

Spenard Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Ave.

1. Minutes and Agenda Approval – *Bob Auth*

- The president called the meeting to order.
- The agenda and February meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.
- There were 20 people in attendance.
- Announcements (see agenda + newsletter)

2. Assembly Report – *Rep. Tim Steele*

- **Spenard Road Upgrade:** This has been a priority for a long time, but there has been a lot of support lately in particular. Rep. Steele and a member of the Spenard Chamber went to Juneau to talk to legislators about this priority. Tim is hoping the Legislature funds the project, in part or in full as proposed. He would like to see Spenard Road upgraded before he leaves the Assembly.
- More flooding at Chester Creek at Arctic, another legislative priority – Tim put in a funding request for study funding and also allowing repair.
- **Assembly elections.** The next election is April 1, and early voting is March 17. There are 6 assembly seats on the ballot, 6 bond issues (\$35 mil total).
- Some miscellaneous issues on the Assembly's plate currently, including Ure Park and some other tasks.
- **Comments & Discussion**
 - A member asked whether there is still a plan for a median on Spenard Road? Tim noted that yes, there is still a median planned for the intersection at Northern Lights and Benson. The member asked if this was still up for discussion, and who to talk to. Tim recommended contacting the Department of Public Works, and some of the other property owners (Paul Kelly, Debbie Hinchey) are on an advisory committee.
 - Another member commented that the sample ballot is available from the Muni online and by request, for those interested. He noted that Proposition 1 (a capital bond for schools) is a big component of the overall bonds.
 - Anna Brawley asked if the municipal elections will indeed move to November? Tim Steele clarified that this would not be until 2017, and that it's still current legislation.

3. Airport Report – *John Johansen*

- See Airport newsletter or check for updates online, www.anchorageairport.com
- **Airport Master Plan:** The consultant is finishing the draft plan – there will be no more public meetings, but the draft plan will be ready for public comment in late April.
- **Part 150 Noise Study:** The consultant is continuing to work on the noise contours and implications. The study committee is next meeting is Thursday, March 6, 1:30-3pm. The committee will discuss land use and administrative mitigation alternatives to address some of the noise issues. The committee has previously discussed operational alternatives and have some ideas for this.
- **Alaska Airlines has started Q400 prop air service to Fairbanks and Kodiak.** Flights started this week, and are approximately the same trip length. The two planes are painted UAF blue and gold, and UAA green and gold.
- **Airport Job Fair** will be held on Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the North Terminal of Ted Stevens Airport.
- **Preferential Runway Use Program:** Bob Auth noted that changes to the preferential use runway program is being discussed, which would result in more east-heading flights during daylight hours and have noise impacts.
- **West Anchorage Land Trade Task Force** has been meeting bi-weekly to discuss a trade between the Airport and the Muni. For example, Spenard Beach Park is Airport property but

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Point Woronzof Park is Muni property. The two entities are considering a land exchange. There are several representatives from the Airport, Muni, Community Councils and other members of the public. Meetings are held at the FCC office and are open to the public.

- **Comments and Discussion:**

- [none]

4. Legislative Report – Rep. Chris Tuck

- The legislators are currently in Juneau for session. Rep. Tuck called in from Juneau.
- Since Beth Kertulla took a temporary position at Stanford University, Chris has taken over as minority leader in the House.
- Chris and others introduced an **education bill** to provide more support for schools. Among other provisions, it allows a 10% increase in the base student allocation for charter students. This bill addresses the issue of startup fees for charter schools being covered by federal funds, but there is a \$500 per student fee that charter schools must pay as startup. It would also allow current neighborhood schools to apply to become charter schools, which would give them more freedom in the curriculum but still be able to take part in district services.
- The issue of a **liquefied natural gas line** (LNG) continues to be discussed—the proposal is to construct a pipeline between Point Lay to Nikiski. The gas would travel south for possible export to Korea. The estimated cost is between \$45 to 60 billion.
 - There is discussion about what percentage Alaska would own the pipeline, and which part ownership would be the producers on the North Slope and TransCanada; it would be operated by TransCanada.
 - The price of natural gas has dropped significantly in the Lower 48. There is a proposal to not partner with TransCanada because the gas would not be sent down to the Lower 48 – this is being actively discussed in the House.
 - Since 2002, there has been discussion about whether Alaska should actually take ownership in the line, versus serving as a regulator and oversight entity. Having a minority stake in the pipeline itself would limit Alaska’s options re: sovereignty and having the ability to use information for issues like litigation.
 - There are significant legal issues to consider—does Alaska have the expertise and knowledge about the industry issues at stake to make these commitments? And would we be committing to activities that would create a great deal of liability? All of these questions and the possible risks are being considered.
- **Comments and Discussion**
 - A member asked if the shale gas being extracted from the North Slope would involve hydraulic fracturing (fracking)? Chris noted that there is no need for using that method currently, and that there is a lot of gas available by conventional methods.
 - The member also asked if there is a large revenue stream from natural gas, would Alaska residents receive a Permanent Fund Dividend similar to that with oil? Chris did not believe this is on the table currently, but did note that individuals can “invest” through Pick Click Give and give money toward this pipeline.

5. Municipal Election Update – Bob Auth; Rep. Tim Steele, Phil Isley (candidates)

- The municipal election will be Tuesday, April 1.
- **November election:**
- Candidates for Westside Assembly seat will give brief statements to the Council.
 - *Tim Steele (incumbent)*
 - Tim has been in Alaska since the 1980s, and started as a liaison officer on research ships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He had the opportunity to see many other areas of the state

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- including Nome, Kodiak, etc. He has worked on a Coastal Zone Management Plan in Georgia, as part of the management team for the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- He has a son, and has been single parent since his wife passed away. He previously served on the Anchorage School Board, and has cared a great deal about quality education.
- *A member asked for an example of an accomplishment he is proud of, and a vision for the next couple years.* Tim got involved in Muni budget issues, and felt that Spenard Road is a priority. He added amendments in the budget including for Spenard, addressing the chronic flooding around Valley of the Moon and Arctic, and other road safety improvements. He has also spent some time getting to know the various municipal agencies (ML&P, APD, etc.) to understand how the city works.
- *Phil Isley (challenger)*
 - Phil moved to Alaska in 1964 with his dad, and grew up in Ketchikan. He served in the Army National Guard, and retired as a major. He has worked on long range planning, mobilization planning, and has worked on budgeting for an organization. He has also served as the president of the Moose Lodge in Ketchikan, and has experience with Robert's Rules.
 - Phil got involved with local politics after feeling that more and more things are being regulated (such as Title 21). He also started learning more about how much the state spends, and what it is getting back (for example, the pipeline). He is also interested in prioritizing existing buildings and infrastructure, and not spending state or municipal money on new buildings. He would like to keep the public discourse based on facts, and encourages people to look at the issue of fluoride as a safety issue, by re-considering which facts are important. He is also greatly concerned about the state's current fiscal liabilities and potential for increased debt both in the Muni and in the state. For example, the long-term obligations for a school bond may put Anchorage in a difficult position if the state is not willing to keep paying.
 - He regularly attends Spenard Community Council meetings, as well as testifying at some Assembly meetings.
 - *A member asked if Phil has a plan for paving or improving Lois Drive?* He is aware of some talk to improve it, but is not in favor of spending funds on that road improvement.
 - He does not align with either party and is an Independent.
 - Visit Phil's website at: www.philisley.us.
- Discussion of issues
 - Tim responded to Phil's comments about the federal government, that Anchorage has little control over that. Phil noted that this is true, but their decisions have a significant effect on Anchorage.
 - The candidates discussed the school district budget and how solvent the district is—Phil noted that the district is running in deficit, but has also significant reserves. Tim explained that the district is required to keep an emergency reserve, but this reserve is running low. Anchorage has a very positive bond rating but when reserves run low, this creates problems. They also discussed how effective use of school facilities could alleviate the budget. Tim pointed out that labor costs are the highest cost for the district. Phil pointed out that it is possible to improve use of resources, such as allowing use of the building for more hours of the day or year-round schooling, which may allow consolidation into some fewer schools.

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- *A member asked the candidates' thoughts on the "chronic inebriate" issue in Anchorage, and whether it is increasing.*
 - Tim toured the Sleep-off Center in Anchorage. He learned that police and fire department staff spend a significant amount of time tending to individuals who are found on the street. This means that resources are taken away from public safety, whereas the sleep-off center staff are a better resource to take care of this. In addition, dealing with this issue in one area, like Spenard, then it pops up in another area. There needs to be more city-wide solutions. He believes there needs to be more funding and attention for treatment.
 - Phil has observed that there are several people on the street who want to continue living on the street, and there are many resources available to them for no cost. He feels that lessening the availability of these kinds of resources would convince chronic inebriates to change their behavior. He has seen some people with a decent-sized income who are still using these resources, and feels that is not right.
- Bond Propositions on the ballot
 - **Loussac Library Entrance** (Ronnie Dent, Anchorage Library Foundation). Ronnie is a member of the Library Foundation board and presented the bond proposal: the Library Foundation has requested \$10 million from the legislature, and the Muni has allowed a certain amount of funds. The public is being asked to fund approximately 16% of the project. The Muni and the Assembly members for Westside are in support of the project.
 - Check out more about the project and some social media opportunities to be involved at www.loussacfuture.org, or you can find it on Twitter #loveloussac.
 - The Library Foundation is asking for a letter of support for this project.
 - *Merle Akers asked why, for many of the Project 80s buildings which were built in the 1980s, there was grant money available for Anchorage to build these, but not operations & maintenance funds? Why are Anchorage residents asking the rest of the state to pay money? It is especially frustrating that the buildings were not necessarily well constructed in the first place – the PAC is another example.*
 - Tom McGrath agreed that this seems to be a local issue, not a state issue.
 - Allen Thornhill also agreed, and noted that school facility design has also been an issue. It is frustrating to see buildings that were not designed for Alaskan climate, and buy Alaska businesses.

Proposed resolution: the Spenard Community Council will approve a letter of support for the bond measure to upgrade the Loussac Library entrance (see drafted letter).

- **Discussion**
 - [none; see above]
- **Vote:** all in favor, none opposed. **The resolution passed.** Bob will prepare the letter and forward it to the appropriate people.

6. Ure Park Update – Bob Auth

- The standalone proposal to re-zone the park land as PLI-P went before the Planning & Zoning Commission on March 3. The Lions Club has withdrawn its proposal to build a new club building on the property.
- The proposal was approved to re-zone as PLI-P, a dedicated park.

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- John Rodda shared that the Parks Department may be considering removing the existing building, which would make it a small park with no improvements. There could be good opportunities for the community to have input about what would be an appropriate use.

7. Long House Update – Bob Auth

- A proposed ordinance to change the zoning designation for Supportive Housing Facility, to replace Severely Alcohol Dependent housing, is in development. It was scheduled to be presented to the Planning & Zoning Committee on March 3, but it has been postponed to April 7th.
- There will hopefully be more information next month, pending the discussion at the P&Z meeting.
- **Comments and Discussion**
 - Merle Akers from Turnagain Community Council shared what he learned about the name change, and that it was based on a lawsuit regarding the zoning designation. He has still not found documentation of the actual decision in the case. He believes the lawsuit was on behalf of three individuals living in the house about the language of the statute. His understanding is that the language change has to be made before the Long House project could move forward and receive that designation.
 - Anna commented that she supports the term change because the phrase “severely alcohol dependent” is discriminatory and designed to perpetuate a stigma. She is happy to see that this phrase will be removed from city ordinance, and has been frustrated with Turnagain’s continuing use of this term.
 - Another member asked who is the current owner? She has seen constant police activity at the property. She feels that it is the landlord’s responsibility to take care of the activities on their property, regardless of who they are. Other members concurred that the lack of responsibility is frustrating.
 - Tim Steele noted that this was also an issue at Karluk Manor, and that after RurAL CAP took over and created Karluk Manor, the property went from 400 police calls to about 70.
 - Phil Isley has concerns that there is not sustainable funding for the Long House, and he is concerned about this project not being able to be maintained if it relies on state funding.

8. Officers’ Report – Bob Auth, Jason Bergerson, Allen Thornhill, Anna Brawley

As always, check the Spenard CC website for updated copies of the minutes, an archive of past agendas and minutes, and other documents like the bylaws or the map of Spenard’s boundaries! Feel free to send in photos of Spenard to feature on the website.

- **President**
 - The Assembly has passed an updated Community Councils ordinance, which includes updating the bylaws for the Council. Jason Bergerson and Anna Brawley will form a committee to review the existing bylaws, reconcile them with the new version, and present recommendations to the Council in May. The council will tentatively vote in June, or if there are significant changes, in September.
 - Bob attended a Community Council leadership training on Saturday March 1 at the BP Energy Center, co-sponsored by the Muni, Parks Foundation, Foraker and NeighborWorks. He found it very useful and interesting. One issue that Dennis MacMillan spoke on was “generation gap” in community council involvement – most people do not get involved until the mid-30s or later. Spenard CC needs to consider other ways to get new members involved, particularly younger members!
- **Secretary**

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- Anna attended the Fairview Public Safety Committee meeting on February 27 to learn more about what they have been discussing, to share examples from Spenard CC, and to start the conversation about the councils working together to address this issue. Fairview is considering what conditions they would like to see in conditional use permits for package stores or other licenses. Contact her if you are interested in being a part of a Spenard liquor committee – we will start gathering some information for the April meeting, monitor discussions going on in other councils, and reach out to them going forward.
 - Tim Steele offered to ask the City Clerk to determine how many licensees in Spenard do not have conditional use permits. He is not sure of the number, but there are likely others in Spenard and elsewhere.
 - Anna has gathered some other data about licenses in Spenard and can share more information at the April meeting.
 - Jason and Bob suggested having time on the council's agenda for April to discuss this further and come up with a draft resolution in support of some of these options, if that's the will of the council.
 - Members commented on their interest in this, and how councils could address this issue. Some members commented on the need to have responsible business operators in the neighborhood.
 - Tom pointed out that one of the big problems currently is Walmart, who sells a great deal of cheap non-beverage alcohol products like mouthwash. He is concerned that the Muni is not willing to push back on big operators, despite their being part of the problem.
 - Allen commented about possibility of having a "do not sell" list. The group discussed the "red stripe" license, which is only driver's licenses and not state licenses. Would it be possible to have a "do not sell" list based on this?
- **VP / FCC:** Jason commented that he and Anna are on the NeighborWorks Anchorage board, and other board members and volunteers are involved with community councils (Fairview, Mountain View for example). There is more opportunity to build connections between councils.
- **Treasurer:** There is currently \$27,200.89 in the bank account.

9. Old + New Business

Spenard Farmers Market

- Mark Butler shared that the Spenard Farmers' Market will be opening in **two months, three weeks and 1 day!** The season will run May 17 to September 27.
- There will be two Spenard Bike Nation neighborhood rides on Solstice (June 21) and Equinox (September 20).
- The Farmers Market is looking for board members. Contact Mark Butler if interested!
- If you are interested in selling at the market, contact the Spenard Farmers Market. It is a fee of \$20 a week, about a quarter of the cost of participating in other markets.

Other Matters

- A member who lives on Barbara commented that he would like to see Spenard remain and become even more vibrant. He is concerned about the number of "parking lots" and vehicle-oriented businesses along Spenard Road, especially between International and Minnesota. He would love to see more arts, people-oriented uses and more people along the street in the community. He has complained about the proliferation of signs at the new property at Spenard and International, and is concerned about some of the trailer park properties in his area that seem to not be taken care of.

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- Other members advised him to be proactive about calling the city with complaints. Mark Butler commented that code violations, according to Anchorage ordinance, must be driven by complaints—code officers cannot take proactive action. Cora Weaver is the contact at the Muni. This creates a violation case in the system that can be tracked.

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.



Alaska International Airport System

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
Fairbanks International Airport

P.O. Box 196960
Anchorage, AK 99519-6960
Main: 907.266.2526
Fax: 907.243.0663
Website: anchorageairport.com

Anchorage Airport Update March 2014

1. Part 150 Noise Study:

- a. The next Study Input Committee (SIC) meeting will be Thursday, March 6th from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Airfield Maintenance Training Room, 5740 DeHavilland Avenue.
- b. Consultant is continuing evaluation of operational mitigation alternatives and identifying potential land use and administrative 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. The draft Master Plan Update report is being prepared and is estimated to be complete in spring 2014. The draft report will include chapters on the Airport's inventory, facility requirements, alternatives and more, and will be available for public review.
- b. The Anchorage Airport will continue to accept comments on the Master Plan Update in 2014. Comments will be accepted through the release of the draft Master Plan Update report (estimated Spring 2014), at which time the public will have a 30 day review period to comment on the document prior to final publication. The Airport will consider and respond to all comments received in that timeframe.
- c. If you missed the December 11, 2013 Open House, materials are available on the [library page](http://www.ancmasterplan.com) of www.ancmasterplan.com.
- d. Website is www.ancmasterplan.com for information and to send comments, questions and request to receive notifications/updates.

3. Concessions:

- a. An expansion of the landside seating area for Norton Sound Seafood House is anticipated to be completed by March, 2014. The area will include the sale of beer, wine and liquor.

4. **Lake Hood Tiedown Parking:** Winter ops are in effect and seasonal ice tiedowns are available. For all tiedown inquiries please contact Lake Hood 907-266-2410.

5. **The Lake Hood Economic Impact Study** is available on the ANC website:
http://dot.alaska.gov/anc/about/LakeHoodSeaplaneBase_FinalReportREV_9-20-13.pdf

6. **Alaska Airlines Q400 Service:** Began service to Kodiak on February 27th and service to Fairbanks on March 3rd

7. **Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport Annual Job Fair** is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the North Terminal. No cost to attend and no fee for parking to attend the Job Fair. This is a great opportunity to look for summer employment or to find out about career opportunities in the aviation and related industries.

8. **Sign up for GovDelivery** at www.anchorageairport.com to receive emails on all sorts of DOT related things.

2014 BOND

Anchorage School District



How will the money be spent?

\$22.8 million

Airport Heights Elementary School addition/renovation design and construction

\$5.9 million

Planning and design projects at four schools

\$28.5 million

Renewal and building life extension projects at 17 schools

Paying off debt

In the last five fiscal years, ASD had paid off \$258.9 million in bond debt.

In the next five years, the district will be paying an additional \$281.1 million.



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

This information was approved by the Municipal Bond Counsel.

19 schools in the Anchorage School District are slated for improvement

A \$57.2 million bond package with 60–70% state reimbursement will be put before voters on April 1, 2014.

State reimbursement means the average homeowner will pay roughly \$4.86 for every \$100,000 of assessed property value per year. Without state reimbursement homeowners would pay approximately \$13.86 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

Schools on this proposed bond include ones determined by the district to have the greatest need.

Two different tools determine the need for improvements all ASD buildings. One tool tracks physical problems like roofs, boilers and windows. The other detects issues that make teaching and learning difficult. The results show many schools need improvements now in order to maintain good-quality buildings.

Airport Heights Elementary School's need is significant.

- The school is in need of a multi-purpose room, and dedicated art, health and music rooms.
- The school lacks sufficient space to support special education students with intensive needs.
- Building mechanical, electrical, plumbing and control systems are in need of renewal or replacement.
- Once improved, the building would serve the students and the community for the next 40 years.

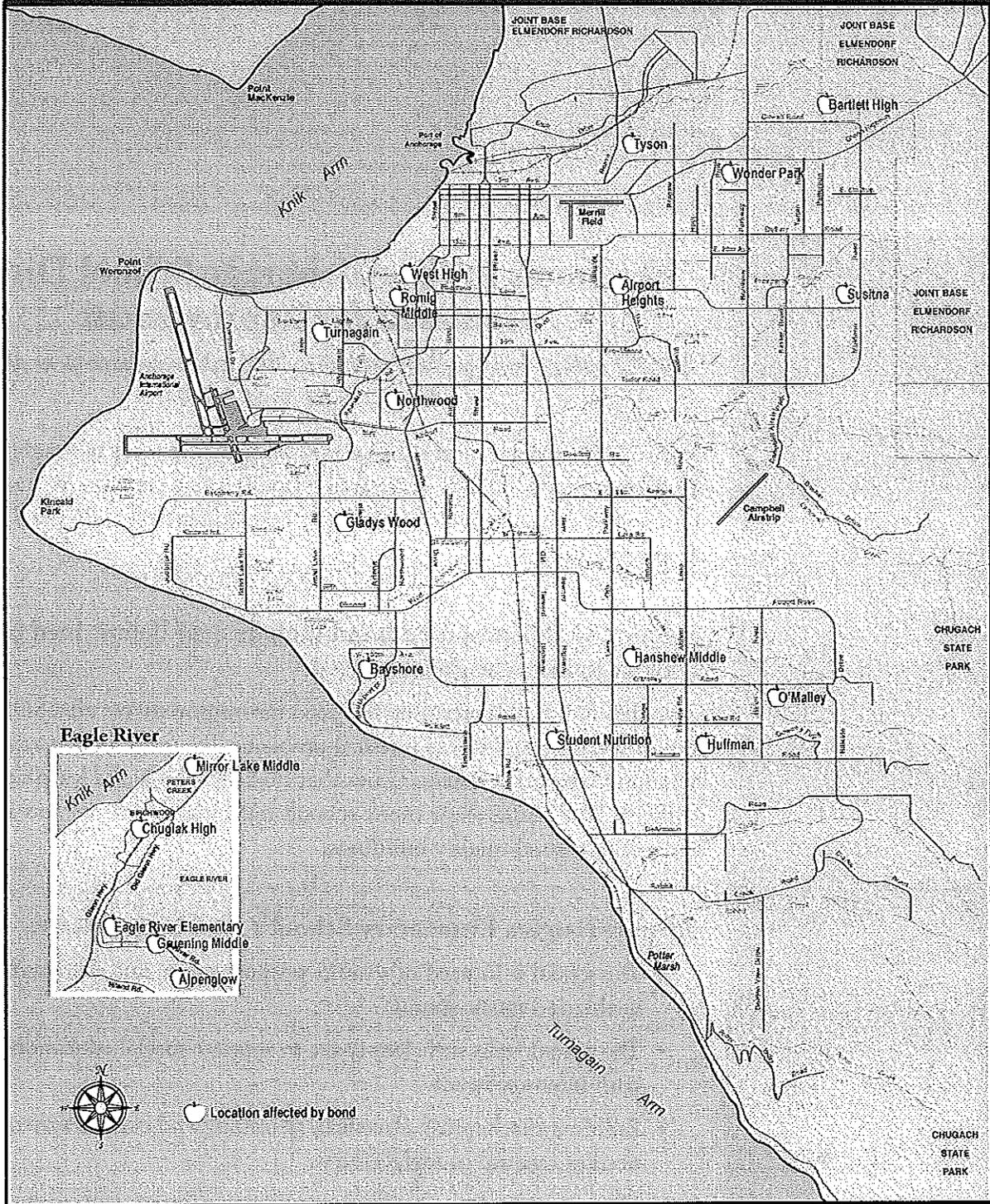
Want more information?

www.asdk12.org/bonds



Find us on Facebook:
AnchorageSchoolBond2014

How will the proposed bond affect your neighborhood?



*Make an informed decision on April 1.
Find project details for each school at www.asdk12.org/bonds.*

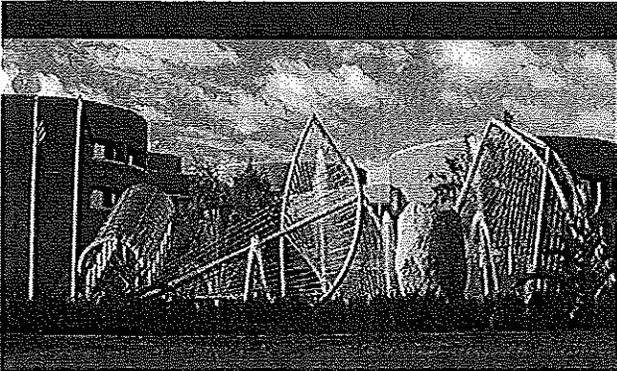


Scan the QR code with your smartphone (free QR readers are available online).



Anchorage School District
Placing All Students for Success in Life

2014 BOND
Anchorage School District



THE LOUSSAC RENEWAL

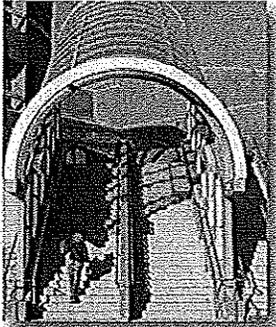
Learn ❖ Connect ❖ Explore

Did you know?

Prop 3 includes the Loussac Entrance Renovation. Election on April 1.

Anchorage has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to replace the hazardous staircase at the Loussac Library with an entrance that is safer, more welcoming and easier to find!

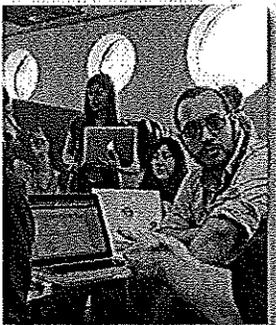
- **Proposition 3, the Facilities and Capital Improvements Bond** for \$5.5M, includes \$2.75M for the Loussac entrance. At \$1.98/\$100,000 assessed valuation, the cost to the average family is only 50 cents a month!
- **The project addresses immediate building safety, energy and accessibility issues**, and furthers the Library's goals in education, technology and connecting the community.
- **Voters are being asked to cover just 16% of the project.** The Municipality already has \$4M in hand and has requested \$10M from the state legislature this year.



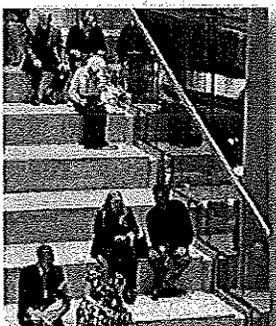
A Safer Entrance



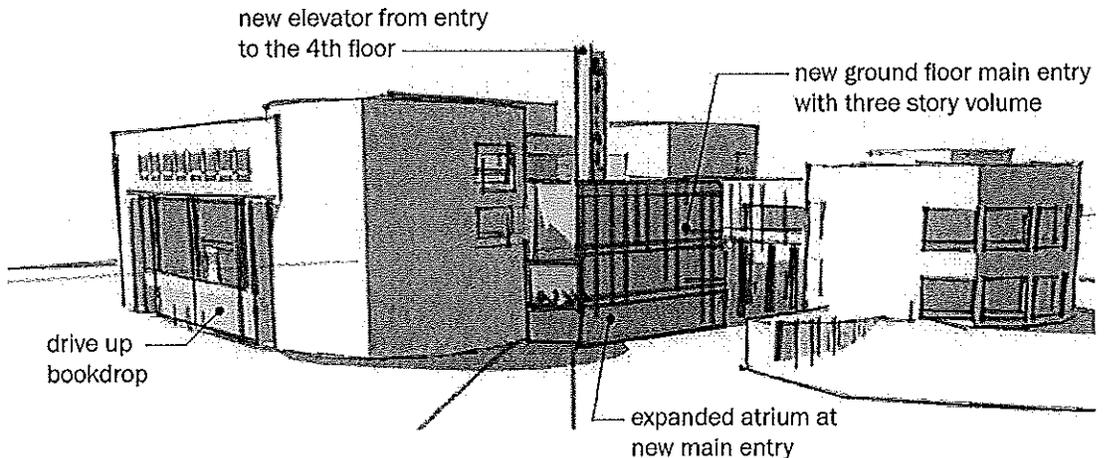
Connecting Community



Technology Exploration



Bright, open spaces



Project information at www.LoussacFuture.org



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LETTERHEAD

DATE

Joe Murry, Chair
Anchorage Library Foundation
3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Murry,

Thank you for sending a representative to the ____ Community Council meeting and presenting information about the Loussac Renewal Entryway Project. We have a better understanding of the Facilities Bond request of \$5.5M and that the Library's portion of that bond (\$2.75) will be an important step in the success of building a better library entryway. We know that it is a priority for the Municipality Of Anchorage and the Anchorage Library Foundation and is important for expanded library services throughout the City.

Please allow this letter to stand as a vote of support for the Loussac Renewal Entryway Project, and the Library's portion of \$2.75M as part of a Municipality Facilities Bond of \$5.5M. You may use our name as a hearty endorsement of this project, both in the April vote and support to any Anchorage legislators.

Sincerely,

, Chair
Community Council

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LETTERHEAD

DATE

TO: Senator Kevin Meyer, Chair, Finance Committee
FROM: _____ Community Council
RE: Loussac Library Entrance Project Request of \$10M

The _____ Community Council wishes to express our support for the Municipality's 2014 request of \$10M for the Anchorage Public Library's Entrance Project.

Midtown is being energized with various building projects. The Library's renovation will enable the launch of exciting new programs in early literacy, community development and innovation. Vibrant cities like San Francisco, Chicago, Seattle, San Antonio, and Washington, D.C. have all incorporated large (\$100M+) library renovations in recent years as part of their urban revitalization efforts.

The Loussac Renewal will impact many areas that are critical to community initiatives like 90% by 2020 and Live. Work. Play: economic development, education, arts and exploration, community gathering, civic engagement and support for struggling residents. Success for our library translates to success for all sectors of our city.

The Entrance Project will: address the serious building safety issues; improve the HVAC energy consumption; and create an accessible entryway.

We look forward to hearing of your support for this vital community project.