

Basher Community Council Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2012
Baxter Elementary School, 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order by President Dirk Sisson at 7:03 pm

Guests: Anna Fairclough, State Senate Candidate, Wende Wilbur, CRW Engineering, Representative Lance Pruitt, Adam Trombley, Anchorage Assembly, Paul Honeman, Anchorage Assembly, Jim Veach, Station Capt., Anchorage Fire Department, Thede Tobish, Planner, Municipality of Anchorage, Paul Dauphinais, APOC Executive Director

Attendance: 25 signed in

February 3, 2012 minutes were approved with no amendments.

Legislative Report:

Representative Anna Fairclough (currently representing House District 17, but running for Senate in the newly redrawn Senate District M) gave an update on the Special Session called by Gov. Sean Parnell to change the oil and gas tax rate. The Governor pulled his oil tax proposal 10 days into the session, and HB 9 (concerning the natural gas pipeline) was remanded. Legislators did pass a sex trafficking bill proposed by the Governor. The State spent \$10 billion in the Operating Budget. PERS and TERS are underfunded, and this could present a problem for retirees in the future.

Dirk asked about the funding that Gov. Parnell approved for education. Rep. Fairclough responded that it was a one-time \$50 million dollar appropriation for the entire state, but there is still a budget shortfall for the Anchorage School District.

Dirk asked about the new legislative boundaries created by redistricting. Rep. Fairclough responded that there have been changes to Senate District M—it now includes Eagle River, Stuckagain Heights and part of East Anchorage (Rep. Fairclough is running for this seat against incumbent Senator Bettye Davis). The House Districts for our neighborhood have also changed. House District 32 (represented by Rep. Mike Hawker) no longer includes Stuckagain Heights; we are now part of District 25, which includes East Anchorage and Stuckagain Heights. Candidates for District 25 are Rep. Pete Peterson and Rep. Lance Pruitt, both are incumbents.

Representative Lance Pruitt stated that he thinks Stuckagain Heights is a good fit with his District. He has been learning about some of the issues facing our neighborhood. For example, he tried to touch base with DNR staff concerning the parking lot development they are planning at the top of the neighborhood. DNR needs to address how the additional traffic will impact the neighborhood and how the facility and building construction will affect drainage, among other things.

AFD Update, Jim Veach, Station 14:

Jim Veach is the new Station Captain for Sta. 14, he moved over from Station 4.

Dirk gave an update on the firebreak along the south side of the neighborhood: Sue Rodman said crews are working on extending the break to the east and will be burning piles as weather permits. Completion of the firebreak will depend on the demands of the wildland fire season.

Eastside District Plan Update, Thede Tobish, Planner, Municipality of Anchorage:

Thede Tobish gave an introduction to the Eastside District Planning process: Stuckagain Heights is included in the planning area. It is physically separated from the rest of the rest of East Side District, but it is connected through the commercial district. The EDP is part of the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Anchorage 2020 does not have a landscape plan; the District Plans will be used to provide land use guidance. The purpose of the EDP is to provide a 20-year look into the future and to provide a land use plan that will accommodate projected future growth. The Municipality hired a consultant who will be coming up in May to host the community workshop on May 22 at Begich Middle School.

Dirk asked about the timeline: Mr. Tobish responded that they expect to have a draft in mid-September 2012 followed by another workshop; the final draft will be completed by the end of 2012. They expect to have a draft to the Planning and Zoning Commission by March 2013. The first formal comment period will occur after the draft has gone through Planning and Zoning. The public workshops will also be used to gather comments. The Community Council can give input at the public workshops and can comment on the Planning and Zoning draft.

John Mitchell asked if the city has been working with DNR regarding the Chugach State Park Access plan: Mr. Tobish responded that the Access Plan is in draft form and it will take a long time for it to go from draft to final. The Municipality intends to adopt the Access Plan as part of the Anchorage Plan. The State is still working on the Issue Response Summary for the Access Plan. After the Municipality adopts Access Plan, it will then go to the Assembly.

Dirk commented that the city is bordered by Chugach State Park, Far North Bicentennial Park, and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson; he asked what of interaction does the city have with JBER? Mr Tobish responded that the municipality will outline the commitment, he cited the example of the airport, and he said that this was an opportunity to address important issues.

Dirk stressed that the EDP is a big deal for Stuckagain Heights and the community needs to stay on top of it.

Campbell Airstrip Road upgrade, Wende Wilbur, CRW Engineering

Wende Wilbur gave an update on the road upgrade: the funding was cut from the budget in the final round, so they won't be continuing work until the project receives more funding. A couple of changes have been made to the design since the last meeting. They completed traffic studies and determined that if the road is improved, the speed limit will be increased to 35 mph for the length of Campbell Airstrip Road. The also extended the paved trail to Tudor Road. The webpage will remain active in anticipation of future funding.

Ann Gabler asked what the cost of the upgrade was estimated to be. Answer: \$4.9 million.

The Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC), Paul Dauphinais, Executive Director

Paul Dauphinais gave an update on APOC and its role in ensuring transparency of campaign finances. The goal is to get more information to the public through the APOC website. Mr. Dauphinais gave a presentation demonstrating how to extract campaign finance information from the website. Information can be queried by candidate, for example, cash-on-hand and cash spend, or by political

contribution. One can also sort by group. For super PACs, State Law requires that the top 3 contributors be listed.

Assembly report, Paul Honeman

Paul Honeman reported that the Assembly held a special meeting about the April 3rd election. The issues with the election included a ballot shortage (65% of precincts ran out of ballots) and several irregularities with ballot handling. The Assembly retained an Anchorage law firm as Independent Counsel to review the Election Commission Report, and also hired Tim Petumenos to provide an independent legal review prior to Assembly action on certification. The Independent Counsel concluded that the election results should be certified because the voting problems didn't meet the 3 criteria for not-certifying: 1) malconduct, 2) fraud, or 3) evidence that the outcome would have been different. Based on this legal review, the Assembly voted to certify the election contingent on the ongoing hand recount of 15 precincts.

LRSA update

Jeff Allen reported that both board members whose terms were up were re-elected. Oiling will take place at the end of May as weather permits. Chip-sealing may continue if the budget allows—they spent a bit more last winter on snow removal than had been anticipated.

Miscellaneous:

Dirk reminded everyone that neighborhood cleanup will take place on May 12th. There will be cookies, refreshments, and trash bags at the Basher Trailhead starting at 9 am.

Gwen Hufford will be organizing the annual block party scheduled for July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Boucher
Secretary, BCC