

**Downtown Community Council
Minutes
September 1, 2005
Anchorage Museum of History and Art**

The meeting was called to order at 5.30pm by President, Deirdre Phayer

President Phayer made the following announcements at the start of the meeting:

- ? CIP (Capital Improvement Project) were submitted on time
- ? The Executive Board met prior to the meeting to discuss Agenda suggestions.

A motion to approve the minutes of May 2005 was made by Paul Nangle and seconded by Becky Beck. Minutes were unanimously approved.

The treasurer's report was not available.

Assemblyman Tesche was absent – no report available.

APD Sergeant Cindy Stanton - reported that APD assigned school resource officers to the Park Strip and Town Square for the summer, and started up a gang unit to cope with increasing violence from youth and teens (following the shooting at the Dimond Center).

CIU (Crime Intervention Unit) personnel are being used for gang related issues, and this will leave the Downtown area temporarily short of officers.

Museum Expansion Project - an update was provided by Pat Wolf, Museum Director and Daphne Brown from Kumin Associates. A pedestrian path has been added to the design for pedestrians. The big open green space planned for the front of the building is expected to be a gathering place in both summer and winter when there will be an ice rink. The new museum section will be 4 stories high, with a glass front facing "C" Street. The first floor will contain a shop and a café along with 400,000 historical photos and books that will be made available to the public. The 2nd floor will contain permanent cultural exhibits, with temporary exhibits on the 3rd floor, and a mix of permanent and temporary exhibits on the 4th floor which looks out over the mountains. There will be connections between the old building and the new building at the 1st and 2nd floors. In the old section of the museum there will be an Imaginarium. The Design which contains an additional 74,000 square feet and \$8M worth of landscaping including a heated sidewalk next to the bus transit area and long the promenade, goes before Planning and Zoning in October 2005. The architect will be back in Anchorage in January 2006. Last week a \$5M parking garage was approved to be built at "C" and 7th. **A motion was made by John Pattee to approve the design concept of the museum expansion, Becky Beck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** Any questions regarding the design process can be addressed to Daphne Brown of Kumin and Associates – 272 8833

Alaska Railroad – Ship Creek Inter-Modal Project - Brian Meissner talked about the expansion to the transport network at Ship Creek (buses, trains, bicycles, pedestrian etc.) infrastructure for the commuter rail network.

- ? 1st phase – expansion of tracks behind the facility from 1 to 5 tracks.
- ? 2nd phase – expansion and rehabilitation of historic rail depot (the original lobby will remain, and a new passenger ticket area will be built).

Alaska Railroad is expecting passenger traffic to double in the next 10 years.

A historic trestle is to be built in two pieces, one will be a pedestrian bridge that will go from E Street to Ship Creek, connecting Downtown to the Alaska Railroad and Ship Creek (this bridge will have access from 1st avenue. The second piece will be a new departure lounge to be built over the tracks. There will also be a large parking garage built to serve the area from 1st Avenue to the Depot District. It is hoped this will spur development of the 1st Avenue Area., and create a strong connection to Downtown. The project will include the refurbishment of the Eisenhower

Memorial. Alaska Railroad area is working with developers of the E Street Corridor project. There is \$19.3M in funding available for the design phase, plus track and Utility work. The project needs an additional \$60M for the first 3 phases, with the 1st phase due to begin in 2006. Please contact Stephanie Wheeler at 265-2671 or by e-mail at: wheelers@akrr.com

AWWU – Downtown Expansion on F & E Streets – Todd Johnson, Engineer in charge of the project stated that a new sewer line is being installed in the alley between 3rd and 4th Avenue and along “F” Street adjacent to the Hilton Hotel. The original line (made of clay)was installed in 1972 between 3rd and 4th Avenue, and the one along “F” Street was installed in the 1930's and was made of concrete. A new liner will be installed inside the old pipes and will be good for 30years, a mini camera will check the new liner is good inside the pipe. There will be impact to the area, no dump trucks or excavators will be used and all work will be done at night. A 24 hour lane closure is expected. The projected is expected to take one week, and cost \$150,000, and start mid-October 2005 after Assembly approval.

Committee Reports

Anchorage Downtown Partnership – Chris Schutte talked about the CBD (Central Business District) a blueprint that will define development in the Downtown area. The Assembly recently approved the contract to develop the CBD blueprint. Design consultants met with residents, businesses and community councils last week. The CBD re-write is expected to be a year long process with input from the public. South Addition, Government Hill, Fairview and Mountainview community councils are expected to meet with the Downtown Community Council in the coming weeks. The Sunday Market contract is up for renewal next week. Some Downtown retailers are opposed to the renewal. The ADP is taking a neutral position but will be offering their facilities for meetings. A public hearing will be held September 8th at 5 o'clock at City Hall.

Federation of Community Councils – Kim MacBeath let the council know the FCC Center has moved from its Midtown location to a new location at the Success By Six Building on Mountainview Drive. Monthly FCC meetings may also move from City Hall to the same location.

Liquor Licenses – John Pattee reported about changes in legislation that are finally happening regarding Catering Permits. An Ordinance amendment will be submitted to the Anchorage Assembly to limit the permits to 12 in any one location per year. At the moment the decision is left to the APD with no specified guidelines. There will be a work session on Friday September 9th at 1.00pm, this will be followed by a public hearing on September 13th, and the Ordinance amendment will then be submitted to the Assembly for approval. **John Pattee made a motion in support of AO 2005-97 Exempting Catering & Special Events Permits. Discussion followed. The vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.**

John Pattee reminded the council that liquor license renewals are coming up and we need to make any recommendations by October 15th. A vote will be taken on all liquor license renewals in the Downtown area at the October meeting, Anchorage CHARR is now working as liason to the FCC. 150 bar staff has now been trained as part of the new Security Program conducted in conjunction with the ABC Board, Anchorage Fire Dept. and APD. The Off-Road program is to be advertised on people mover buses.

Zoning– Paul Nangle made a motion to send flowers from Bagoys to the new Winterberry School for the first day of opening, this was seconded by Beck Beck and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.30pm

Next meeting – Thursday October 6, 2005 at 5.30pm