

# December 3, 2009 Minutes

## Scenic Foothills Community Council

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

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

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### Reports of Officers:

**FCC Advisor** — Lance Pruitt reported that The Neighborhoods, USA Conference was looking for theme input for the conference they are hosting in Anchorage in 2011.

**Publicity Chairman** — Jerriane Lowther reported that the monthly e-mail notice from FCC did not go out as planned this month but she was able to send it out from a copy of the e-mail list. She brought 500 printed SFCC Season's Greetings cards with basic information about the web site, the monthly meetings and SFCC boundaries. She invited attendees to pick up some cards and distribute them to their neighbors, with an invitation to visit the web site and attend SFCC meetings. The web site is our main source of information: [www.scenicfoothillsc.org](http://www.scenicfoothillsc.org)

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### Committee Reports:

#### **Public Safety:** (Part 1)

Erika Wolter, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, reported on their organizing meeting November 19 and distributed a handout with information on ideas for sub-committee roles for Police, Fire, Emergency Management and Human Services sub-committees. See the [January calendar](#) for details on the next meeting of [Alaska Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(AKVOAD\)](#) and the [Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness](#).

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### Commercial Development:

#### **Foothills Storage:**

Joel Fuller reported on plans for the Foothills Storage property at 36th Avenue and Muldoon Road. They are working on environmental cleanup (April) and demolition permits. They are planning retail space. Plans include access from Muldoon Road (southbound) and 36th Avenue. They are still determining what is possible to combine with a storage facility. (Day Care is not.)

They have in mind new 14-foot-high retail frontage similar to one at 36th and Old Seward and an 8-foot screened fence. As they were negotiating a building package, the supplier shut down.

Several people objected to the idea of a circular drive with both entrance and exit on Muldoon Road due to traffic volume and speed. Old Muldoon Road, along the back of the property, Title 21 requires a 15-foot landscaping buffer and they are looking at ways to make some trade-offs. An old house at the rear of the property along Old Muldoon Road is slated for demolition. They would be interested in having O'Brady's return to the area as a tenant. Several attendees said they would not want to see a package liquor store at that location. Bill Miernyk, Public Observer, pressed the question of repairing the existing fence. Mr. Fuller said most of the fence would be removed to create a retail entrance fronting on Muldoon Road.

### **Cell Phone Tower at Wayland Baptist University**

Margaret (Peggy) Rawitz, attorney for the constructors of the cell phone tower at the Wayland Baptist University site, came to the meeting to explain why the constructors had requested a zoning variance. The tower had received the required Municipality of Anchorage approvals and the constructors had poured 45 cubic yards of concrete with rebar reinforcements for the base when it was discovered that the location was in a required setback for Arnold Muldoon Park.

She said her clients did not know there was an error in the site plan; they say there is no good alternate site and moving it would triple the cost. Moving the tower 20 feet farther from the park would cost an estimated \$250,000. The Planning and Zoning decision on the variance will be January 14. No staff report was available as of the meeting date.

Attendees asked for assurances that the old tower really would be removed once the new tower was operational. Ms. Rawitz said the old tower had different owners and she could not speak for them but it was known that Chugach Electric wanted the old tower removed.

In the discussion, it was pointed out that the Fire Department has to drive to the edge of the property to use their cellular phones and that Wayland Baptist University also needs coverage and has, for that reason, been trying to get this tower constructed as soon as possible. A motion in favor of support for a variance was passed with a vote of 16-3.

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### **Committee Reports:**

**Parks:** Michele Pamer reported that on Saturday, November 21, several members of the Scenic Foothills Community Council joined with the [Northeast Community Council](#) at Muldoon Road and DeBarr at the old Alaska Greenhouse Property to rally support for a Muldoon Park Strip. She introduced Stu Grenier, Vice President of NECC, who said 34 people turned out for the walk along Chester Creek from Muldoon Road east to the Fort Richardson Boundary.

With Wal-Mart and Sam's Club going in across the street near Fred Meyer's, the proposed Muldoon Park Strip is residents' last chance to have anything green in the Muldoon Town Square area, he said. NECC is resisting several agencies' efforts to replat the property, re-route Chester Creek and sell off the front section along Muldoon Road for commercial development. (There is a 12-acre piece of dedicated park land at the back end of the property now that would be suitable for development as ball fields.) NECC also opposes extending and widening DeBarr Road between Muldoon Road and the Fort Richardson Boundary. More information is [here](#).

Municipal Light and Power lent the Municipality of Anchorage money to buy the old greenhouse property. Grenier said Municipal Light and Power's manager, Jim Posey, who was formerly manager of Anchorage Parks and Recreation, is interested in trading undeveloped land along Chester Creek for acreage in the Centennial Park Campground for expansion of the adjacent power station. NECC wants the Muldoon Park Strip but does not want to give up the dedicated park land of the Centennial Park campground, which he said is the only low cost campground in the Anchorage bowl. Rep. Harry Crawford said he did not think expanding the power plant into the campground was a good idea.

Michele Pamer proposed that Scenic Foothills Community Council stand with Northeast Community Council in favor of dedicating the old greenhouse property along Chester Creek for a Muldoon Park Strip. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**Schools:** School Board member Jeff Friedman reported NEAA negotiations are just beginning. They are working on closing a budget gap. An attendee noted that snowplows have been pushing snow against the bottom of the sledding hill, creating a dangerous berm at Scenic Park Elementary School and requested that Mr. Friedman look into resolving the problem.

**Streets: Highway To Highway (H2H)** Julianne Hanson, Public Involvement Lead, reported on the [Highway To Highway \(H2H\) Project](#) to connect the Glenn and Seward Highways. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process must identify and evaluate a range of alternatives. They will screen preliminary alternatives according to purpose, need and feasibility to winnow more than a dozen draft concepts (including "no action" and several forms of mass transit only) to three "reasonable" alternatives by late January 2010.

Employment is concentrated in three areas: downtown, mid-town and the university-medical complex. A DOT/PF travel study shows 98 per cent of Glenn-Seward Highway traffic involves one or more of these areas. "Nobody" wants to go directly from Girdwood to Eagle River, she said. Comments on preferred corridor alternatives so far have favored either the current corridor or the Muldoon bypass. (Both the Northeast Community Council and the Scenic Foothills Community Council have voted against extending DeBarr Road to the Muldoon bypass corridor.)

Traffic congestion and safety: approximately 750 accidents occur annually in the corridor between the Glenn Highway at Boniface Parkway and 36th Avenue and the Seward Highway -- almost two per day. People traveling this corridor spend over 8,000 hours sitting in traffic. To learn more, visit [their web site](#), call 865-2202, [e-mail](#) or stop by office at 820 E. 15th Avenue.

**Public Safety: (Part 2)**

Rep. Harry Crawford commended NECC Vice President Stu Grenier and the Northeast Community Council for their efforts in getting the Anchorage Assembly to pass a resolution requiring Brown Jug to check the ID of every customer as a condition of being allowed to open another package liquor store in the Tikahtnu Commons mall at the Glenn Highway and Muldoon Road. The hope is that requiring ID checks will reduce the purchase of alcohol by chronic inebriates. Jennifer Azima, representing Assemblyman Mike Gutierrez's office, said he was working on an ordinance to require ID to purchase alcohol at all liquor stores in Anchorage.

[Neighborhood Crime Watch](#) is moving to APD's CAP Team. SFCC streets approved for signs: upper Pioneer, Klutina, Butte Circle, Gannett, Resurrection Loop, Tikishla, upper Resurrection.

**Utilities:**

Alex Monterrosa is looking into the proposed rate increase in water and wastewater (sewer) charges from Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU). AWWU asked the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to allow an across-the-board rate increase to all customers of 2.5% over current interim rates for water and sewer service ... effective January 1, 2010, which Alex calculates as \$1.72 per month over the present charge of \$68.59 on his monthly bill. The comment period closes December 13, 2009. Download a PDF file with more information [here](#).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Next meeting: January 7, 2010, Wayland Baptist University.