

To: Bonnie Harris, President
South Addition Community Council

From: Cathleen Hahn, Member-at-large

RE: SACC Neighborhood Congestion Resolution
Report to the SACC

Date: January 16, 2014

As you may recall, I volunteered to be the spokesperson for SACC to assist in resolving an issue brought to our attention at the September 21, 2013 SACC meeting (which I chaired in your absence).

The result of the letter SACC sent to John Rodda, Director, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department of the Municipality of Anchorage was a meeting January 9, 2014. In addition to me, the following people attended that meeting:

John Rodda, Director, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department
C.B. Stewart, Special Events/Sport Field Coordinator, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department
Shane Locke, Municipal Traffic Division, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department
(one other person whose name and position with Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department I did not get)
John Clark, Skinny Raven
Mark Iverson, Skinny Raven
Sandra (Sami) Graham, SACC homeowner who brought the issue to our attention at the above meeting

Below are the five solutions we put forward to Mr. Rodda in our letter:

1. Create a master event calendar available on the municipal web site
2. Require sponsors of all events to provide access plans for ingress and egress for residents and emergency vehicles in the impacted areas
3. Require event sponsors to provide advance notice of events to impacted homeowners in the form of fliers delivered to each residence
4. Require event sponsors to provide parking safety information to event participants in advance
5. Require event sponsors to clean-up after the events, removing markings and trash

The city has a master event schedule on its website which includes running events, permitted events are listed, however, the city cannot anticipate spontaneous events which impact an area.

According to John and Mark, Skinny Raven has taken steps to improve notification to impacted homeowners of events they sponsor. The notifications include parking and street safety and other important information for their event participants, however, they must depend on the participant to cooperate and be courteous.

Emergency vehicles have priority when accessing public streets, however, all event sponsors should include a reminder to their participants to be courteous to homeowners impacted by the event.

The above group looked at the events coming up during the 2014 months of May, June and July. We noticed that most events occur during the month of May; the Parks and Recreation Department suggested alternating routes, rather than allow the Bootlegger's Cove neighborhoods to become so congested, they will work with all event sponsors to address this.

Skinny Raven agreed to limit the number of Pub Runs in May of 2014, and the other summer months, to reduce the amount of runners through the Bootlegger's Cove neighborhoods.

Events of all kinds are increasing in Anchorage, e.g., the "Love Alaska" event (Luis Palau) is anticipating approximately 20,000 participants over one weekend this summer, and the Parks and Recreation Department is considering how to appropriately use the resources and facilities available within Anchorage to enable the events to occur safely. They are allowing the above event to be held at the Chester Creek Sports Complex, rather than the Park Strip as the sponsor would prefer.

As an aside, the Parks and Recreation Department commented that the Alaska Railroad is adamant against allowing any access to the Coastal Trail at or near the Ninth Avenue area. You may recall this is the closest point from the Park Strip that could be an alternate access point to the Coastal Trail. Maybe the SACC could work with our legislative representatives to make this happen!

Another action to consider is meeting with the Anchorage Police Department to encourage their officers to be more respectful of residents trying to get into and out of the homes during an event. Several examples of officers poor attitude and behavior were given at the September 21, 2013 SACC meeting and were reinforced by Sami at this meeting.

Both C.B. and Shane agreed to forward to SACC event information occurring within our neighborhoods that they become aware of and I agreed we can share their communication using our means of contacting homeowners within SACC (principally NextDoor).

This concludes my report regarding the above meeting. As commented in that meeting, only time will tell how well the suggestions will work to alleviate congestion and improve the impact of events in SACC.

Filename: SACC neighborhood congestion report.docx