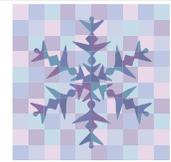




Heights Herald



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

MEETING AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 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.

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| 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 Tomorrow |
| 8:20 | Penland Park Project Comments |
| 8:40 | Allan Shayer, Land Use Enforcement Officer, Municipality of Anchorage |
| 8:50 | Community Concerns (up to 3 minutes for any AHCC member) |
| 9:00 | Adjourn (by motion) |

M O N T E S S O R I S C H O O L P R O P O S A L U P D A T E

Following discussion at our January meeting, an advisory council was formed to address how to mitigate community concerns with a proposed Montessori School location at the Friends Church on 18th Avenue. Community members Suzann Speckman, Bruce Rowe, Deb McIntyre, Shirley Valek Wilson, Jessica Cochran, and Dick Snyder agreed to serve on this council, and Dick LaFever and Bill Hall facilitated the group. Representatives from the school and church were present in a non-voting capacity.

The group met three evenings. They developed a list of positive and negative aspects to the proposal and then focused on the issues that might be mitigated. They also heard from the Montessori owners regarding how they might approach such mitigations. Jessica Cochran wrote a report that the group reviewed and approved. We expect to have a report on the advisory council's work, a final response on possible mitigations from the Montessori School, and the opportunity for a motion from the community council membership at our April meeting.

The community council wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the advisory council members and facilitators. This is a big challenge for our neighborhood and their work is truly appreciated.

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

Chair Becky Kurtz convened the meeting at 7:01. Dick Snyder moved to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. There were no additions to the agenda.

Assemblyperson Elvi Grey Jackson provided a briefing on the activities of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly. The Alexander Street drainage improvement project was put on the spring bond ballot. If approved, Municipal bonds would pay for 90% of the cost of the project; they seek the remaining 10% match from the State legislature.

Chair Becky Kurtz read a report from Representative Sharon Cissna regarding activities of the State legislature. Darcy Harris reported that there is nothing new to convey on the alley garbage pick-up issue. Jon Spring made a brief report on research into neighborhood speed watch programs. According to research, neighborhood speed watch programs utilizing radar guns with follow-up letters to violators do not appear to have a lasting impact on speed reductions. Moreover, the Municipal Police Department, which would have to cooperate on the issuance of the follow-up (non-citation) letters, does not have the funds to start-up any new programs.

Trevor Straight, an engineer with HDL, presented information on a recently completed traffic safety study for the intersection of Lake Otis Blvd. and 20th Ave. He summarized the problem at the intersection as one being primarily caused by northbound traffic trying to make a left-hand turn into the Eastridge neighborhood. He presented five alternatives:

Alternative 1 – Reduce speed limits on Lake Otis. This may not be effective since people tend to not obey excessively low speed limits.

Alternative 2 – Install better signage to warn northbound drivers of the lane configuration at 20th Ave. intersection. Drawback to this alternative is that better signage won't directly address the left-turn problem.

Alternative 3 – Create 3 lanes in each direction on Lake Otis at 20th Ave. intersection— 2 left turn lanes, 2 right turn lanes and 2 through lanes.

Alternative 4 – Signal timing would be converted to a split phase. In this alternative, all of the northbound traffic, including left turning vehicles, would have a green light while southbound traffic would be stopped. In another phase, the southbound traffic would have the green light while the northbound traffic is stopped. Under this alternative the overall level of service of the intersection would deteriorate and the delay would increase.

Alternative 5 – Dedicated northbound left turn lane. Under this alternative the existing northbound through lane would be a dedicated left turn lane while a new through, right lane would be created in the existing northbound right turn only lane. Parking in front of at least the first four houses on the east side of Lake Otis would be taken out to accommodate the new through, right lane. Southbound traffic on Lake Otis would also get a dedicated left-turn lane in this alternative.

Some concern was expressed regarding the length of the dedicated left-turn lane. It would be undesirable to make it too short so that traffic extended into the northbound through lane. A suggestion was also made to explore the possibility of using Oak Street as the new entrance into the neighborhood. Several persons spoke in favor of the 3-lane alternative while others spoke in favor of the northbound dedicated left turn concept. Bob Kniefel, the Municipal Traffic Engineer asked the community council to provide his department with guidance as to its preferences so that construction could be completed this summer.

Jon Spring made the motion that “recognizing that there is a safety problem at the intersection of Lake Otis Blvd. and 20th Ave., the AHCC recommends implementation of either the 3 lane alternative (Alternative 3) or the dedicated left turn lane alternative (Alternative 5), both of which appear to be effective solutions.” Barbara Karl seconded. The vote was 33 in favor and 0 against.

After a 5 minute recess, Brian Litman and Diana Redwood of the Bicycle Commuters Association presented information on the proposed Bicycle Plan which is scheduled for a public hearing in front of the Municipal Assembly on March 2nd. They spoke of the benefits of the plan in implementing a complete bicycle facility system in Anchorage and asked the community council to pass a resolution in favor of the Plan. The resolution was read and Dick Snyder moved to adopt the resolution with Jon Spring seconding. The vote was 15 in favor and 1 against. Resolution 2010-1 is posted on our web site.

Elaine Pratt presented a final report on the Nichols Park improvement project. With a grant from the Parks Foundation, last summer volunteers spread 150 yards of topsoil and 80 pounds of grass seed in a former dirt parking area. In addition, bollards were installed around the perimeter to provide better security around the park. Fifteen trees were planted in August. In total 45 neighbors volunteered their time to the project. Of the original grant \$3,700 is left. If an additional \$3,800 can be raised a new perimeter fence can be installed this summer. Elaine reported that people seem to be enjoying the open space that the park provides, so the plan is to leave Nichols Park as an open space for the near future.

Dick Snyder moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.