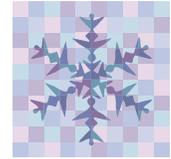




Heights Herald



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

MEETING AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 7 p.m. | Call to Order, administration notes, establish quorum, introductions (Chair)
Approval of Minutes & Agenda (Chair/Secretary) |
| 7:05 Presentations/Reports | AHCC Treasury
Municipal Assembly
State Legislature
Airport Heights Elementary School PTA
Parks Committee
Traffic Committee
Federation of Community Councils |
| 7:30 | 20th & Lake Otis (MOA Traffic, Bob Kniefel) |
| 8:00 | 5-minute recess |
| 8:05 | Anchorage Bike Plan, Resolution (Brian Litmans, Diana Redwood) |
| 8:20 | Nichols Park Grant Status (Elaine Pratt) |
| 8:50 | Community Concerns (up to 3 minutes for any AHCC member) |
| 9:00 | Adjourn (by motion) |

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 0 M I N U T E S

Chair Rebecca Kurtz convened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Dick Snyder moved to approve the December minutes as submitted, the motion was seconded and passed. Secretary/Treasurer Dawn Scott reported there is \$30 in the council's bank account and about \$5,500 in the safety grant monies, which can be used on items such as the cameras at Tikishla Park and other safety-related efforts.

Assemblywoman Elvi Gray-Jackson Alexander Avenue sewers are number 10 on the municipal legislative capital funds request, and number 1 on the AHCC Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list. She went on an alley tour with staff from Solid Waste Services to explore issues with alley collection of garbage and recycling, a meeting on this topic can be arranged. Elimination of the I&M program is being discussed, the Health & Human Services commission is going to provide a review of the program and recommendations in July, it hoped any action can be delayed until that report. Whether the State should allow municipalities to increase tax reductions for residents from \$20,000 to \$50,000 is being considered as a ballot proposition advisory vote.

(continued on page 2)

JANUARY 2010 MINUTES (continued)

Representative Cissna said the Alexander sewer costs at \$2 million will eliminate all other expenditures for this district and would be much larger than this district normally gets. Two constituent meetings are being planned with Senator Davis and Representative Cissna. Call 1-800-922-3875 for information.

Jon Spring provided the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) report. Carol Comeau, school superintendent reported where will be two public hearings on the school program cuts, details are on the ASD web site.

Bob Kniefel, Municipal Traffic Engineer and other department staffers discussed concerns with traffic problems on 20th & Lake Otis. Alex Prosak, P.E. of Hattenberg Dilley and Linnell engineers said during a five-year period from 2003-2007 there were 24 reported crashes, lower than the statewide average. Two-thirds of crashes involved northbound vehicles with rear-end crashes or attempting to make a left turn too hastily. These problems are likely due to the bulb that forces right-only turns, which is unexpected for a major arterial road. People not realizing they are in a right-turn-only lane speed up to merge to left when they realize they cannot go straight, or they use the right lane to pass people turning left into Eastridge. Suggestions included having right hand turn only arrow, better markings and warnings of upcoming traffic pattern and speed limits, and flashing lights to slow down traffic as they approach the intersection. Jon Spring said the municipal CIP includes reconstruction from 20th to Debarr, AMATS has no funds for such a project until past 2015. Karen Walker indicated Eastridge residents cannot safely access their area from Merrill Field/Debarr, so this is the only safe access point to Eastridge. Alex indicated a quick solution is to cut the bulb out and make thru left into left turn only and then have thru right. This would reduce some onstreet parking to the north of the intersection. It was suggested making a left thru lane might just reverse the problem. A roundabout suggestion made a few years ago would involve significant utility work and some homes might need to be eliminated on the corner. Mr. Kniefel said they will set up a public meeting and notify people in the area of the date. A public meeting on this topic was scheduled for 7 pm on Thursday, February 11 at the Airport Heights Elementary School library.

Darcy Bromley-Harris reported on alley pickup of refuse and recycling and discussion followed. There was a petition at the meeting to restore alley pickup service. Concerned neighbors are working with other community councils with current alley service. Problems include getting containers to fronts of homes and storing them away from the fronts of homes to meet ordinance requirements. Some people still have alley service, others don't, it is not clear what the criteria were that determined who did and did not get alley service. Appreciation for the recycling service was voiced. Concerned neighbors plan to work with Solid Waste to come up with an agreeable solution.

Following the break a discussion of the proposed Montessori School in the basement of the church at 2824 E. 18th was discussed and testimony was taken. The daycare owner, Michael Baffrey, indicated they will need both a landscaping plan and a conditional use permit, both requiring a public process. This school will have 55 children, significantly less than the prior Montessori school at this location, and will have one shift versus the two shifts at the prior school. They will offer a local preference for enrollment. An extemporaneous vote of those present who would hope to send their child(ren) to the school resulted in 19 votes; having local enrollments would reduce the outside traffic. The school will bring over about 40 children from the current location on 19th Avenue, leaving an initial opening for about 15 local children, which can be increased as current clients leave and children age out. Neighbors in the area when the first Montessori school was there spoke to the issues they faced at that time, including noise during day and night, increased outside traffic and air and noise pollution, rude and speeding parents, blocked driveways, un-kept promises both when the small church was rebuilt to its current large size and when the daycare problems occurred. Others spoke to the desirability of having such a school in the area for locals to use and the hope that with effort the problems could be mitigated this time.

Barbara Karl moved that the AHCC form an advisory council to address the issues brought up regarding the Montessori School and work through issues and develop mitigation of as many issues as possible and then bring back their results to the full AHCC, at which point the council entertain a motion to support or not support the proposed based on the recommendations. The advisory council would be comprised of 3 members from the community, 2 from the school, and 1 from the church, with community members being 1 pro, 1 con, and 1 neutral. The motion was second. Following discussion Bea Peterson moved to amend the motion that the committee be comprised of 3 pro neighbors, 3 opposing neighbors, 1 nonvoting member from the school and 1 nonvoting member from the church. The amendment was seconded and passed. The vote on the amended main motion passed. Dick Snyder moved for provisional approval of the Montessori School. The motion was seconded and passed with 33 in favor and 10 opposed. A summary of pro's and con's from the secretary's notes as well as the notes taken on poster paper during the meeting have been given to the advisory council. Two local business consultants have volunteered to facilitate the advisory council at not charge.

Dick Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:41.

Airport Heights Elementary School Winter Carnival is the evening of February 10, community members welcome!