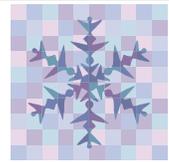




# Heights Herald



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

## MEETING AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 , 2010 7-9 PM, AIRPORT HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY

AHCC complies with Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and is an equal opportunity employer. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to qualified individuals with disabilities on request. Contact the Community Councils Center, 277-1977 at least 10 days prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

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|----------------------------|---|
| 7 p.m.                     | Call to Order, administration notes, establish quorum, introductions (Chair)<br>Approval of Minutes & Agenda (Chair/Secretary)  |
| 7:05 Presentations/Reports | AHCC Treasury<br>Municipal Assembly<br>State Legislature<br>Airport Heights Elementary School PTA<br>Parks Committee<br>Traffic Committee<br>Federation of Community Councils |
| 7:30                       | 20th & Lake Otis traffic changes (MOA Traffic Division)   |
| 8:00                       | 5-minute recess   |
| 8:05                       | Refuse & Recycling report   |
| 8:15                       | 18th Avenue Montessori School/Friends Church lease (Baffreys)   |
| 8:50                       | Community Concerns (up to 3 minutes for any AHCC member)  |
| 9:00                       | Adjourn (by motion)   |

## Midnight Sun Montessori School Invites You to Open House and Open Discussion with the Owners and Teachers

Melissa and Michael Baffrey are working with the Anchorage Friends Church at 2824 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue on a proposal to establish a Montessori Childcare Facility for children ages 6 weeks through 6 years in the basement of the church. The school would operate from 7:30 am to 6pm, 5 days and week (minus winter and spring breaks) and would service up to 55 children. They are interested in sharing information about the Montessori method and their plans for the school, and to discuss any concerns that the community has about this location. They will hold an open house at the church from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19 for the communities of Airport Heights and Midnight Sun Montessori. Their proposal to establish the facility at this location is on the agenda at the Airport Heights Community Council meeting on Thursday, January 21.

## D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 9 M I N U T E S

Chair Rebecca Kurtz convened the meeting at 7:02 pm. Sid Atwood moved to approve the November 2009 minutes as submitted, the motion was seconded and passed. The agenda was approved as written. Secretary/Treasurer Dawn Scott reported there is \$30 in the council's bank account.

Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson provided an assembly report. Budget efforts continue. A meeting on the Alexander Condominium sewer problems was conducted with several muni staff. She reported Greg Jones has some ideas that staff will work on. State Representative Cissna provided a handout on the Umed District that discussed the Umed Northern Access study being conducted by Dowl HKM. Further information on this study can be found at [www.umednorthernaccess.com](http://www.umednorthernaccess.com). Representative Cissna encouraged submission of current and any other possible capital projects for legislative consideration as soon as possible. She can be reached in Juneau at 1-800-922-3875. Don Burrell of Senator Davis' office also encouraged capital improvement submissions. Parks Committee. Sid Atwood said he talked to Tom Bunger about completing the camera project at Tikishla/Gomez Rink. Tom plans on working with neighbor Chris Doucette this Saturday on this effort.

Traffic Committee. There are no traffic committee members at this time. Suzann Speckman and Jon Spring agreed to serve on this committee. Suzann expressed concern about the speed of traffic on 20th Avenue, the speed bumps are not working. Ross Timm said 20th is identified as a collector street in municipal traffic plans. Stop signs were suggested but the MOA Traffic Department does not wish to install them. The traffic light timing differences between intersections and at different times of the day were discussed for study. Jon Spring said the traffic calming staffer at MOA was laid off. Ross Timm indicated the planters and calming at 16th and Valarian had little effect on traffic, but the planters are uncared for and children play around them and are subject to being struck by cars passing through the area. Sid Atwood discussed a radar training program in another state, and discussion followed on buying radar guns and training, using the community safety grant dollars, for use by AHCC citizens to monitor and report on traffic in the neighborhood. The AHCC sent a letter requesting that the traffic calming position be retained; President Kurtz will follow up on this discussion.

Michael Baffrey discussed the interest of the Midnight Sun Montessori School to open a school for infant to 6 years at the Friends Church at 2824 18th Avenue. Prior preschools in this building caused serious traffic, speed, and parking problems in the surrounding area. The land is zoned R1, so a variance for landscaping and then condition use will be required. Discussion of problems with the alley and possible solutions for parking and traffic issues were discussed. The prior school had about 98 children, this school would have a maximum of 55 children. Suzann Speckman and Mark Houston indicated strong support for this school where their 3-year-old daughter attends. Michael reinforced a neighborhood preference for enrollment would be made available, and it was suggested that the school provide a monitor during drop-off and pick-up times. This issue will appear again on the January AHCC meeting agenda to assure that all neighbors have a chance to study the situation and contribute to the decision.

Issues for 2010 planning and priorities were discussed. The issues included: Trails and greenspaces, maintaining quantities and making them safe, less intrusion by the homeless; widening Lake Otis (#4 on the council's CIP list), concerns expressed that other intersections would be congested with the Lake Otis expansion; Lake Otis & 20th intersection & problem turn lane (Jon indicated traffic engineering is aware of this problem, he will follow-up with them); Lake Otis & Tudor (Jon said design work has started on this project); Nichols Park, Phase II, formalize a committee to contribute to the planning for the park, perhaps including a city planner; enhance the Tikisha playground, which is not very useful at this time for small children, model the playgrounds at Girdwood and Talkeetna; provide daycare at some AHCC meetings to encourage neighbors with young children to participate in the meeting; refuse & recycling, a committee will be formed with Darcy Bromley-Harris providing the lead to study the refuse and recycling effort. Alley pickup has been cut off to many and is planned to be completely stopped in the future, contrary to what our council has been told the last several years. Other community councils in the historical, central Anchorage area are concerned that they will also lose their alley service and will be working with our council on this issue. Many are experiencing difficulty moving the bins to and from the street, which is particularly difficult with the increasing snow depth. Several neighbors have been studying this issue and communicating with various municipal departments including the mayor's office. There was also concern that the service was spread out over several days, so there seem to be bins sitting on the streets throughout the week. The refuse/recycle committee will provide a report at the January meeting. [The Daily News ran a story on this on the front page on January 11.]

Suggested uses for the approximate \$5,500 remaining in the community safety grant dollars were radar equipment and training for traffic monitoring and an alley gate at Nichols Park, as well as some possible way to address the issues of homeless along the trail system.

A member asked that the meetings be better managed. The board has since devised some procedures to assure more controlled and streamlined sessions in 2010.

Barbara Karl moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.