

Spenard Community Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 4, 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 May meeting minutes were approved, with no corrections and one announcement about re-naming the Spenard Recreation Center.
- There were about 24 people in attendance.
- Announcements (see agenda + newsletter)

2. Legislative Report – *Representatives from Sen. Gardner's and Rep. Tuck's Office*

- George Escot from Rep. Tuck's office was in attendance. Tuesday morning coffee events are happening over the summer. Contact Rep. Tuck's office for more information.
- Rudy from Sen. Gardner's office was in attendance. He thanked everyone who attended the barbecue last week, and it sparked a lot of great conversation. Contact Sen. Gardner's office if you have any concerns or questions!

3. Assembly Report – *Rep. Ernie Hall*

- **New Assembly Composition.** Ernie reported that the new assembly chair, Patrick Flynn, has been seated. He is working on a transition/succession plan for future years, as several assembly members' terms will end and the new members will require institutional knowledge to ensure things move forward smoothly.
- **Eklutna Overlay.** The Muni is working on an overlay district for the Eklutna village that basically exempts them from several provisions of Title 21, and allows multiple dwellings on one property; addresses easements running across tribal lands by giving the village more power over easements.
- **New Ordinance: East Downtown/Fairview Deteriorated Area Designation.** There will be an ordinance introduced to designate a portion of East Downtown and Fairview as a deteriorated area to promote redevelopment. This will not include the Highway to Highway lands, although it seems this project will not move forward in the near future. This designation will allow developers to put in more housing, and get tax abatements on infrastructure improvements. This has great potential for Spenard, where a deteriorated area shortens the amount of time and effort and expense to get a property designated as deteriorated, using an area-wide approach instead.
- **Comments & Discussion**
 - *Jason Bergerson asked whether this also applies to existing deteriorated commercial properties? Are they receiving a tax break? He is concerned about properties that are receiving a tax break but with no requirement to do anything with the property.* Ernie indicated that this is the same part of the code for tax abatement, but this is specific to Fairview and is intended to be used for housing. It makes it easier for developers to apply for the tax incentives without having to get each individual property designated. Ernie also pointed out that the incentives are supposed to be used to offset the developers' cost for infrastructure costs: installing streets, sewer lines, electrical systems, etc. that are for public use. For example, Blaine's Art and the new Natural Pantry building received some reimbursement, essentially, from the Muni because of the additional cost for upgrading the roads around the property to complete the project.
 - *Anna asked for clarification about timing: the tax abatement isn't available until after the project is completed, correct?* Ernie verified that this is the case – and only certain costs can be applied for the tax deferral or exemption.
 - *Another member asked whether credits are transferrable, can the property be sold with those tax breaks available?* Ernie said no, credits are not transferrable. They are only

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available to the owner that applies for them, and the deferred taxes would be immediately due if the property was sold.

4. **Airport Report** – *John Johansen*

- See *Airport newsletter* or check for updates online, www.anchorageairport.com
- **Part 150 Noise Study:** The committee continues to meet, and the next meeting is on July 9. The draft plan is available for comments.
- **Airport Master Plan:** There is a slight delay in getting the draft plan finalized, but it will be available for review soon.
- **Lake Hood Master Plan:** The Lake Hood planning process began with a kick-off meeting on May 15, and there will be more meetings beginning in October. Stay tuned for opportunities for public input!
- **Lake Hood Weed Abatement:** Crews are busy getting weeds out of the lake. The recent water quality test was returned and indicates the lake is much cleaner than it was last year, which is positive.
- **Comments and Discussion:**
 - *Peggy Auth asked about the status of helicopters? Several have been flying over her neighborhood recently and they cause a lot of noise. She noticed that they are red, and they are causing a nuisance.* John was not sure which company this might be, but will look into it. Phil Isley added that he believes they are likely Airland, based out of Merrill Field, and that there is a flight school. He is not sure why they would fly over the city, but he suspects this is the helicopters Peggy is referring to. Jason and Phil verified that they tend to fly east-west over Tudor. Phil shared that helicopters do not have to follow the same flight patterns as planes, but must stay out of the way out of airplane flight paths. Merle Akers also shared his frustration with the helicopter outfits' behavior, especially with the lack of regulations. John noted that the Airport does not have control over the flight paths of helicopters. Merle pointed out that the helicopters lease land, but do not follow specific flight paths. Other members also shared complaints about the helicopter noise.

5. **Proposal to Name Spenard Rec Center** **Bob Roberts** – *Dwayne Adams*

- This item is just an announcement for the time being, and will be discussed in more detail in September.
- Dwayne is part of the Assembly-appointed committee to determine whether to name a facility or other amenity after Robert (Bob) O. Robertson, who was director of the Parks and Recreation Department for many years and did a lot of great work for the city. At this time, there is no specific recommendation from the committee, but there has been a suggestion to name the Spenard Rec Center after him. He was especially fond of this center, and was instrumental in securing funds to build the Center. He was also very supportive of the system of regional rec centers around the city.
- **Comments & Discussion**
 - *Allen shared that he did not know Mr. Robertson personally, but has been involved in the Spenard Rec Center's early years as well. He is interested in learning more about Mr. Robertson.*

6. **Bylaws Update** – *Bob Auth, Anna Brawley*

- Bob reminded the group that by the Muni's requirement (AO 2014-3), all Community Councils have to update their bylaws by September.

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- The Executive Committee reviewed the bylaws, made recommendations about changes to align the Council's bylaws with the ordinance and according to what the Council feels is best. Anna drafted a copy of the existing bylaws and proposed changes.
- The Council had opted to give members an additional month to review the bylaws, to be approved at the June meeting. After comments at the May meeting, Anna made additional edits to the proposed bylaws (highlighted in the printed copy provided).
- The primary edits were: affirming that the minimum age for membership is 18; setting quorum for member meetings at 5 members; clarifying the requirements for identification for membership (photo ID with address); retaining the council's policy to wait until one meeting after joining to be able to vote, to avoid "vote stacking" a meeting.
- **Resolution:** *the Council approves the bylaws as written.*
Discussion
 - None. The members were pleased with the new bylaws.**Vote:** all in favor, none opposed. The motion passes.
- Anna will clean up the document showing the final bylaws, post the new bylaws to the website and ensure they get submitted to the City Clerk for approval.

7. Summer Projects in Spenard – Bob Auth

- Bob shared projects coming up for the summer (see the newsletter for more information).
- He is not sure of the status of the Fish Creek Trail, but is hoping it can move forward (with funding) starting this summer.
 - Ernie added that some of the Project 80s funding from this past year has been put into trail upgrades, including hopefully Fish Creek.
 - Tom McGrath also suggested extending the trail to Chugach Way on the other side of Minnesota, since there is a great deal of housing in that area and the park (Wilson Park) has been "loved to death." Bob agreed, and noted that several neighborhood parks in Spenard are connected by Fish Creek. It would be great to see that area connected with a unified trail.
- **Comments and Discussion**
 - *No other comments.*

8. Spenard Beach Park – Bob Auth

- The Planning and Zoning Commission were scheduled to consider this issue on Monday, but Bob is not sure whether they actually took it up in the meeting. He submitted a comment on behalf of the Spenard CC in favor of this change; Turnagain has taken a stance to oppose it. No news at this point.
- Ernie volunteered to follow up on this and find out the status of the proposal; he reported later that Spenard Beach Park was retained with Turnagain.

9. Liquor Report – Ernie Hall, Anna Brawley

- Ernie Hall noted that Chris Constant and the Fairview Business Association, who presented in April, were successful in receiving \$4 million in funding for additional treatment and to implement the "no sell" list. The funds will go out for competitive bid for an organization to administer the treatment grant.
- Anna shared that there was some turnover of staff at the ABC Board: director Shirley Cote has retired, and her interim replacement is Bob Beasley, an investigator with the ABC Board. Christine Lambert, who oversees the licensing and local record keeping, has also left her position. The ABC Board is currently seeking a new director.

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- Tom McGrath asked about the Community Service Patrol, and that NANA has given up its contract of that service. The contract had operated with a loss (\$75 million last year), so they decided to terminate it. Ernie noted that the Muni had allocated additional money for another van, and attempted to work out a deal with the operators. They have been good operators and treated individuals fairly when they are picked up. However, there is a great deal of liability associated with the work, which is challenging.

10. 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:** [none]
- **VP / FCC:** Jason suggested that Spenard should host a candidates' forum! Spenard could reach out to Turnagain, Sand Lake and North Star to organize a jointly-hosted event.
- **Secretary:** Anna is moving out of the council area (bought a condo near Lake Hood in Turnagain). The Council will need to elect a new secretary to begin in July. She will continue her duties through June, including submitting the new bylaws to the City Clerk for final approval. She will also look for other ways to stay involved in the Spenard area, since she will not be officially eligible to be a member of the council anymore. Anna also shared that Spenard submitted its Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Priorities List by May 30 as required by the Muni. Individuals can also make comments on capital projects online at the Muni's new budget website: <http://www.munibudget.org/>
- **Treasurer:** Allen shared that Spenard CC currently has \$27,087.89.

11. Old + New Business

Property Rezone at 4619 Spenard Road

- Jason asked about the status of the property's site plan? He would like to bring a resolution to the council opposing the project, because the owner had not come forward with a site plan and because of the long history of the Greens with the Council. Bob pointed out that the Council has already taken a position on the property, asking the Muni to require site plan review. However, if the Planning and Zoning Commission did not require site plan review of this project, there isn't much else the Council can do.

Proposed Candidates' Forum

- Jason suggested organizing a candidates' forum in August, before the primary, since the Council will not meet again until early September. He suggests connecting with the other nearby westside councils (Sand Lake, Turnagain, North Star) to organize an event. The event could be held at the Spenard Rec Center and include a barbecue cookout for whoever would like to attend. The event could also be combined with a short business meeting of the council if there are other issues to be addressed in the interim. Allen volunteered to secure some catering or food using Council funds, suggesting \$350 or so to cover the expense. Anna volunteered to help plan this event as well.
- Phil announced that he will be running for office against Harriet Drummond in the August primary. He was disappointed with the number of candidates running unopposed in the last election and decided to join the race for House District 16.
- Tom made a motion to authorize the treasurer to spend up to \$500 on catering for the event. The council supported this measure.

Traffic Problems at West 27th (between Minnesota and Arctic)

- Karen, a member who lives on West 27th, has complained to the Muni several times about the amount of traffic on the road. She routinely almost gets hit trying to turn onto Minnesota

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Blvd, and several near-misses with pedestrians (including children) have occurred. She has spoken with the Muni and has not gotten a good answer.

- Tom suggested that being proactive is helpful, and finding the right person (he suggests Jon Spring may be helpful) helps too. He suggests that perhaps the Council could pass a resolution in support of this measure? He also believes there is additional funding available now for the bike-ped improvements along 27th, between Minnesota Blvd and Blueberry. He also suggested attending the next AMATS (Anchorage Municipal Area Transportation Solutions) meeting and voice your opinion about the priority road projects you would like to see happen. Meetings are open to the public, and the group tends to respond if several people come and voice the same issue.

The meeting was moved to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.



Alaska International Airport System

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

Fairbanks International Airport

P.O. Box 196960

Anchorage, AK 99519-6960

Website: anchorageairport.com

Anchorage Airport Update June 2014

1) Part 150 Noise Study:

- a) The next Study input committee meeting is on Wednesday, July 9th at 1:30 p.m., in the Airfield Maintenance Facility at 5740 DeHavilland Avenue. The draft recommendations for land use, administrative, and facility noise abatement measures will be presented and discussed.
- b) 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 at the end of June. The draft report will include chapters on the Airport's inventory, facility requirements, alternatives and more, and will be available for public review. After release of the draft report, the public will have a 60 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.
- b) 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 complete. Awaiting approval for a liquor license to open.
- b) A new *Benefit Cosmetics Zoom* kiosks (vending machine) will be installed in the terminal near Gate C2 in May that will sell toiletries and cosmetics
- c) Host International is applying for a liquor license for an existing restaurant, Norton Sound Seafood House mentioned above, and a proposed bar near Gate C6.

4) Lake Hood Seaplane Base

- a) Lake Hood Seaplane Base Master Plan Update: There was a public kick-off meeting May 15, at the Alaska Aviation Museum to collect input on issues the public would like to see addressed in the Lake Hood Master Plan Update. Currently working to refine the project scope and get the consultant under contract to begin work. Expect to have public meetings beginning in October.
- b) Weed Harvester: The weed harvester has been operating for 65 hours already in May maintaining clear taxi and takeoff lanes for float planes. Slip owners are responsible for removing weeds that are their slips. Long rakes are available for loan from the Lake Hood Office for slip holders. Airport Airfield Maintenance is available to haul off piles of aquatic vegetation placed near the road side. Please contact the Lake Hood Office (907) 266-2410 for coordination.
- c) Water Quality: The Airport is monitoring the water quality in Lakes Hood and Spenard this summer. No water quality issues were noted in May sampling event.

5) **2014 Summer Construction:** information on the summer construction projects at the airport is posted on our website, www.anchorageairport.com .

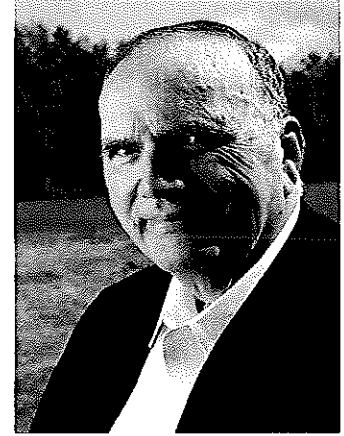
6) **FCC Property:** Late April the Airport became owner of the former FCC Property along Raspberry Road.

7) **Sign up for GovDelivery:** www.anchorageairport.com to receive emails on all sorts of DOT related things.

Robert O. "Bob" Robertson

1928 – 2013

1950-1961: Albany, OR Parks and Recreation Director
 1961-1971: Corvallis, OR Parks and Recreation Director
 1971-1972: **Anchorage Park Superintendent**
 1972-1989: **Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director**



Anchorage achievements:

	1970-71	1989
Park Units	55	178
Acreage	1,600	14,000
Budgets	\$1.5M	\$11.9M*

* not including tens of \$ Millions for "Project 80's" facilities during the oil boom

Major Accomplishments:

- 34 miles of bicycle trails
- 44 kilometers of cross country ski trails
- 12 miles of running trails
- Spenard Recreation Center
- Russian Jack Ski Chalet
- Kincaid Outdoor Center
- Service Swimming Pool
- Fairview Recreation Center & renovation of former center
- Anchorage Football Stadium artificial turf and new running track
- Fire Lake Recreation Center
- Bicentennial Park
- Anchorage Community School Program
- Chester Creek Greenbelt
- Campbell Creek Greenbelt
- Eagle River Greenbelt
- Sullivan Arena*
- Dempsy Anderson Ice Arena*
- Section 16 Equestrian Center*
- Hilltop Ski Area*
- Anchorage Golf Course*
- Abbott O Rabbit Little League fields*
- Kincaid Archery Range*
- Girdwood Parks and Recreation
- Mirror Lake Park
- Peters Creek Park

*Bob initiated Contract Management to manage these facilities

Bob was the chair for 6 state ARPA conferences, Pacific Northwest Region Conference in 1984 & 1989 and the NRPA Board of Trustees meeting in 1998.

During all the construction & acquisitions Bob held Parks & Recreation Commission meetings twice a month and always kept the meetings positive and moving forward. He was described as a man who accomplished great things from the back of the room. He was a very humble man who had a great passion for Parks & Recreation.

One of his proudest accomplishments was hosting the Pacific Rim Parks & Recreation Institute in 1989 where recreation professional from National and International delegations attended.

After retirement the Spenard Recreation Center became his place to have meetings for ARPA, NRPA, Playground Safety Classes (which Bob organized for Parks & Recreation workers), Parks and Recreation Christmas Party and Bob was a judge at the Parks & Recreation summer playground skits. Bob was always available to carry the torch for the importance of Parks and Recreation in our community.

Bob was a leader in forming public private partnerships to keep our city moving forward.

Bob also found time to volunteer for the Boy Scouts, The Anchorage Senior Center, Anchorage Kids Day, The Alaska Park & Recreation Association (which he founded in Alaska) Board of Directors and he was a member of the NRPA Board of Trustees.