

Spenard Community Council Meeting

March 2nd 2016

Called to order at 7:08 by Chairman Jed Smith

Jay Stenge introduced himself and described the "More or Less 4 Spenard" comment sheets posted on the wall for Spenard community

council members to write on sticky notes what they envision as improvements for our neighborhood. Then the SCC officers

Minutes available for members to read, they will be officially accepted later in the meeting.

APD Officer Robin Nave- introduced herself, now assigned to the Spenard district, has worked for police department 11 years. Told group about a survey for concerns from all Community Councils to bring forth concerns that are not necessarily valid to call in a police report for but are annoying and could eventually become a serious problem. Will e-mail this survey to Jed and asks everyone interested to reply to it and Jed will collect returned surveys to the police department. She plans to return in 90 days with results of responses. A comment from Jason Bergerson regarding security cameras that have been placed in areas around Spenard that have been helpful to keep "an eye" on activities in certain areas of concern.

Shanudran Cochran & Alison Cara introduced themselves as new owners of business called "Writers Block" a book store and café that is in former "Adults Only" shop on Spenard Road near Northwood. An ART installation called "Transforming Adults Only: a neighborhood interaction" is representing the move to this new establishment. They are

involved with a project of Cook Inlet Housing is looking for offers to place artistic signage on private property or business buildings to advertise theme of the art installation about human sexuality as a farewell to the former business. Working on a neighborhood outreach to people & businesses within a four block area of Writers Block to hear any comments they may have about the former business.

A question about who can be a member of Spenard Community was described by VP Jason Bergerson, a resident living within the perimeters of the district or being an owner of a business within the area.

Candidates Forum for Assembly seats, School Board and State Senate is scheduled for March 23rd 6-8:30, at Spenard Recreation Center. Voter registration closes on March 4th.

Tom McGrath moved to approve agenda for tonight's meeting, seconded by his wife Judy, vote to approve unanimous.

Minutes were approved, with a correction regarding the cost of the Spenard Road project.

Marijuana Committee meeting set for Wednesday March 16th 6-8pm at Spenard Rec Center, to discuss neighborhood responsibility and meet potential new business owners

Fish Creek Trail Committee report by Jay Stenge- last summer some fences and gates have been installed along railroad tracks which have concerned many long time users of the trails in this area, now four Community Councils are part of the larger working group to discuss these concerns as well as various trail development in the area. There have been recommendations for past 15 years to develop a plan

and execute a connection of all the portions of the Fish Creek trails, long history of this aspect of the neighborhood.

Phil Isley suggested members encourage their State Legislators to add someone on the Railroad Board that will represent Community Councils that have concerns about this railroad land use issue.

Report on Spenard Road Project by Ann Brooks from engineering department of Muni- she gave details on the design process of this corridor that is anticipated to be done in 2017. Have been speaking with businesses and property owners about concerns i.e. parking, pedestrian walkways, bicycle lanes. lower speed limits. Lots of input from bicycling residents to request a 5 foot bike lane on both sides of the corridor. Working with property owners along both sides of the road in the area. Envisioning an enhanced business district. A left turn lane onto 27th Avenue near BearTooth is requested. Also concern about drivers parking their car on sidewalks, a low barrier is being considered. Local art is being asked to be included. Remaining Public Process all be continually open for comments from the community. Planning and Zoning presentation will be March 11th, another general public meeting planned in May and June. Tom McGrath commented about the concern of the community to have the speed limit lowered for over 15 years and he "has no confidence at all to trust the city to ever address this issue". Ann promised to bring this back to the design team. Mark Butler commented about some past related aspects of the Spenard Road project decisions i.e. the DOT building that was east of Spenard Road along Benson Boulevard was requested to be "torn down" by residents, but this entailed costs to the Muni that was not allocated so asked owners .

Brian Hill reported project on "Anchorage Tomorrow" about Bond Proposals that will be voted on April 5th election day. Proposal 5 is about Roads, Props 3,5,7 are related to Safety issues Fire, Police as well as various school repair projects. Most of these projects are "shovel ready" so he encourages everyone to get out and vote on these bond issues.

Phil Isley asked about how the Municipality can "ask the community to pay for Bond projects at a time of the current budget crisis.

Eric Croft reported from the School Board about concerns regarding the cost of maintaining some of the older schools. Many parents are understandably unhappy about potential school closures in their neighborhoods. The proposed School Bonds are not rebuilding any school but only budgeting for maintenance projects. Several questions from the floor which Eric gave specific responses to including clarification about servicing the debt incurred with additional bonds, in the case of 2016 bonds on the ballot in April will be retiring a higher rate of past debt than the cost level of these new bonds. Continued with explanations on several aspects of the school closure possibilities that are being considered.

Amy Coffman from the Mayors office- reported on showcasing a Youth Art Project at City Hall, introduced Ben Burgin who is an intern with the Gifted Mentorship Program. The importance of maintaining Port of Anchorage; Police Academy starting in the fall; the Transit Center has been a major discussion point, National Service recognition, Ship Creek Clean Up on March 9th everyone welcome to help; Homeless Count and assessment, rated 3 categories 1st group most dire need housing immediately, 2nd and 3rd levels include who people need jobs in order to find better housing than they are currently in.

Brian highlighted the Vision Zero campaign sponsored by the Mayor's office which is a nation wide project with the goal of having zero= no traffic fatalities in vehicles or of pedestrians. After one year of this campaign focus in New York the death toll in traffic related deaths was reduced by 50%. In Alaska it kicks off March 3rd 7 pm at Rasmussen Hall. In four years in Spenard area there were 80 fatalities which is one of the highest in the city. Comments were made about bicyclists being a concern.

Assembly Report- Tim Steele next meeting is March 8th, agenda items include Anchorage School District budget for 2016-17; another big ticket item is an offer by Conoco, HillCorp and the Muni which are involved in a joint contract of oil resources, Conoco wants to sell their third to the other two owners. Owners of large business facilities are concerned about recreational vehicles parking over night and for long periods of time in the businesses parking lots. There is a request for rezoning on a specific property on Benson Boulevard east of Minnesota Drive that has been debated before and Peggy Auth commented on this issue having been brought up before and the Spenard community council has not approved this request in the past and should not approve it now or in the future.

Legislative Reports:

Rep Mia Costello in Juneau for Legislative session was on telephone line but due to "technical difficulties" we did not connect for her report. Will try again next month.

Airport Report- John Johanson brought handouts available for public to review regarding airport issues; he commented on Noise Reduction committee project is 100% complete. Master Plan to be shared at March 10th Study Input

meeting, public welcome to attend it will be held at Badge office; this summer's construction area will be on South Airport Place road; there is some new landscaping between old and new International Airport Road to improve visual appearance; considering an area along this corridor for school children's art to be displayed for a year at a time. Airport Job Fair is from 10-3 on Saturday April 2nd in North Terminal building to give info on hiring for summer positions. Some trees around north end of gravel airstrip will be 'trimmed or cleared' as growth is infringing on Lake Hood landing area. More detailed information on line at anchorageairport.com

Next item on agenda was Carousel Lounge requesting a change in their liquor license but no one is here to present request.

It was moved and seconded to submit a resolution to the Anchorage Assembly to oppose any change in their liquor license until further input is received. Passed 13-0.

Jed entertained a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40, approved.