

Spenard Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2013 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Ave.

1. Minutes and Agenda Approval – *Bob Auth*

- June meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.
- September agenda approved with the following additions:
 - Old & New Business: Kelly Peterson to give an update on Roosevelt Park
 - Assembly & Liquor Reports: assembly members will update on In&Out Liquor
- Announcements
 - Long House update:
 - Will be discussed at the October Spenard CC meeting
 - Turnagain CC is discussing this issue in their September meeting
 - The Muni sent out a decision that the Long House proposal is within the allowable uses of current zoning. Katie Ireland at Anchorage Community Mental Health Services shared with Bob that their CEO is in discussion with the owner of the Long House, and also with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (The Trust) about purchase. Currently aiming to complete the sale by October 31, 2014.

2. Assembly Reports – *Reps. Tim Steele, Ernie Hall*

- **Citizen’s Task Force on Assembly Public Hearings:** Good discussion at the meeting the previous night. Task Force is chaired by Jane Angvik and includes variety of people. Next meeting is October 1st, a public hearing in Assembly Chambers.
- **Bar Closing Hours Ordinance:** The Assembly rewrote the bar closing hours ordinance – no bars opted to have the extended hours, so the intended staggering of demand for cabs after closing time hasn’t happened. Assembly members at other ways to address the issue, including allowing cabs to use the loading zones downtown due to parking shortages.
- **Taxi and Towing Ordinances:** Trying to deal with current issues: example, people have cars towed overnight when leaving their cars after they cannot drive home at night after visiting the bar, and get \$300 towing fees. Have been running one Safety Patrol van for pickups and drop-offs at sleep-off centers, that system is over capacity. Authorized expenditure for another van and personnel : 2 vans, 24 hours each day, will hopefully cut down on responses of police and fire when the Safety Patrol van is full.
- **In & Out Liquor:** Assembly drafted a conditional use permit for In & Out Liquor, after the owners expressed desire to be good neighbors. The conditional use permit was also drafted to be used to address other “problem areas” of town as permits come up. The draft permit is available for review upon request, but has not been finalized yet.
 - Ernie recognized the efforts of the owners of In & Out Liquor, they have voluntarily spent a lot of time and money to upgrade their building and work with the Muni to draft an acceptable conditional use permit.
- **Update to Community Council Ordinance:** This must be reviewed every 10 years, and the Ombudsman has worked with a representative group to recommend update and draft example bylaws for CCs. The bylaws are not required to be adopted, but are a good example of procedure. The working group working on the update, will be able to share soon.
 - Community Councils are an important part of the way the city operates. Part of update will include opportunities for trainings, use of Robert’s Rules, processes for passing resolutions, and keeping discussion productive. Ernie has also been working to protect funding for CCs.
- **New TDX Hotel on International Airport Rd:** Groundbreaking for hotel at International Airport Rd. and Spenard, TDX Corporation hotel and parking garage, will be opening soon. The parking garage will be in the shape of an airplane!
- **The Spenard Lions Club** has filed a permit to build a new club and is working with the Muni.
- **McRae Road Upgrade:** multi-year project (2013 and 2014), but making progress. There are still detours away from that section of McRae and Spenard, by the new fire station.

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- **Spenard Road Project** (Fireweed to south of Benson): still a high priority for the Muni, but not funded through state budget for FY2014. Still working to convince legislators that it needs to be funded and hoping to make progress soon to begin work.
- **Legislative Priority List** needs to be completed soon! The Assembly is working to prioritize items for the City, needs CC input. Council members can contact their legislators directly to share priorities. Things need to be on the list in order to communicate in Juneau! Review last year's priorities and emphasize things that haven't been addressed yet.
 - Sen. Gardner re-emphasized that priorities list is important, especially from year to year. Funding projects will be challenging going forward due to overall changes to the budget, including no longer having a surplus.

3. Legislative report – *Sen. Berta Gardner, Rep. Harriet Drummond*

- Spenard is well-represented! The area has 2 senators and 3 representatives.
- Not in session, but still having committee meetings.
- **School District funding** meetings are taking place – can view them at Legislative Information Offices. Sen Gardner's office has information about those meetings. Anticipating that in the next session, the state may discuss a voucher system. There is also a proposal to have property tax relief for people paying for private school.
- **Changes to the federal health care system** are forthcoming, the state will not have an exchange but will participate in the federal exchange. The Governor has declined \$1 million for setting up a health exchange, but ANTHC and United Way got \$300K grants to be Navigators for the new system. Parts of the new system will begin on October 1.
- **House Finance Subcommittee on Education** – looking at state assessment system and standards. President of Anchorage School Board is here and can give more information. The new assessment system, after Alaska received a waiver, will hopefully be more rational and easier to achieve than No Child Left Behind.
- **State Office Space:** legislative committee assessing how to better use the owned and lease office space by state departments, increase space and energy efficiency, employee productivity. Changes are starting to occur, such as the Atwood Building, and seem to be working better so far. On 7th and E/F, near the Atwood building, working to convert the empty space on the ground floor of the parking garage into child services and other public offices, so that people with business with the state can take care of it on the same block.
- **Gas Symposium:** Rep. Drummond attended, learned about liquefied natural gas (LNG). "An oil pipeline is like speed dating – a large natural gas line is a marriage." Takes about 15 to 20 years initial investment, but can have great payoff if done right. Also need to figure out how to export the gas and find a place to put the pipeline terminal.
- **Tennis Courts Capital Project:** funding to construct a new facility was slotted into a Project 80s Renovation budget line. Rep. Drummond toured Loussac Library recently and felt that it is unfortunate that the library, a Project 80s building, did not get funding for renovation.
 - A member asked about the roof condition, and whether there will be enough funding to address existing problems. Rep. Drummond was not sure of the exact amount needed, but confirmed that several aspects of the building need work.
- **Redistricting and Property Tax Concerns:** A member asked about redistricting (Arctic & International) that affected them after having voted in the same place for a long time. The member was also concerned that the tax deduction for seniors and military members (up to \$150,000) has not kept up with the cost of housing in Anchorage, asked how that exemption could be updated, particularly as retired seniors have limited income to pay property taxes. Rep. Drummond replied that it is a municipal issue and would need to be voted by Anchorage voters; the legislature can begin the process (example: farm property tax deductions were approved by the legislature in FY2013, but were not brought before the voters by the Mat-Su

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Borough). Hall and Drummond pointed out that because the Muni is mostly dependent on property taxes, any change would impact the overall budget; there have been proposals in the past to have a sales tax or revenue sharing, but none have passed so far.

4. Liquor Report

See Assembly Report above

5. Westside Community Patrol Grant – *Bob Auth, Tom McGrath, Allen Thornhill*

- Spenard CC has decided to use the remaining funds from a Westside Safety Patrol grant (which needs to be spent on safety-related items) to purchase security cameras to be mounted in some problem areas in Spenard, with permission from business owners, to record criminal activity and secure evidence if needed.
- Cameras have been purchased and installed on Blaine's Art on Benson/Photo Ave, waiting for ACS to complete hookup connections. Tommy's Burger Stop has also been approached, with further discussion pending about the final agreement between Spenard Community Council and the business.
- KTVA (Ch 11) contacted Bob, Tom, and others for comment about the project after seeing it in the newsletter. Bob clarified that the article makes it sound like the entire system is operational, but that is not the case – the cameras have been mounted but are not yet operational, and SCC is trying to come up with a good process for handling this issue.
 - Article available on <http://www.ktva.com/home/top-stories/Spenard-clean-up-adds-cameras-221997881.html>
- The Executive Committee would like to set up a committee to come up with recommendations for a protocol for how the security cameras will be used, monitored, maintained and who has access to the information.
 - Allan also asked what the Muni and the police are doing to address the issue.
 - Tom commented that this has been a problem for a long time, and in addition to the cameras, part of the solution is education (e.g. asking people not to throw trash on the ground). He also shared that others have pointed out Wal-Mart as a major offender (selling large bottles of mouthwash) for some problems with inebriates.

6. DOT Building Removal – *Mark Butler, John Weddleton, Debbie Hinchey (Spenard Chamber)*

- Spenard Chamber of Commerce members presented a proposal to request DOT removes their building on Benson and Spenard (across from REI, next to Pho Lena) and property be disposed of—due to existing curb cuts and small size of the property, it is out of compliance and cannot be effectively used as is.
- The adjacent property owner, Debbie Hinchey, is interested in purchasing the property as it will affect any decisions made on her own property. She has made multiple attempts to have the building removed and possibly purchase the property, but has not been successful in getting agreement from DOT in the past.
- The Chamber is asking for other organizations and officials to support this project.

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- Process: if DOT disposes of the property, they will assess the value, likely retain some of the property in order to do Spenard Road improvements, and would offer a portion of the land for sale to the adjacent property owner or another buyer.
- The request: sign a letter or resolution of support that the Alaska DOT/PF should remove the building on the corner (primary request) and to dispose of any surplus property which is not required to be retained for the right-of-way as DOT determines.
 - **MOTION:** The CC supports the proposal to remove the DOT building on Benson and Spenard. [no specific language about disposing of the property]
 - **DISCUSSION:** Jim Bowers pointed out that the DOT is using that building for storage, and would need to find an alternative storage place, but personally supports the proposal.
 - **The resolution passed with no opposition.**
 - Ernie Hall recommending adding the DOT building to their legislative priorities list – having it on several lists, even if not on top, has more power and can be brought to individual legislators.
- **Spenard Chamber Updates**
 - John Weddleton purchased the former car wash building on Spenard, across from the (now Franz) bakery.
 - Cook Inlet Housing Authority has purchased buildings along Spenard Road near 36th but cannot tear them down because their funding source will be dependent on being for “blighted property.” No immediate changes to their property.

7. Airport Report – *John Parrott*

See following handout

- **Airport Master Plan:** There will be a public open house on September 12th at the Coast International Inn to “unveil” the preferred alternative from the Airport Master Plan. There will be an online open house during that time for those who cannot come to the meeting. This meeting is important if you are interested in the outcome of the Airport Master Plan study and which preferred alternative(s) will be chosen.
- **Lake Hood Economic Impact Study:** AEDC has released an economic impact study (draft, hope to have finalized by September 30) for Lake Hood Airport, showing a surprisingly robust positive impact on the economy.

8. West 40th Ave. Speed Humps – *Chris McKee*

- Chris lives on 1400 block of West 40th Ave, between Spenard and Minnesota. West 40th is 9 feet narrower than parallel streets and the speed limit is 15 MPH. Concerned because in summer and winter, people regularly speed down the road. Chris fixed his fence twice in the past year after people crashed into it. Concerned about kids playing on the street.
- The process for installing speed humps requires that the property owners get support (a resolution) from the community council. Chris and other property owners are here to request a resolution of support to bring to the Muni as part of the speed bump request.
- Another resident on East Illiamna pointed out that installing speed bumps requires traffic studies and a lengthy process to request speed bumps. Funding issues have also put the Muni behind on these requests, and many go unfilled.

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- **MOTION:** To support the above resident's proposal to support traffic calming measures (including but not limited to speed humps) on West 40th between Arctic and Wilson, with the first step of requesting a traffic calming study.
- **DISCUSSION:**
 - Another resident brought up the possibility of having stop signs on 40th instead, but there was concern that people ignore those stops (like the 3-way stops on Wilson).
 - A member expressed concern that the speed bumps might actually make things less safe especially in winter, and suggested posting police officers to issue tickets. When snow falls, it fills in the gaps on either side and speed bumps don't work very well.
 - A member pointed out that this street and others are used as cut-throughs between 40th and Minnesota – perhaps a sign "No Outlet to Arctic Blvd" or a road block between 40th and Wilson might cut down traffic, if people are trying to get to Arctic.
 - A member pointed out that having as many neighbors as possible to sign the proposal can have more weight with the Muni. Recommend securing neighbors' support.
- **The resolution passed with no opposition.** Bob will send the final resolution language to the Muni.

9. Cope Street (4200 block) Pit Bull – *Chuck Brobst*

- Chuck is owner of rental properties along Cope St., has received complaints about an aggressive dog living at 4206 Cope.
- 4 people have been bitten by the dog, one person 3 times. Another neighbor testified that they have been charged by the dog, and his son does not want to go outside because he is afraid of the dog. The dog has been in Animal Control custody, and is there now (after another bite). Concerned for students walking to/from nearby Willowcrest Elementary.
- The property owner lives in Hawaii, and they have not successfully contact him yet.
- Animal Control (Officer Smith) informed him that only citations can be issued, it is listed as a Class 4 aggressive dog, but they cannot do anything else. The only way to gain full control of the dog and have it put down is if it kills someone.
- Chuck and other neighbors are airing their grievance and requesting help dealing with this dog. They have not contacted the owner because they are concerned about escalating the situation. Neighbors have contacted the police, Animal Control, and others and have had trouble getting a further response.
- Ernie Hall will follow up with the City Manager to find out what is in the dog's file.

10. Pop Carr Park upgrade – *Steve Rayfuse, Anchorage Parks & Rec Dept. (See Handout)*

- The Muni got \$100,000 for tennis courts improvements at Pop Carr, and made a legislative request of \$200,000 for next year (playground, pavement, ADA accessible upgrades).
- The Parks Dept will hold a volunteer cleanup event in summer 2014 – will clean graffiti, painting, minor repairs and picking up trash. Lunch will be provided.
- Looking for members for a Very Important Parks Committee (VIP) after funding has been secured, in order to assess the park's needs, prioritize improvements and make recommendations about how to use the funds in FY15. The process will be about 2 years overall, if the funding request is approved.
 - Members had questions about how to access the park and who maintains the hedge along Arctic Blvd – that is the Parks Department.
- Vick Patel at Anchorage Parks Foundation, who is helping putting funding requests together, can be contacted to share your support, especially if you live in the neighborhood, to be shared with legislators.

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11. Officers Report – *Anna Brawley, Allen Thornhill*

- **Treasurer’s Report:** The motor home originally (unknowingly) funded by the Westside Community Patrol grant is now a completed sale and the Spenard CC can decide what to do with the funds at a later time. This is a separate purchase from the security camera system (see note above).
- **Secretary’s Report**
 - Website: Anna is planning to make some upgrades to the Spenard Community Council web page (Federation of Community Councils page at www.communitycouncils.org). She will include some photos of Spenard, news of interest to residents, and links to other elected officials or community resources.
 - Facebook Page: Anna is going to create a Spenard CC Facebook page in order to share news and information more widely, and maybe attract some new members to the community council and monthly meetings. More coming soon!
 - A member expressed appreciation that the paper newsletter is still mailed out, for households without computers.

12. Other Business

- **Roosevelt Park (Kelly Peterson):** (was not available)
- **Northwood Pond Beavers (Stan Jones):** Beavers have dammed up part of the Northwood pond, and the water level rose at least a foot. After Stan contacted several organizations, a biologist from removed beavers and relocated them, for a while there was no activity.
 - It is surprisingly easy to remove a beaver dam but after removing one, Stan found several others and began to remove them.
 - The water level is down several inches since then, and no new signs of beavers maintaining dams. Northwood Pond has better drainage now and handles more runoff.
- **“Recall Lindsey Holmes” Group (Colleen Murphy):** There is a group working to recall Sen. Lindsey Holmes, and will be canvassing neighborhoods with a petition this fall. Part of an effort to recall Sen. Lindsey Holmes, she and others are working on a petition and will be canvassing in the neighborhood this fall.

These minutes were approved at the October 2, 2013 meeting.

ANCHORAGE AIRPORT UPDATE
September, 2013

1. **Part 150 Noise Study:**
 - a. **Study Input Committee met Tuesday, August 20th, 1:30pm-3:30pm, in the Airfield Maintenance Facility on the Airport, 5740 DeHavilland Avenue. Focus was on mitigation alternative ideas and discussion.**
 - b. **Consultant is continuing evaluation of mitigation alternatives.**
 - c. **Web site is: anc150study.com for information and to send comments, questions and request to receive notifications/updates.**
2. **Master Plan:**
 - a. **Master Plan team has been evaluating the 5 draft alternatives over the summer. The Airport will share the results of the alternatives evaluation, share the draft plan for future development, and request additional public input at the following September meetings:**
 1. **Working Group Meeting #7, Weds, Sept. 11, 11:00am-1:00pm, First Floor Conf. Rm, CIRI Bldg, 2525 C Street**
 2. **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #5, Thurs, Sept. 12, 1:30pm-3:30pm, ANC Badge Office, North Terminal, Rm NA165, 4600 Postmark Drive**
 3. **Public Open House #6, Thurs, Sept. 12, 5:30pm-8:30pm, McKinley Rm, Coast International Inn, 3450 Aviation Ave. Presentation at 6:15pm.**
 4. **Online Public Open House, Sept. 13-27, www.ancmasterplan.com**
 - b. **Website is www.ancmasterplan.com for information and to send comments, questions and request to receive notifications/updates.**
3. **Concessions opening soon:**
 - a. **An expansion of the landside seating area for Norton Sound Seafood House is anticipated to be completed by this fall. The area will include the sale of beer, wine and liquor.**
 - b. **The local Dish restaurant (Asian cuisine) will be opening a new location in the existing Legends Bar location (next to Gate C6) this winter.**
 - c. **Construction will begin on a new spa concession this fall. The Northern Lights Spa will offer manicures, pedicures, massages, tanning, and hair styling.**
4. **LHD/Z41 Identifier Combination – Effective October 17th, 2013, the FAA single identifier for all of Lake Hood (both lake and gravel strip) will be “LHD”. The gravel strip will no longer be separately identified as “Z41” and instead will become “LHD RWY 14/32”.**
5. **Lake Hood Tiedown Parking: Summer storm drainage construction has required temporary relocation of several tiedown users in parts of Alpha, Bravo & Charlie General Aviation Parking. Work is expected to be completed by September 30th and aircraft will be returned to their normal parking locations.**
6. **Anchorage Economic Develop Corporation produced an Economic Impact Study of LHD Seaplane Base for the Airport. The draft is complete and is available for review upon request to Tim Coons, Lake Hood Manager (907-266-2741 or tim.coons@alaska.gov) . The final document is expected to be released by the end of September.**
7. **The Lake Hood User Group Fall Meeting will be September 26, 12:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum**
8. **Sign up for GovDelivery at www.anchorageairport.com to receive emails on all sorts of DOT related things.**

2014 NEIGHBORHOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Spenard Community

Pop Carr Park

- ➔ *Funding for Tennis Court upgrades*
- ➔ *2014 volunteer park fix-it day event*
- ➔ *Legislative request for funding Capital Improvements*
- ➔ *Very Important Parks (VIP) committee*





ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS...



PARK IMPROVEMENTS 2014

POP CARR PARK • 4609 KENT STREET

PROJECT PLANNER: STEVE RAFUSE, MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION DEPT. CONTACT: E-MAIL: RAFUSESJ@MUNI.ORG/PHONE: 907.343.4586

PROGRAM MANAGER & GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR: VIK PATEL, ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION. CONTACT: E-MAIL: VIKRAM@ANCHORAGEPARKFOUNDATION.ORG/PHONE: 907.274.1003