

Fairview Community Council  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2008  
Fairview Community Recreation Center

Meeting started at 7:01 pm.

**Board Members Present:** Darrel Hess (President), Sharon Chamard (Vice President), Dee Kennedy (Secretary), Harry Deuber (Treasurer), Paul Benson (At-Large), Allen Kemplen (At-Large), Lee Ross (At-Large), Benita White (At-Large)

**Other Persons Present:** Jeff Dillon, Vesta Elliott, Chris Kunzler, Dan Loring, Jeff Matthis, Maria Rangel, Claris Syren

Guests and Presentations

- **Jeff Dillon and Jeff Matthis** from Parks and Recreation were in attendance to address issues raised at the last FVCC Executive Board meeting regarding security and staffing at the Fairview Community Recreation Center (FVCRC). Darrel Hess asked them if there had been any major incidents in the past year. Jeff Matthis replied that he was not aware of any calls to APD since he started on the job in October 2007. However, one youth was expelled for two months because of foul language. Darrel asked if any parents had expressed concerns. The answer was no. Jeff Dillon presented data showing the annual amount spent per person in Anchorage on Parks and Recreation in 1985 was \$82, in 2003 it was \$43, and in 2007 was \$54. The national average is \$95 per person. Since 1985 park assets have doubled, but budget to operate and maintain the assets has not. The utility bill has increased \$150,000 in the past year to heat the five pools. It costs \$50,000 more to grow flowers. The cost of fertilizer has doubled.
- The FVCRC is one of the most subsidized of the Parks and Recreation facilities. Only 17¢ of each dollar comes from user fees. Jeff Dillon said he understands the facility is understaffed. He said we need the help of the community to release funding. There is a Parks-Assembly meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> where community members could express their concern about funding issues.
- Allen Kemplen asked what the Parks Plan has to say about funding, benchmarks, and performance standards? Jeff Dillon said the Parks Plan does address these, and we need to explore other sources of funds beyond tax dollars. A recent survey of 600 residents did not find broad support for a certain amount of property tax to be dedicated to park maintenance. This 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a mil would raise \$5 million annually. Allen asked about advocacy for parks, and whether it is landscape architects. Jeff Dillon said the main source of advocacy is at the community councils. The problem is that parks are no longer seen as an important public safety asset. Right now there is about \$50-100 million in deferred maintenance. There was a lengthy discussion about how to encourage community involvement in generating support for increased park funding.
- The conversation turned to specifics of the FVCRC. Jeff Dillon said it is a core facility, and will not be shut down. Dee Kennedy commented that it is better to recreate than to incarcerate. Allen said this is the civic heart of Fairview—it's a community center, not just a recreation center. There was discussion about allocation of the \$100,000 the FVCC was able to obtain from the state for the FVCRC. Allen said the FVCC has already put together a draft Statement of Services, and has put forth the idea of partnering with the muni to manage the funds. Jeff Dillon asked what Johnny Ellis and Les Gara think an appropriate use of the \$100,000 is. Darrel said they are not opposed to using it for planning. Jeff Dillon said there is far more than \$100,000 in repairs needed. He suggested using all of the \$100,000 for repairs, and in the event that the Supplemental budget from the state includes money for the FVCRC, about half of the new funds could be used for maintenance, and half for the planning process. Darrel Hess suggested using \$50,000 for repairs and setting aside \$50,000. If there is no money in the Supplemental budget, the \$50,000 will be used for planning. If there is money, that \$50,000 can be put into repairs and some of the Supplemental budget money can be used for planning. There was general consensus among the board members that this was a good strategy.
- **Vesta Elliott**, a resident on Orca Street, spoke to the group about her concerns that she is being targeted by the muni and code enforcement. For example, she is being forced to pay for trash collection even though her household does not produce any trash. She built a fence that is too high and now has to apply for a variance or

risk accruing daily fines. She also raised complaints about snow removal at an adjacent industrial property in the middle of the night. Allen Kemplen said there are conflicts between industrial and residential land uses. The Merrill Field Master Plan calls for the purchase of all properties on the east of Orca and replacing them with hangars. He said he would personally support her variance for the fence.

Board Member and Guest Comments

- Darrel Hess distributed a flyer concerning garden plot availability at Fairview Lions Park. The FVCC election is next week. He said he spoke recently with Jacques Boutet, and the state has accepted the muni’s property assessments at 13<sup>th</sup> and Gambell, so right-of-way negotiations can now begin. The streetscape refurbishments are going out to bid.
- There was discussion about Clean-Up Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and the extent of FVCC involvement. The Masons at Prince Hall have indicated they want to be involved, as have several Council members. The dumpsters will cost \$231 each, which included six pickups a week. Allen Kemplen suggested having someone at the dumpster to collect voluntary donations from people dropping their debris off there. There was general consensus among board members to go ahead with the dumpsters and the big clean-up.
- Darrel announced that the FVCRC will be closed in early April. The Executive Board meeting on April 3 will be at the Senior Center, and the General Membership Meeting on April 10 will be at Central Lutheran Church.
- Dee Kennedy mentioned that AFACT will be holding a public meeting on the issue of homeless people in the downtown area on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Holy Family Cathedral.
- Dan Loring announced that the next meeting of the Education Committee will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the FVCRC. He said he has been in contact with Angela Liston of AFACT regarding ISER’s report on pilot programs for education of native students at Willow Crest and Romig. Dan reported that at an AFACT meeting, School Superintendent Carol Comeau was asked if she would continue to support the highly successful Willow Crest program, and she said she would not. Dan said he has asked the School Board to put funding for that program back into the budget. Dan commented that there are very low graduation rates for minority students, and we can do better. He said that the School Bonds Yes campaign is headquartered in the NVision boardroom. Dan commented on the plans to renovate the Green Connection building as the new project office for the H2H Connection. The budget has apparently increased from \$90,000 to \$500,000, and he wonders if this is a good use of taxpayers’ money.
- Allen Kemplen reported that the council-wide mailer has gone out. He commented on the value of community activism—the FVCC was able to lobby the state and the muni to get landscaping on the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue median. There will be trees and an irrigation system. The Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area planning is moving ahead.

Harry Deuber gave the Treasurer’s Report.

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| <b>Beginning Balance 01/16/08</b>                    | <b>\$6,100.59</b> |
| <b>Total Deposits</b>                                | <b>0.00</b>       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                      |                   |
| 01/22/08 #1130 Lee Ross – Patrol grant reimbursement | \$869.00          |
| 01/24/08 #1131 ACS – Patrol hotline                  | \$19.40           |
| 01/24/08 #1132 AK Best Water                         | \$32.50           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                | <b>\$920.90</b>   |
| <b>02/14/08 Ending Balance</b>                       | <b>\$5,179.69</b> |

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Vice President