

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday January 5, 2004, 5.30pm at the Anchorage Museum of History & Art

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of 12/2/04 meeting minutes – motion to approve made by Craig Cook and was seconded by John Pattee. Motion passed unanimously with one amendment, the new employment program for the homeless population being operated by Homeward Bound is called Rebound and is being headed up by Roy Corral (Announcements).

Treasurer's report: First National Bank account has a balance of \$2001.78 Membership applications for 2005 are now being issued. Treasurer Ron Alleva has started a new membership roster for 2005.

Appearances

Assemblyman Tesche - The new ice rink downtown is a welcome addition. Mr Tesche wished to acknowledge Becky Beck and the Anchorage Downtown Partnership for all their hard work on this project. Assemblyman Tesche has created an Ordinance to give the Assembly a role in The Mayor's Task Force on Homeless plan. A Development Authority Ordinance will be introduced at the next Assembly work session in order to expand the purvey of the Parking Authority to hold, buy, sell and trade municipal lands for development in conjunction with the Heritage Land Bank. This is being done in order to create more residential property and increase community attendance at council meetings. In 2005 we will see; a proposal for the Museum expansion, increased Hotel/Motel Tax for the operation of the new Civic and Convention Center. Mr. Tesche would like to see the Downtown Community Council concentrate on the following areas in 2005; the new Downtown Plan which involves changing the Zoning Ordinances to co-ordinate with the Title 21 re-write, to include a separate process for Downtown, and housing with an emphasis on bringing new residents to the Downtown area. There is a new Ordinance being heard by the Assembly on January 11, 2005 governing Community Councils, it will involve a uniform set of bylaws for all community councils, an annual/financial report, and ensuring that councils are conducting business in public. The Ordinance has been drafted by Stu Hall.

APD – Sgt. Stanton – is the new council contact for the Downtown Community Council, and has recently been appointed the new Community Council Liason Sgt. for all Community Councils in the Anchorage Bowl. The contact number for concerns/issues is: 907-786 2668 and service hours are Monday – Thursday from 12.00 noon to 11.00 PM.

Anchorage Citizens Coalition – Cheryl Richardson - Anchorage 2020 is the guiding document for the LRTP and Comprehensive plans, with focus on vibrant commercial and employment centers. Citizen memberships and grant funding are funding Anchorage Citizens Coalition. Cheryl presented a PowerPoint presentation about Transportation Myths and Realities.

Old Business

Anchorage Museum Expansion – Deirdre is to call Pat Wolf, Museum Director regarding an update. The Mayor is going to ask citizens if we would like to receive donations from the State to help with the \$1.5M increase in annual operating costs for the expanded Museum.

McKinley Building – the loan has now been approved by the Federal Government. Work has been started on “M” Street and 5th Avenue. The State Bond funding is due to be approved in January. The State pulled back from the Certificate of Need for the Annex, in order to re-write the regulations for the Certificate of Need process.

Civic and Convention Center – There will be a public hearing on Tuesday January 11th at the Assembly meeting regarding the Development Agreement. The Ballot proposition has not been drafted yet. A Civic and Convention Center office has now opened on 5th and A next to the parking garage.

Committee Reports

Becky Beck – Anchorage Downtown Partnership

New Year’s Eve 2004 saw the opening of the Ice Skating Rink in Town Square, with fireworks and jugglers. IBEW and the Parking Authority helped sponsor the event. A list of events planned for early 2005 include:

- Ice Skating at the Winter Center Town Square on Sundays from 1pm –4pm and weekday evenings from 5-9pm, weather permitting.
- Gallery of Ice – mid-January (children’s park made out of ice)
- Heart of Anchorage Awards – March

Kim MacBeath – Federation of Community Councils – Funding for 2005 for the Federation of Community Councils is contingent upon the new Community Council Ordinance passing and being implemented by all Community Councils in the Anchorage Bowl.

John Pattee - Liquor Licenses - Benihana’s is transferring ownership of the liquor license to the Corporate Franchise. A motion to approve the transfer was made by John Pattee with Millie Renkert seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Anchorage CHARR Security Training Program - for nightclub and bar staff starts on Saturday January 7, 2005. Full background checks and licensing of personnel will come into effect. Robert Smith is providing the training with the San Francisco police. John Pattee has been very instrumental in implementing the program.

Off Road Program - new program to be implemented, Cab Company will only charge 50% of normal fare to drive the owner’s car home. An announcement about the program is slated for February 2005, \$90,000 in funding has already been collected through a Federal grant of \$50,000 in highway funds and from local bar owners. Legislation has been passed to insure cab drivers that drive the customer’s car home in a “Good Samaritan” program.

Paul Nangle – Planning & Zoning Report – \$2M in funding was announced today to build a connection to the Downtown trail through into the Ship Creek area. The Railroad is to put a second rail into the Depot in 2005, and in fall of 2005 they have plans to put in a second parking garage. Tourism in 2005 is expected to be record numbers.

Announcements - The Downtown Community Council will hold an Executive session to discuss the new Community Council Ordinance and necessary bylaw changes.

The meeting adjourned at 6.45pm

