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Heights Herald

The Monthly Newsletter of the Airport Heights Community Council of Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 19 , 2009
7-9 PM, Airport Heights Elementary School

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7 p.m.	Call to Order, administration notes, introductions (Chair)
7:05	Approval of Minutes & Agenda, Establish Quorum (Chair/Secretary)
7:10 Presentations/Reports	Legislature
	Assembly
	PTA
	Parks Committee
	Traffic Committee
	Federation of Community Councils (Jon Spring)
7:40	Anchorage School District
8:00	Recess
8:10	Anchorage Fire Fighters
8:25	Anchorage Tomorrow
8:40	Community concerns (3 minutes for any council member to speak on any community-related topic)
9:00	Adjourn (by motion)

Provide Input to Anchorage Parks Strategic Plan at Local Meetings

You are invited to upcoming district meetings regarding parks.

- Northwest, March 26, 6-9 p.m., at Romig Middle School
- Northeast, March 30, 6-9 p.m., at Begich Middle School
- Southwest, March 31, 6-9 p.m.,, at Klatt Elementary School
- Southeast & Central, April 1, 6-9 p.m., Spring Hill Elementary School

Come to the meetings to celebrate the hard work and progress made in improving Anchorage parks and trails, see plans for upcoming 2009-2010 neighborhood parks projects, help plan future improvements, learn about Parks Bond projects, meet your Park District Manager and Parks & Recreation staff, and learn about volunteer opportunities for the summer.

Everyone is invited—kids and adults—come and share your vision.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Little at 343-4586 or LittleSR@muni.org.

February 19, 2009 Minutes

Chair Becky Kurtz convened the meeting at 7:06 pm. The January 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

Assembly member Elvi-Grey Jackson reported on recent municipal assembly activity. A series of municipal and Anchorage School District bonds were approved for the April ballot. The bonds, if approved by voters, will be used for streets and drainage, library, parks, fire, public safety, and school improvements and programs. The Municipal Assembly has also been working on resolving the $17 million budget shortfall.

Shelly Henessey discussed the status of the Alexander Street and drainage improvement project. High groundwater and poor drainage is causing extensive damage to homes on the street. The project has been included as part of the Municipality of Anchorage Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for funding through the State legislature. However, it is only 27th on the city's legislative funding priority list. Additional work needs to be done to get the attention of state decision-makers. (It was noted that this project was ranked number 1 on the AHCC CIP priority list.) Representative Cissna requested a copy of the AHCC CIP list and suggested that it also be sent to Senator Davis. A motion was made to make the AHCC email list available for use in lobbying the State for project funding. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Todd Jacobson, a transportation project consultant working for the city, mentioned that it might be better to seek funding for the Alexander Street project through the flooding and glaciations program which is ranked 6th on the MOA legislative funding list. While the amount may not be sufficient to complete the entire project, it is more likely to be funded because there are matching local funds available for this project.

Representative Cissna reported on the rural fuel-cost crisis as well as the efforts of the legislature to deal with the projected budget shortfall. The governor is proposing around $700 million in budget cuts. Representative Cissna also reported that the State is expecting to receive federal stimulus money, part of which will be used to cover shortfalls in the Medicaid program.

Sid Atwood reported on efforts to install a security camera at Tikishla Park. To allow the camera to cover the desired surveillance area it will be necessary to construct a 10-foot pole above the maintenance building. A motion was made and seconded to budget an extra $200 for pole installation. A friendly amendment was made to permit additional money to be spent in case the bid came in higher than $200. The motion was approved unanimously.

Todd Jacobson reported on the scope of the Penland Parkway Improvement Project. Previously, the AHCC had sent a letter to the Municipality of Anchorage requesting that the original scope of the project be expanded to include more than just drainage improvements such as pedestrian and landscaping improvements. Todd stated that there was no money to fund additional improvements and that the MOA would be sticking with the original scope.

A representative from Off-the Chain Bicycle Collective made a presentation on their program. Located at Goose Lake Park, this organization offers help on bicycle repair and maintenance. The following motion was moved, seconded and approved:

Whereas, the Off the Chain Bicycle Collective brings users to Goose Lake Park; fosters sustainability by recycling bicycles; makes available bicycles to members of the community and in so doing provides at-risk youth with transportation and an opportunity to establish independence; provides bicycle repair education; and encourages fitness through bicycle use in accordance with the goals of the Mayor's Anti-Obesity Task Force, we the AHCC believe the Off the Chain Bicycle Collective to be an asset to the community particularly in their current location in the Goose Lake Park.

Shirley Iverson reported on the Park Foundation Fund Raising effort. The money will be used to help employ about 80 kids through the clean and green program this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm