

October 1, 2009 Minutes

Scenic Foothills Community Council

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Mark Hill; 30 people attended.

Motion and second was made to accept September's minutes, distributed by Council Secretary Shannon Dunlap; approved.

Susan Peck, [Neighborhood Crime Watch](#), presented information on how a neighborhood can, and would want to, participate. She said it's all about people watching out for each other. NCW presentations deal with teaching people how to protect their property and report vandalism, speeding cars and roaming teenagers, etc. to reduce neighborhood crime. The dispatch number is 786-8585. The NCW contract with the Municipality of Anchorage runs out at the end of the year and is scheduled to be cut from the budget. If your neighborhood wants to participate, do it by the end of the year. Speak to your assembly representative about restoring NCW contract.

Reports of Officers:

Vice President — Cathy Carte reported on Public Involvement Efforts by Council officers. The neighborhood door to door effort continues. She attended a [Highway To Highway \(H2H\)](#) meeting and stressed that comments regarding an east side bypass, which is not favored in Scenic Foothills but is the least expensive choice, need to be made by the end of the month.

Treasurer — President Mark Hill is still looking for someone to take the office of Treasurer.

Public Observer — Bill Miernyk. Community Issues Highlights. He handed President Mark Hill two pages of notes on topics that should be addressed but did not choose to read his report.

Publicity Chairman — Jerrienne Lowther. Updates on PR Efforts -- New features at www.scenicfoothillsc.org include links to Neighborhood Crime Watch, Crime mapping and e-mail alerts, and how to file a police report online. Volunteer coordinators also put together a CD of vandalism in Chugach Foothills Park and graffiti along Muldoon Road for a police report. Efforts continue to change snail mail to e-mail to reduce costs and late news.

FCC Advisor — Lance Pruitt reported on Federation of Community Councils news. The Neighborhoods, USA Conference will be held in Anchorage in 2011. More FCC budget cuts are expected in 2010. Newsletter printing and postage are their biggest expenses and all of the Councils have been asked to convert postal bulk mail to e-mail wherever possible.

Representative Reports:

Don Burrell, Jr. from Senator Bettye Davis's office reported that there will be an October 6 hearing on Every Child Matters -- Denali Kid Care and early childhood education -- at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office.

MOA Assembly: Sheila Selkregg sent an e-mail that was read by Mark Hill. The 2010 budget will be focused on in November, December. On October 13, 2009, there will be a public hearing about a 6-year physical plan. She and Jim Lamson, who was at our last meeting, are looking at streets and what is in the works. She has talked with Cathy Carte about James Street and work force housing issues.

Committee Reports:

Standing: Parks, Public Safety (crime & preparedness), Schools, Streets, Utilities; **Special:** Chugach Foothills Flooding, Scenic View Subdivision Resolution, & TBD.

Parks: Anchorage Parks & Recreation is pretty much gone from the 2010 budget proposal.

Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan — Written comments are due by October 16; send them to Monica Alvarez, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Chugach State Park Planning, 550 W. Seventh Ave., Suite 1050, Anchorage 99501; Phone: 269-8145; Fax: 907-269-8915; E-mail: monica.alvarez@alaska.gov

Public Safety: Mayor Sullivan's budget for the coming year was to be posted the day after the meeting and, while budget cuts were a certainty, no one had information on the details. Fire Chief **Mark Hall** said he expected to lose some positions but he expected the rolling closures to end. Rolling closures can lengthen response times which could affect ISO ratings on which insurance rates are based. Right now, our rating is 2 out of 10, with 1 being the highest rating.

Schools: School Board member **Jeff Friedman** said the Anchorage School District had 700 more students enrolled than projected and they are still figuring out why projections were off. On bonding issues: residents didn't accept bonds fixing high schools in bits and pieces so they are now trying to finish the projects in one school at a time. Long term plan is to finish all the high schools but he wasn't sure whether any of it would be proposed as bonds in the next election.

Walk To School Day — Dawn Groth said October 7 will be Walk to School Day. Governor Sean Parnell will join 300 students walking to school at Scenic Park Elementary School. Volunteers are welcome to join the walk and carry signs to encourage the kids on their effort. More about this at <http://www.scenicfoothillsc.org/neighborhood/schools.html>

Streets: Alaska Rep. **Harry Crawford** reported that Alaska Department of Transportation will receive the parts for the **Tudor Sound Barrier Wall** repairs in November and assemble them. Volunteers will install them in the spring. The parts for this repair will cost \$40,000 -- a good reason to use "off the shelf" parts for future projects of this nature.

32nd Avenue Upgrade – Draft plan public meeting October 14th at Wayland Baptist University.

Utilities: Enstar spokesman John Sims explained that concern about natural gas shortages this winter were not due to lack of gas but to insufficient pressure to move enough gas if demand for heat and gas generated electricity spikes during a long extreme cold spell and a compressor goes down. He detailed short term emergency measures that could be used if such a problem actually occurs. An Anchorage Daily News story explaining this is more detail is here. <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/anchorage/story/955933.html> Worst case scenarios could include rolling brownouts to distribute electrical power throughout the grid.

He also addressed pending rate adjustments to reduce last year's increases "by double digits" and a long term billing error by Enstar that resulted in a very large refund to a single customer with the cost of reimbursement being born by all their other customers. ADN story with more details is here. <http://www.adn.com/3221/story/979264.html>

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.