

**Fairview Community Council
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**September 13, 2007
Fairview Recreation Center**

Meeting called to order by Chair Darrel Hess at 7:07 pm.

Guests and Presentations:

Dr. Marc Robinson, Principal, Fairview Elementary School

This was a report on the Adequate Yearly Progress status for the school. The school achieved AYP in 2006-07, and has made progress every year for the past 4 years. The school beat the cut score for math.

Ma'o Tosi, Fairview Community Recreation Center Youth Programs

With Mr. Tosi's assistance, the Rec. Ctr has a variety of programs for youth on most days of the week, in areas such as music, poetry, art, and dance. There are also scholarships for 15 students to attend UAA. Transportation to the Rec. Ctr is a big problem for some youth, and any help with this would be appreciated.

Darrel Hess made a few announcements. During the Martin Luther King Day celebration in 2008, Parks and Recreation wants to award 50 bikes to 50 kids based on their contributions to the community. They are seeking sponsors who can help; \$300 can buy a bike, lock, and helmet. Sister Noreen McPartland, who was active in the Fairview community for many years, recently passed away. Her obituary was made available on the back table.

Community Comments and Concerns:

A public meeting on the issue of chronic public inebriates began at approximately 7:20 pm with a slide show prepared by the Fairview Community Patrol showing photos of inebriates throughout Fairview and presenting statistics on the extent and cost of the problem.

Public testimony began at 7:30 pm.

- Paul Burgess, resident, said he is afraid to let his wife walk to the Carr's grocery store, and wants to know why people aren't being held accountable.
- Pastor Hawkins of True Vine Church said that since the bus stop was moved from the southwest corner of 13th and Gambell to the southeast corner there have been big problems. People are urinating in front of children. It is a disgrace to put up with this, in a school zone no less. Every morning they have to run five or six drunks off their porch. They are going to put up an 8' high fence around their property.
- Joe McLallen of Alaska Event Services said he made an investment in the neighborhood thinking that Fairview was going to be changing, but he is not sure about that now. He commented on the blatancy of the public drinking and the lack of police patrol. He said we have to start doing something.
- Dee Kennedy, of Central Lutheran Church, stressed that alcoholism is a disease and an addiction, and we need places for these people to go. She said we need to work with Carr's to close down the liquor store, and that whatever is done has to be a long-term solution so these people are not just pushed into other neighborhoods. She said we need funding for community policing.
- Al Smith commented that 13th and Gambell used to be his corner, but he has been clean for two years now after going through the VA Program. Now he is the resident manager of the VA transitional housing. There is an AA meeting every Saturday from 6-7 pm at the Computer Connection at 13th and Gambell.
- Larry Harris, resident, said he doesn't think chronic drunks are a problem, and that he is more concerned by aggressive drug dealers. He said it's Fairview's turn to have all the drunks transported here.
- Lynette Moreno-Hinz moved to Anchorage from Sitka, and her neighbors at 11th and LaTouche were arrested for meth. She owns a four-plex at 9th and Medfra and after some of her tenants trashed an apartment, she couldn't throw them out because the Anchorage Police would not do a civil standby.

- Erin Goodall, resident, said she has called APD many, many times about drugs around her house, but there has been no satisfactory response. She asked why we are focusing on drunks when kids are walking by crack houses.
- Karen Crowley, who runs a child-care business, said she is concerned about prostitution, and about children being exposed to deprivation at a level she never grew up with. She said she moved her teenager out of Fairview to keep him away from drugs. She said she sees APD officers at the substation [on Fairbanks St] but doesn't see them doing anything.
- Jim Bryan, from Nye Lincoln Mercury, told of problems with people soliciting when his customers are looking at cars. He said he has been threatened with a knife by one of the street people. Since moving the bus stop, these people seem to think the landscaping wall on his property is a bench. He said customers are afraid to come onto the lot and he has lost employees.
- Regina Manteufel, resident, suggested that Carr's have cards for the purchase of food only, not alcohol. She also suggested that drivers' licenses should have numbers to enter into a database, and if people are forbidden from purchasing alcohol, this will pop up. She said she wants APD to take breaks and do paperwork in the Fairview Community Recreation Center or Carr's parking lots.
- Mike Stein, an employee at the Oaken Keg, said at the outset that his comments reflected his own opinion, and not any official position of the Oaken Keg or Carrs/Safeway. He said that as a clerk, he wants a way to refuse sales to chronic inebriates, even if they are sober at the time. He said it would be a good idea to post photos of CSP customers in liquor stores.
- Metis Riley, a ten-year resident, said when she takes her dogs on walks, she worries about leaving them outside the Carr's store, so instead she takes her car to go one block to the store. She said she is not worried about drunks, but is more concerned about drug dealers. She said APD never seems to make any contact with them or with prostitutes.
- Claris Syren, a 52-year resident who has raised six children in the neighborhood, said she has seen Fairview go through lots of changes. She has newspaper articles going back to 1996 and has been to many, many meetings on the subject of chronic public inebriates. She said landlords have to work twice as hard to get and keep good tenants. She said the whole city needs to rethink the alcohol problem, and the Mayor and Assembly should look at where liquor stores are. She said she doesn't think Fairview should have any liquor stores, and that putting the Computer Connection across from a liquor store was a bad idea.
- Dan Loring, resident, said he is more interested in solutions than in venting. He said he thinks it is a problem of lack of leadership, and that all over the country, low-income, minority neighborhoods get left behind, and it's no different here. He said cops on the street are great, but there aren't enough of them, and we need more resources for the police. He commented on the panhandling in the median at 15th and Ingra: some of the panhandlers have gone to the hospital after falling into traffic due to drinking or fighting. He doesn't let his 16-year old daughter walk to Carr's. He said he hopes this meeting has created the will for change, and asked elected and non-elected leadership to fund solutions, because we need help, and help costs money.
- Neil Shuckerow of the Mongolian Dragon restaurant said he thinks things have been getting worse over the past few years.
- Jerry Haggerty, a resident since 1983 and a landlord of two four-plexes at 12th and Juneau, remarked that many of these people are mentally ill, so we can't cure them by fining them, nor can we put them in jails that are already overcrowded. He said we have limited recourse because these people have individual rights. Also, they need to be ready to quit. In defense of APD, he said that while the police are slow to respond to drunk calls, they respond rapidly to assaults because they prioritize. He said that while inebriates are aggravating and they litter, he hasn't had any serious problems with them. Drug dealers though are into serious crime, and this has an impact on his ability to find tenants because they fear getting caught in the crossfire. He asked where the inebriate problem sits relative to other crimes like drugs and domestic violence.

Public comments ended at 8:19 pm. Allen Kemplen, as chair of the Neighborhood Plan Committee, then commented on neighborhood standards. He remarked on the dedicated core of residents, property owners, and businesses who said they're not going to take it any more and want to make a difference. He said don't just ask what the city or state is going to do, ask what you are going to do. A big part of the Fairview Neighborhood Plan was about values: What do we hold dear? What are our standards? According to the Broken Windows hypothesis, broken windows show no one cares, and this attracts others who don't care. These mentally ill people are our broken windows, and we need to fix them. They are on our church steps,

in our parks, and so on. If we tolerate the public inebriates, this sends a message about the standards of the neighborhood. Drug dealers and prostitutes see the inebriates left alone and think the neighborhood doesn't mind if they are there either. Allen concluded by asking what can be done with repeat offenders along the lines of three-strikes-and-you're-out.

Rob Heun, the chief of the Anchorage Police Department since October 1, 2006, reported that APD has directed lots of resources to Mountain View, but maintaining the resources there is difficult. He said he was concerned to hear about people who call APD and get a poor response. When APD gets a call about a man down, they run Code 3. If it is a chronic inebriate and CSP is not available, APD must take the person to sleep-off or the hospital, and thus is out of service. This is how chronic public inebriates affect APD's ability to deploy officers. Very shortly, he said he is going to be initiating a community resources problem-oriented policing group comprising Tom Nelson, Denny Allen, and Garry Gilliam. There will also be two other officers assigned to them to deal with problems in Fairview. As well, the Special Assignments Unit will be in Fairview along with the Vice Unit. Vice has arrested about 100 women in the past eight months in Fairview and Mountain View. On average, a woman has to have seven or eight convictions before she'll see any prison time. We need to get prosecutors involved in these discussions and the district attorneys as well for state drug charges.

Diane DiSanto, from the Mayor's Office, pointed out the distinction among homeless, panhandlers, and inebriates. She said that a Housing First initiative is already housing 13 of the 200 "frequent fliers" chronic inebriates, and that there are a lot of people working on this problem. She said that several years ago there was an alcohol tax – the 10¢ a drink tax – but since then there has been a cut in funds to alcohol treatment. There is no treatment in villages. The problem is that the funds from this tax went into the general fund, not into treatment programs.

Jim Bryan, from Nye Lincoln Mercury, asked where the rights of drunks end and his begin. He said that he has been threatened by drunks with knives, and when he called APD, he was advised to call CSP. Chief Heun said he wanted to get more details about this.

Johnny Ellis, State Senator, said that he has felt overwhelmed this summer by inebriates, drug dealers, and prostitutes, who urinate, defecate, and fornicate on his front lawn. He said the problem with crackdowns is that they just move the offenders to other neighborhoods. He said he would provide whatever resources he can. SB 100 stated that treatment programs need to produce results for continued funding. Title 47 can be used for dually-diagnosed people, if the judge determines the person is a danger to him/herself or others, the person can be remanded to involuntary commitment for substance abuse treatment. This will capture the dangerous cases, but not the typical chronic inebriate.

Les Gara, State House Representative, said that even if people want to go to substance abuse treatment, there aren't enough spaces for them because funding has gone down. If people are willing to be treated, we should help them. He said that increased police presence costs money. Community policing works; part of the state effort has to be to fund police. Legislators from areas without crime problems don't see the need to fund police to levels needed for community policing.

Dan Coffey, Assembly Chair, referring to the inebriate flyer produced by the Department of Health and Human Services, said we're spending \$4 million on a system that doesn't work, so why not spend it on something that will work? Let's look at other alternatives.

Dan Loring said we haven't talked yet about education. Only 56% of students at the neighborhood high school graduate; this leaves 44% prone to crime.

Regina Manteufel suggested that the Assembly fund electricians to install motion detector lighting everywhere.

Claris Syren said people should write down license plates, times, people, etc., to document activity and give the details to the Community Patrol or APD. She said this worked; it helped shut down a meth lab.

Elgin Jones, from Kids Kitchen, remarked that a large percentage of the chronic inebriates are natives, so can we get the native corporations involved?

Roy Agloinga, from the Mayor's Office, said they are already working with native corporations to help with the inebriate problem. Each of the twelve corporations has a non-profit arm, and collectively they are funneling tremendous amounts of money into social services, outreach, and housing.

Trevor Storrs, from the Coalition on Homelessness, said that a big issue with inebriates is the lack of affordable housing. There is a model known as "Housing First" which houses these sorts of people with no strings attached. This type of program has seen big successes in terms of keeping these people off the streets: New York, 80-90%; Denver, 70%.

Paul Honeman from APD said that Neighborhood Watch can be set up every neighborhood. In a seven-year time period, during which there were 1,600-1,800 burglaries a year, Neighborhood Crime Watch areas had only four burglaries. He also spoke about the benefits of the Parent Network.

Allan Tesche, Assemblyman, commented on the tax structure in the municipality. He said the current level of funding has been deemed fine by the Assembly. Our budget is ultimately a conversation in this community. Our values are where our wallets are. Some people think we can't afford to spend more on municipal services.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Vice President.