intersections

Fairview Freeway in Midtown

Lake Otis, south of 15th

Bragaw Extension south of Tudor

Abbott Road at the New Seward

International Airport Road

Raspberry south of the airport

Northern Lights in Midtown

Spenard Road

People will walk if it is safe and convenient

The more roads we build the more likely it is that children who live near busy Anchorage roads will have asthma. The more dust and soot in the air the more people get sick from asthma and respiratory infections.

Westside Patrol Report -- Sam O'Connor

There is a huge amount of traffic along 32nd and Spenard
Callais Apartments has at least 9 apartments that are allowing prostitutes and drug trafficking.

He also noted that Mid-town park is a problem and would be in contact with the residents there to put some pressure on the park to take it back for the community.

The meeting adjourned just after 9:30 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, October 5 at 7pm.