

# **Spenard Community Council Minutes**

June 4, 2006 7:00PM, Spenard Recreation Center

After a preliminary mix and mingle over a spread of sandwiches, cold cuts and munchies, the meeting started at 7:05 when Senator Hollis French called from Juneau with the Legislative report. (Item numbers below reflect topics as numbered on the agenda rather than the actual order that took place.)

## **3. Legislative Report**

Senator Hollis French: The legislature as a whole is meeting in Juneau for eight days to consider the AGIA Trans Canada pipeline. They are receiving a report from the legislative consultant about the pros and cons of the plan. After meeting in Juneau they will be traveling around the State, meeting and conducting hearings in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Barrow, Kenai, the Mat-Su and Ketchikan. Issues to be considered: Will the producers supply gas to the pipeline? How does the Trans Canada plan compare to others? Will the \$500 million included in the AGIA process be well spent?

Questions/comments from the floor included “why should we (the State) give TC \$500 million?” “BP-Conoco wants tax breaks instead of the \$, which will add up to just as much in the long run.” and “the whole issue is incredibly complicated; good luck & best wishes figuring it all out.”

Barry Blumenthal asked what could be done to help senior citizens cope with increased energy costs. Hollis foresees a three pronged approach – Direct relief, targeted relief to regions most in need, and investment in long term solutions.

## **4. Assembly Report**

Matt Claman announced that he has an e-mail news letter that you can sign up for.

Otherwise, the assembly has been dealing with two main issues: Curbside recycling and IM testing.

Alaska Waste will soon be expanding their curbside recycling program rather than setting up more recycling drop-off centers. They will also be providing dumpsters to the school district for paper recycling.

Matt and others have proposed keeping a “slimmed down” version of the vehicle inspection program, gradually phasing it out rather than doing away with it immediately and then finding out in a few years that it’s still needed.

Questions/comments from the floor: Peggy Auth spoke in support of the IM program as is. She also asked if the Muni could be doing something to encourage energy conservation - lighting and weatherization programs etc. (Matt agreed with the concept of programs rather than direct cash payouts.) Peggy also asked if businesses were paying their fair share of property taxes on un(der)developed properties, especially after a rezone. A discussion followed about Spenard Road properties, HB 214 and dilapidated properties. Matt Claman and Harriet Drummond will look into it.

Barry Blumenthal spoke in opposition of the IM program.

Jason Bergerson spoke in support of the IM program as a way to enforce noise, safety, window tinting, insurance compliance.

Harriet Drummond stated that 12 – 14,000 vehicles fail emissions standards each year. She supports the idea of safety checks. New cars are exempt for six years. Diesel engine exhaust was discussed.

Alan Thornhill objected to the IM program citing vehicles that have had their engines improved as having been tampered with. Matt Claman explained that the new IM program will be a tail pipe inspection only. Standards will be by performance, not by what is under the hood.

Harriet spoke for mass transit and a discussion followed about commuter vans for people in the valley working in Anchorage. The vans are purchased with federal grants; operation expenses paid by commuters.

A question was raised about the wood lot at C & 100<sup>th</sup> charging to drop off wood. Matt explained that the service had been free to users before because of a fire prevention grant, but the program has expired. He compared the situation to the Evergreen recycling business vs. the Point Woronzoff compost operation.

A question was raised about the Airport dumping pollutants into Lake Hood/Spenard. Does the State of Alaska Airport have a permit to do this? Are they in compliance? Both construction and operations are in question.

Matt and Harriet will follow up on both vehicular and airplane operation sources. Airport zoning district in Title 21 is in the works.

Barry Blumenthal objects to Muni employees that are not being residents.

## **1. Approval of Minutes & Agenda**

Minutes were approved.

Additions to the Agenda: **6a.2** Susan Baird to speak about a house deck encroaching into set-back.; **6a.1** Faith Community Christian Church Development; new hotel on the Moose Lodge property. **6a.3** Plans received for Moose Lodge Hotel and McRae Road.

**2. Announcement** added by Jason B: There is a vacancy on the Mayor's Budget Advisory Committee. Contact Michael Johnson in the Mayor's Office, if interested.

Amended Agenda was approved.

## **5. Local Projects & Discussion**

Justin Marcum (HDR) gave an update on a sewer replacement project scheduled to take place August 15-17, 22-24 on Minnesota between Benson and Northern Lights.

Comments from the floor: Barry Blumenthal suggested different work hours. Barry and Alan Thornhill commented on manhole locations and elevations.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a. P&Z**

Peggy Auth: Because she just received the McRae Road package tonight, she can't speak to the status of that project. Also, Sam O'Connor, who had been point person for the project isn't here tonight. Jason commented that the Mayor and Neighborhood had signed an MOU several months ago and he assumes that this is just the implementation of that.

Peggy will try to follow up with the Neighborhood to see if they are in accord with what is presented so that the Council can lend its support as appropriate.

**a.3** Matt Burkholder informed the Council that the Moose Lodge is selling the front part of its property for the construction of three hotels. Barry B, Peggy, Matt and Jason discussed the situation as a whole, especially the impact on Arctic traffic, considering the cumulative effects of the Moose Lodge, Business Park and Faith Christian developments. Matt asked the Committee (Peggy) to write a letter to the Muni Planning and Zoning Board, stating our concerns and asking for a presentation. The discussion was somewhat confused as to whom the letter should be addressed and what it should state, what action should be taken.

**A motion was passed:** Peggy will write a letter expressing the Council's concerns about the cumulative effects of the various developments on the east side of Arctic. Matt and Jason will forward the letter to the proper authorities, requesting a meeting. Copies will be available to be forwarded by individuals to the Assembly.

**a.2** Susan Baird asked for the Council's support in dealing with the Muni in securing a variance to allow her to keep a deck that is attached to the front of her house at 2101 W. 48<sup>th</sup>. Susan explained that the deck was built per permit by previous owners prior to 1989, but that now the Muni wants her to take it down. Susan explained why the deck is important to her and that she has talked to her neighbors; they have no objection to the deck being left as is. Alan Thornhill spoke in support of Susan's request, stating that previous owners and Susan have done everything that they should have in dealing with the Muni.

**A motion was passed stating the Community Council is in favor of a full variance allowing Susan Baird to keep her deck.** Peggy will write a letter to that effect.

**a.1** Matt went to the P&Z meeting about the Faith Christian Community Church Arctic Blvd. Development. The meeting was postponed until August 4<sup>th</sup>. Barry Blumenthal has been trying to organize his neighbors in opposition. Matt will call Dwayne Adams at Land Design North. Peggy, Matt, Barry, and Jason discussed on what course to take. Peggy voiced frustration at the short notice given and the lack of assistance coming from the P&Z. **Jim B. and Jason B suggested that the previous motion be amended to authorize the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Council this summer in regards to this topic. This amendment was approved.**

## **6b. Public Safety**

Matt: Sam O'Connor isn't here. Refer to City Beat at the Muni website for updates; the site has a new map feature.

Duran Powell, Manager of Chilkoots, offered that 90% of what's shown on City Beat around 'Koots is called in by Koots themselves...reporting minors trying to get in or disturbances in the neighborhood. A similar situation exists at Sullivan's downtown; their address is shown for all reports at the Mall. Jason asked if these calls could be classified and shown as self reported.

Jim Bowers complained that coincidental to the Police's lack of interest in attending Council meetings and working with the councils and neighborhoods there is now drug

dealing on Aspen. This is a new development. We are seeing more graffiti and drug dealing and it's just unacceptable. Alan Thornhill suggested taking pictures and license plates. Jason suggested calling Westside Patrol 227-5157.

#### **6c. Membership**

Matt B.: Nothing to report.

#### **6d. FCC Delegate Report**

Jason B.: Anchorage has a good chance for hosting the Neighborhood USA Conference in 2011. And the new FCC office is open at 1057 Fireweed.

#### **6e. CIP Committee**

A copy of the Committee's prioritization was available, reviewed and unanimously approved.

#### **7. New and Old Business**

**a.** No progress on SCC banner.

**b.** Volunteers are encouraged to contact Jeff Mathis 343-4163 for clearing, painting at Northwood Park.

**c.** Motion made and passed to not meet in July and August; next meeting in September with another pre-meeting feed by Alan Thornhill, to be reimbursed by the council.

**d.** Ron and Helen informed the Council that the Sate Park is being abused, people are jumping the fence after hours, making noise & causing a disturbance. A discussion about skateboarder disturbances in the area followed. A sign is needed posting hours and hours need to be enforced. Consensus is to contact Brad Dunker. The Porta-Potty is an eyesore, too. Also, use State funds for gates at the parking lot entrances.

**e.** Merle attended a meeting at AIA about inadequate separation between the parallel runways. Also, Merle says that there is a Governor's Group meeting and a Lake Hood Master Plan Design Meeting that are not encouraging public participation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM