

**Fairview Community Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**January 11, 2007
Fairview Recreation Center**

Meeting called to order by presiding officer Sharon Chamard at 7:06 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

11/14/06 Balance forward	\$7,923.23
<u>Deposits</u>	
Total Deposits	\$0.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
ACS (Patrol hotline)	19.31
AK Best Water	23.00
Total Expenses	\$42.31
12/14/06 Balance forward	\$7,885.92

Secretary's Report, Sharon Chamard:

It was moved by Allen Kemplen and seconded by Karen Paul to accept the December General Membership Meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Guests and Presentations:

Allan Tesche, Anchorage Assembly

Items of interest include

- An ordinance to set up a Historic Preservation Commission is being considered. This could affect Fairview if the neighborhood is interested in preserving historic properties or districts.
- Mayor Begich will introduce a proposal to save 4th Avenue Theatre without having to spend taxpayers' money.
- There may be an addition to the April 3rd ballot concerning taxicab permit allocation. There are 158 permits in the municipality now; there have been no new ones issued in ten years. The limited number means each permit is worth about \$150,000. A group wants to open permits to anyone qualified.
- 2007 property assessments will be sent out tomorrow. There will be real increases in assessed valuations over the next couple of years. But good news is coming. For most homeowners, actual taxes paid will go down because of \$22 million in state revenue sharing that will be used for property tax relief. The muni also expects an extra \$22 million this year. The result will be a drop in the mil levy.
- The first portions of Title 21 have made it to the Assembly. These are the non-controversial administrative chapters. More controversial portions, on things like zoning, non-conformities, and design standards, will be coming later in the year.

Regina Manteufel asked if something can be done about requiring the Anchorage Police Department to advise community councils of addresses where drug busts occurred. Allan said he would be happy to look into this, and reminded people of the calls-for-service ordinance. He urged people to tell APD about properties that should be put on the watch list, as APD is responsive when told about problem properties.

Ron Alleva expressed concern about the ordinance regarding gun auctions. The public can buy guns and ammunition directly from auctioneers, which could lead to third party purchases. It is not good to sell guns and ammunition so close to a jail, homeless shelter, and sleep-off center. Ron said that the former police chief Walt Monegan told him that it's a state law that guns and ammunition have to be sold directly to the public, not just to licensed dealers. Allan advised Ron to take the issue up with the police chief or state legislators, as it is a state law matter.

Allen Kemplen asked if there has been any feedback from downtown constituents or the Assembly on the Downtown Plan. Allan said he hasn't heard anything yet. The Plan hasn't gone to the Planning and Zoning Commission yet, but it should fare well. Then it will go to the administration, which will probably approve it, and finally, it will go to the Assembly. So far he has heard nothing negative from his downtown constituents. But when it goes to the Planning and Zoning Commission, interested parties and developers will come out of the woodwork, so it's really too early to tell.

Allen Kemplen asked what is happening with Fur Rondy. Allan replied that the Fur Rondy board has undergone big changes. He and Dick Traini introduced a resolution to require the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Board to give money to Fur Rondy. There are also scheduling challenges with the parade and other downtown activities occurring at the same time. It will still be a festival, but it will change. Allen Kemplen asked Allan Tesche to suggest to the relevant people the notion of using Fairview Lions Park as a venue for the snow sculpture event.

Allen Kemplen, Report on meeting with representatives from the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT)

The meeting has been well-summarized in the minutes from the January Executive Board meeting. The Fairview Parkway will be the biggest project in the region other than the Knik Arm Crossing. It could be good for Fairview and the downtown area because it will take lots of traffic off local streets. These big projects are subject to federal rules and regulations. One issue is whether DOT should go directly to the environmental impact statement (EIS), which is required under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). DOT has to look at impacts, determine if they are significant, and if so, figure out how to mitigate them. At the meeting we asked them why they are not doing EIS now. The answer was that if you open up the process, you are obligated to see it through within a certain amount of time, or you have to pay the money back to the federal government. With such a big project, there is a hesitancy to commit to that at this point. So what they are doing is a phased approach. The cost of the EIS for this project would be about \$20 million (the expenditure on the EIS for the Knik Arm Crossing is around \$35 million). For this project, there is only \$8 million available through the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP); another \$12 million is needed to make a commitment to the EIS. It's a big complex project. If they just have the \$8 million, they can do surveying, mapping of alternatives, preliminary engineering, and context-sensitive design. Important issues need to be addressed, such as ingress to and egress from the Sullivan Arena, location of on- and off-ramps, connection to the Port, how to deal with truck traffic from the Port, what will happen to the First National Bank, the alignment between the bank and Sullivan Arena, and what properties will be affected. People need to be aware of what is happening. \$2 million has been allocated to buy properties. DOT has already bought a lot at 14th and Ingra, two houses north of that, and the Green Connection office building. DOT agreed to work with the council's Beautification Committee to develop a design for the vacant lot at 14th and Ingra to make the lot an asset to the community.

The council supports the cut-and-cover concept. This involves digging a ditch in the gravel bench between Ship and Chester Creeks. How many covers are put in and what goes on the covers is important to the community. The area between 13th and 15th Avenues and Ingra and Gambell is identified as our neighborhood center. Deciding what will go there will involve partnerships.

Fairview Community Council Resolution 2007-01, concerning financing of the Fairview Parkway and seeking of additional funds to advance development of the EIS was introduced and read for the first time.

Paul Benson commented that it is important to expedite this planning, because the longer it stretches out, the less say we will have in what happens. John Kagerer asked whether there is consensus on where the alignment will go. Allen Kemplen replied that this is still up in the air. DOT can't answer this question until the NEPA process and evaluation of alternatives is complete.

Sharon Chamard, report on status of United Way Day of Caring

Seven major projects have been identified: 1) Fairview Lions Park; 2) Fairview Park; 3) Fairbanks Park; 4) Senior Center; 5) Fairview Elementary School; 6) Recreation Center; and 7) Streetscaping and miscellaneous projects. The designers, Land Design North, will be holding a public meeting in Fairview in mid- to late-February to present their ideas to the community. People with ideas should contact the Neighborhood Plan Committee.

Sgt. Cindi Stanton, Anchorage Police Department

Due to technical problems this month's crime statistics aren't available; they should be accessible by March. The academy recently graduated around 15 new officers who are now in field training. A new academy class is starting in January. Sgt. Stanton is moving to detectives to be a Sergeant in the Crimes Against Children unit. The posting for her current position will close on January 22nd.

Allen Kemplen asked about the status of problems at Chugach Manor. Sgt. Stanton said she gave a bunch of her business cards out to the people who came to the recent community council meeting, but hasn't heard anything from them. There also haven't been many calls for service. Those people did contact the media though. Allen commented that the media has an anti-community bias. They will identify certain communities by name, but others will be identified as "East Side" or "South Anchorage." It is detrimental to our efforts to get people more involved if the media gives the impression that certain neighborhoods are dangerous. There should be a consistent policy to be vague about where crime happened.

Ron Alleva said he wants to thank Sgt. Dennis Allen for his fine work dealing with abatement of a campsite.

There was a break from 8:25 to 8:35.

Committee and Community Reports:

Education Committee, Dale Myhill

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 23rd. The committee is making an action plan to implement the Education Plan in Fairview. Dan Loring passed around a book on the history of Chugach School, and suggested that it might be a good idea to do something similar for Fairview Elementary.

Fairview Community Recreation Center, Dave Brossard

Martin Luther King Day is January 15th. Lots of activities will be going on from 12:30 to 4:30 – guest speakers, dancing, etc. There will be free Lucky Wishbone chicken. The upstairs men's bathroom and downstairs locker room are in poor condition. Facilities Maintenance and Parks and Recreation are getting together in January to discuss whether these areas can be worked on. A new programmer, C.B. Stewart, has been hired. Some of the new programs include Scottish dancing, ballroom dancing, arts and crafts, and pottery.

Claris Syren asked if there is a procedure within the muni if there are problems that need to be fixed; private businesses wouldn't be allowed to operate with bad bathrooms. Dave replied that they submit work orders and follow-up on them. This bathroom and locker room maintenance will be done as part of a larger project. The Rec. Center actually belongs to Facilities Maintenance, not Parks and Rec.

Dan Loring asked if there is a bullet hole in the front door, and if so, how did it happen. There was then a discussion about the facility in Mountain View that is owned by the municipality but is run by the Boys and Girls Club. That facility gets \$250,000 annually for maintenance; nothing close to that amount is spent on maintenance at the Fairview Community Recreation Center. There was a general sentiment that Jeff Dillon should be invited to a council meeting to discuss the condition of the building.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Dan Loring offered to use his backhoe to remove snow and pull vehicles out of berms for free.

John Kagerer from the Horn Doctor said he is planning to build a new building adjacent to his current location on Ingra Street, and has filed for an amendment to the Conditional Use permit. The property is zoned R-4 but is being used for commercial purposes. The case will be heard on February 5th. Two derelict shacks on the property will be torn down. The new building will be two-stories high and metal, but it will not be industrial-looking. It will be used for the resale of musical instruments. The shop may be expanded into the new building, and it will also be used for lessons, recitals, and the like. The Horn Doctor wants to stay in Fairview, though they have considered moving out because of uncertainty about the Fairview Parkway. Allen Kemplen asked if the Horn Doctor will be seeking a re-plat as well. John replied

that it depends on what the muni says. Allen asked what the benefit of the development will be to the neighborhood. John answered that it will clean up the corner. There will be lighting and landscaping. He said his business has been good neighbors so far—much better than a strip club. Neighbors are supportive of the new building. Allen said if Horn Doctor wants the support of the community council, it would be beneficial if there was evidence that adjacent property owners are supportive. Lee Ross said the area has a long history of derelict use and drugs, so it is a good thing to tear those shacks down. Allen said that some people might want to see high-quality residential go in instead. Dan Loring said he would wholeheartedly support the development if we had more details. He said that Horn Doctor is an asset to the community; they took a run-down building and improved it. He added that the business is run well, with family values. He said that the Neighborhood Plan proposes that this area be a park if the Fairview Parkway goes through, and if so, it would be great to have concerts across the street on 10th Avenue. Allen said that the area is indeed identified as a park, but we don't know the alignment at this point. He said it would be prudent to get more information about the adjacent property owners' wishes, and the matter can be dealt with by the Executive Board.

Dan Loring moved that the matter be referred to the Executive Board where John Kagerer can present more details. Allen Kemplen, on a point-of-order, pointed out that there is no quorum, so a motion is not permissible. However, a sense-of-the-body procedure is allowed. Dan rephrased his earlier statement, calling for a sense-of-the-body procedure to support the Horn Doctor proposal, refer the matter to the Executive Board, and give the Executive Board the authority to approve the proposal on the behalf of the council. Allen said he could not support this, as there is not enough information. Dan argued that it would be more powerful if there was a unanimous sense-of-the-body vote supporting the proposal. Claris Syren asked John Kagerer if the surrounding property owners have been notified. John said Horn Doctor had to post notices. Dan stated again that he is pushing for unanimous consent, and asked if anyone is opposed, that they speak up. Allen said he would be opposing it, because it is not standard operating procedure for the Fairview Community Council for dealing with these sorts of matters. Dale Myhill asked if the approval of the council is even necessary. John answered that it is not, as the proposal is already supported by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Dan then asked if it would be possible for Horn Doctor to get an extension from the commission to hear the case after the next General Membership Meeting. Upon hearing "Yes" from John, Dan withdrew his call for a sense-of-the-body procedure.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Secretary.