

**Fairview Community Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**January 10, 2008
Fairview Recreation Center**

Meeting called to order by Chair Darrel Hess at 7:08 pm.

Guests and Presentations:

Lieutenant Garry Gilliam, Anchorage Police Department

Lt. Gilliam reported on the progress of the Community Action Policing (CAP) Team with their problem-oriented policing project. He explained that the approach is community-oriented and focused on using alternatives to law enforcement. He presented some statistics on calls-for-service and police activity in December 2007 in the Fairview area. There were 71 warrants served, 21 arrests for assault, 17 disturbances, 15 driver's licenses revoked, 2 rapes, 2 robberies, 2 sexual abuse of a minor cases, and 2 prostitution arrests. Overall, there were 343 calls-for-service in the Fairview area, but many of these were officer-initiated calls from members of the CAP Team.

Allan Tesche, Anchorage Assembly

Mr. Tesche reported that the Assembly is busy putting together the April ballot. There will be a school bond package and propositions, one of which will concern regulations on the number of taxicab licenses. There will be six Assembly seats voted on. Allan said he will be introducing legislation concerning parks maintenance that calls for the setting aside of funds each year for on-going maintenance. He said it is easy enough to get money to build things, but not to maintain them. This legislation would set up a fund. Sue Ann Hamilton Bailey asked where the money for such a fund would come from. Allan replied that it would come from property taxes, donations, and wetland mitigation funds. There were many more questions about park maintenance financing.

Dr. Marc Robinson, Principal, Fairview Elementary School

School has started back this week. There are 24 Sudanese students at the school this semester.

Carol Hartman, Fantasies on 5th

Ms. Hartman read a prepared statement concerning her business's application for a Conditional Use Permit to have a duplicate liquor license. Questions from the membership followed. Paul Benson asked for clarification that their intent is to get rid of the under-21 strip club and get a duplicate liquor license. Ms. Hartman replied that they want to dissolve the separate corporations for Club Elixir and Fantasies, form a single corporation, and then get a duplicate liquor license. Ron Alleva asked if the business is considered "off-limits" by the military, and if so, why would they have given the business this classification. Ms. Hartman said she thinks this has happened because of lawsuits her business filed against the city, as since the lawsuits started, they have been getting lots of visits by the police. The police reported to the military that there was gang activity there. Also, their security used to carry guns in the parking lot. They have agreed to get rid of the Hip Hop night, to go 21-and-over, and to do drug testing of employees. Don Crandall asked why she would want a duplicate business, doing the same thing. Ms. Hartman explained that Club Elixir is just a regular dance club, while Fantasies on 5th is a gentleman's club, a strip club. If it were to get a liquor license, it would be like the Bush Company. Sharon Chamard asked how the duplicate liquor license would be of benefit to the Fairview community. Ms. Hartman said there is no clear benefit, except that putting the liquor license there will keep 18, 19, and 20-year-olds from going in there and drinking. Lorne Bailey asked why there has to be alcohol and exotic dancing, because there are examples of others clubs that don't have this, such as the Alano Club. Ms. Hartman replied that there are different types of entertainments for all different kinds of people. Sue Ann Hamilton Bailey said to Ms. Hartman that although she might be running a respectable establishment, it is still and den of iniquity. Lee Ross asked for clarification of the history of the establishment's liquor license.

Marco Gonzalez said that there are benefits to the community. APD looks at their CCTV videos to investigate crimes, and they have the best security of any bar. He said the question to ask is not "is it a benefit to the community?" by "Is it a detriment?"

Allan Tesche said because the bar is “off-limits,” the military considers it safer to send its personnel to Baghdad and Afghanistan than to Fantasies on 5th. He commented on the traffic impact, and the concentration of liquor outlets and adult entertainment in this part of town. It can cost millions of dollars to clean up an area by buying existing licenses. The Assembly and the community have a lot of leeway here. It’s not the same standard as revoking a license. Once the license is granted, it is forever. There will be a strip club on this premise for the next 100 years, for the next several generations. Carol Hartman replied that she submitted the letter from the military regarding the “off-limits” designation, and that Allan Tesche has disregarded the part that says the designation will be reconsidered if certain changes are made. She added that the Conditional Use Permit application was submitted to the muni’s Traffic Department and they had no objections. Regarding APD, she said her business doesn’t have as many calls-for-service as other bars, and that they call APD when there is a problem, and they help get criminals off the street.

Regina Manteufel asked how many families are housed at the Safe Harbor shelter next door to the bar. Ms. Hartman said she doesn’t know, but there must be a lot. Sharon Chamard asked if Safe Harbor would be considered a “sensitive use” under municipal code, and also how many other bars in Anchorage have been declared “off-limits” by the military. Allan Tesche said he was not aware of any other bars with this status. He said a nearby homeless shelter might constitute a sensitive use; this would be a zoning issue the Assembly could look at. Jerry Haggerty asked if the zone Fantasies on 5th is in permits a strip club. Allan Tesche said the parcel is zoned B-3, and a strip club is a permissible use.

Sharon Chamard reported on the recommendations of the Public Safety Committee (PSC) and the Executive Board. The PSC agreed that additional liquor outlets, in particular bars and package stores, are not conducive to Fairview’s development as a “neighborhood of choice.” Further, the committee examined the APD data on calls-for-service to the location and was troubled by the number and type of calls. The committee recommended to the Executive Board that the Fairview Community Council go on record as opposing the granting of a duplicate liquor license to Fantasies on 5th. The Executive Board discussion focused on the inappropriateness of the business as a strip club, concern over an additional liquor license in proximity to Fairview, and the timing of the club owners’ paper work to the municipality. The Executive Board unanimously agreed, and passed a motion to that effect, to oppose the duplication of the liquor license.

Comments from the membership followed. Dee Kennedy wondered if we really need another strip club, and asked what impression people have of Anchorage when they drive down the Glenn Highway and see car dealerships, bars, and strip clubs. Don Crandall said the Mountain View Community Council’s Executive Board could not agree, but speaking for himself, this is not in the best interests of Mountain View, which is trying to become a neighborhood of choice. Jerry Haggerty said Fairview’s Executive Board made a good decision. He said we have tried for years to reduce the number of liquor licenses and it has been difficult. To now nullify those efforts by supporting another liquor license would undo all the work those people did. Lorne Bailey said that certain types of businesses are not assets to the community. He asked if this is in our best interests. Marco Gonzalez, from Fantasies on 5th, said it seems like most people have already made up their minds. He pointed out that not everyone in the community feels the same way that you do, and you are making it hard for businesses that are proactive in the community. If you talked to people at the business, you would change your mind, but instead you are listening to people who don’t have their facts straight. He said this is about nudity, it’s artistic, it’s dancing. He said he thinks it is far more immoral for people to use their municipal or public power to try to hurt a business. Claris Syren said people here have worked long and hard to make Fairview a good place to live, and adding another liquor license would not benefit the community. Regina Manteufel asked what Fantasies on 5th has done to help the dancers. She asked if they would be able to produce evidence that you have donated to non-profits. Ms. Hartman said they have posted all the stuff Regina provided to them, and they have donated a lot to Safe Harbor. Darrel Hess asked Allan Tesche if it was required as part of an application for a liquor license to provide documentation of the establishment’s charitable donations. Allan said this information is not usually included in applications. Sue Ann Hamilton Bailey asked Ms. Hartman if it would be possible to change their business model to serve only beer and wine, or to have dancers who keep their clothes on. Darrel Hess remarked to the guests from Fantasies on 5th that the issue was one of the liquor license, and we’re not judging you, or saying you are a bad person or you run a bad business.

Due to a lack of quorum, a vote was held on a sense of the body motion. Twelve members indicated their opposition to the granting of a duplicate liquor license to Fantasies on 5th. No one indicated their support for the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance 11/16/07	\$5,363.12
Total Deposits	\$0.00
Expenses	
11/23/07 #1123 AK Best Water	\$50.00
12/13/07 #1124 ACS – Patrol hotline	\$19.29
12/13/07 #1126 D. Hess – Public Inebriate Workshop	\$115.00
12/14/07 #1127 Costco – Xmas Party	\$226.45
Total Expenses	\$410.74
12/14/07 Ending Balance	\$4,952.38

Community Comments and Concerns:

Dee Kennedy said Central Lutheran Church had a public meeting with Carol Comeau regarding Alaska Natives in the schools; there will be a follow-up meeting on February 4th at 7 pm. Holy Family Cathedral has been working on the issue of housing of the homeless in the downtown area. There is a meeting about this on March 24th.

Ron Alleva said that Victor Rock, the man who recently froze to death, was on 30-days-out from Brother Francis Shelter. He was found a block away from sleep-off. There is also the man named Murphy, whose estate is suing the Anchorage Downtown Partnership because he died in sleep-off. It's time to really look at getting these facilities out of Fairview.

Lorne Bailey and Sue Ann Hamilton Bailey both commented on the lack of curbside recycling. Darrel Hess mentioned that the municipality is seriously investigating a pilot recycling program in an area that would likely include Fairview.

Maria Carter said a Job Fair for adults and youth will be held on April 2nd from 11 am – 5 pm at the Fairview Community Recreation Center. The event is free and open to the public, and is sponsored by None Star, the Alaska Department of Labor, the municipality, and Parks and Recreation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Vice President.