

## Scenic Foothills Community Council Minutes March 4, 2010

Council President Mark Hill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.; 24 people attended.

President Hill called for volunteers for a nomination committee to find officer candidates for the May election.

Publicity Chairman Jerriane Lowther reported on the February Federation of Community Councils meeting and on SFCC Publicity efforts. FCC is busy planning a Neighborhoods USA event in Anchorage over the Memorial Day weekend in 2011. Again, SFCC sent out its own meeting notice e-mails for March; FCC sent out notices the night before the SFCC meeting, a week after FCC received them. The system seems to be broken. She proposed organizing the SFCC beautification volunteers into "Arnie's Army" in 2010 to spruce up Muldoon, in honor of a civic minded pioneer homesteader, Arnold L. Muldoon, for whom our area of town is named.

Vice President Catherine Carte presented bouquets of flowers to SFCC Volunteer Coordinators Michele Pamer and Jerriane Lowther for their neighborhood beautification efforts and the Scenic Foothills web site at [www.scenicfoothillsc.org](http://www.scenicfoothillsc.org) "Get well" cards were available to sign for Steve Million's wife, Marcia, who was recovering from surgery.

### UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Alex Monterrosa, Chairman, Utilities Committee, presented a Utilities overview and update. We are all dependent on public utilities to the tune of \$400-\$700 per month, he said. [The Regulatory Commission of Alaska](http://www.regulatorycommissionofalaska.com) oversees public utilities; a part of each utility bill funds the Commission. They work for both sides to ensure that utilities are funded enough to continue service and to see that their customers are not paying more than necessary for service.

[Enstar](http://www.enstar.com) lost their bid to charge current customers for Enstar's mistake in billing Fort Richardson for natural gas and so Enstar customers will receive refunds or credits, in some form at some time, for charges Enstar already passed on to customers in 2009 -- and further charges have ceased.

Point Woronzof wastewater treatment. You can see it and smell it. It has an affect on the health of Cook Inlet and the population. We're on the east side of Anchorage, yet it is affecting us in more than one way.

Utilities can be disrupted, he said, and we need to plan, as a community, for what to do if they are disrupted, both at the community council neighborhoods level and at the Municipality of Anchorage level. Read, be informed, make contacts to call.

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What if we lose utilities in a disaster? After a major disaster, the State of Alaska recommends that Alaskans be able to take care of themselves for up to 5 to 7 days after the disaster. [Emergency Watch](#), a relatively low maintenance program to start and maintain in each neighborhood, was developed in response.

### PARKS COMMITTEE

Michele Pamer introduced Forrest Fanning, Jr. and Jeremiah Walters from Action Security. They described the security cameras for pilot project installations in Chugach Foothills Park, Scenic Park and Little Dipper Park. SFCC Capital Improvement Project requests funded by the Alaska Legislature go through Senator Betty Davis's office.

Eight proposed "vandal proof" surveillance cameras would monitor activity in the playground, picnic shelter and car parking and foot traffic areas in Chugach Foothills Park. They would be attached to existing light poles or new poles and powered through ethernet cables buried in the ground. The cables would transfer video images to an off-site facility via the Internet. The cameras would be aesthetically unobtrusive and would not record continuously but would respond to motion in their field of view. A cat couldn't trigger them but a bear or a moose could.

Motion detector LED lights (20-year-long life, low maintenance, vandal proof, developed for military use) would also be installed to deter arson, vandalism and theft. Three arson fires were set in Chugach Foothills Park last year and Scenic Park Elementary School playground has been set on fire twice in the past five years. Graffiti has appeared in all three parks; Little Dipper Park has a hole of unknown origin in a playground slide.

Cost estimates for each park include permits, trenching and laying of conduit, and DSL feeds @ \$89 per month, per site, for five years. (Security checks @ \$25 per person authorized to view the videos would need to be paid for by SFCC directly.)

Total funds to be requested for three parks: \$153,000.

Chugach Foothills Park: \$56,000

Scenic Park: \$49,000

Little Dipper Park: \$48,000

Holly Spoth-Torres from Anchorage Parks & Recreation asked about plans to fund the Internet DSL feeds after the initial five years and Michele Pamer said she would then request another legislative grant to continue them.

Holly Spoth-Torres, speaking for the Municipality, said Parks & Recreation was seeking to re-engage people in parks but was not going to authorize cameras in parks and that the department does not have the people to maintain them.

Scenic Foothills Community Council President Mark Hill spoke out against the proposed grant request, saying that states were struggling to survive, that we're not that rich, that

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this proposal was "big money" and that people don't support the concept of "earmarks" for Capital Improvement Projects, except when projects benefit their area.

Scenic Foothills Community Council Treasurer Lance Pruitt said he had checked into the Municipality's vetting process for legislative grants. He said requests should go to the Parks & Recreation Department, Legal, Anchorage Police Department, etc. Then the Assembly should vote on it and then the request, if passed, would go to the Legislature. The Legislature asks the Municipality if they want it. Now it wouldn't make it through, he said, but the vetting process for next year begins in May. That's the proper timing and that's how it gets done, he said.

Holly Spoth-Torres said if a project makes the city's list, it still needs the local community council to advocate for it.

Michele said requested money can come to the community council if they have a Federal ID number or it could go to the Municipality of Anchorage and be marked for use in our area parks.

An attendee pointed out that the cost of vandalism in our parks is measured not only in the cost of replacing damaged equipment but in the cost of damaged equipment that is removed from a park and not replaced.

Will Theuer asked: If money is made available for this purpose, would the Municipality prohibit this installation?

Holly Spoth-Torres said yes, because of concerns regarding long term maintenance and because they would want such systems to be consistent across the city. The city maintains 223 parks. She said at this time there is only one camera, at the Spenard Recreation Center, and it is aimed at the skateboard park there.

Michele Pamer said Juneau is waiting. Each legislator got \$1 million to spend in his or her district. She then read the text of the three resolutions and requested that those present vote on them separately. The three resolutions are the same, except for the name of the park involved. Each of the three resolutions [immediately below] passed.

WHEREAS the Chugach Foothills Park [Scenic Park/Little Dipper Park] area of the Scenic Foothills Community Council and Community members have advocated for a security camera system and LED motion detector lights.

WHEREAS the Scenic Foothills Community Council and its members have lobbied to the Alaska legislature for the funding of high-resolution for vandal-proof security cameras, internet housing and operational costs for 5 years. Also included in this resolution are LED motion detector security lights.

WHEREAS the Scenic Foothills Community Council has approved the resolution supporting the concept of a security camera system and LED motion detector security

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lights to deter on-going arson and vandalism in the Chugach Foothills Park. [Scenic Park/Little Dipper Park]

Passed and Approved by the Scenic Foothills Community Council this 4th day of March 2010.

**Heather Ireland (for Sheila Selkregg, Anchorage Assembly):** At the Assembly meeting on Tuesday, March 16th, [a resolution](#) is expected to move the Knik Arm Bridge proposal (KABATA) from the short term to the long range transportation plan. KABATA assumes that the Highway To Highway (H2H) project will go through so it would be best to delay it until it is known how H2H will proceed.

Also on the agenda March 16: [Title 21](#) Re-Write, updating Anchorage's land-use code of regulations.

On Saturday, March 20th, there will be a meeting at Clark Middle School on how communities tax themselves to pay for what they want.

### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Paul Honeman, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, was not present but Mark Hill said Mr. Honeman had requested \$6,500 from the Alaska Legislature to re-institute the local community patrol.

### STREETS

Lance Pruitt said [East 32nd Avenue](#) was on the list to receive state money to proceed with a street upgrade project. Pioneer Drive was not on the list. The Municipality of Anchorage wants to take over 36th Avenue between Patterson and Muldoon but wants the State of Alaska to upgrade it to current standards before turning it over to MOA.

The last half hour of the meeting was turned over to the standing committees so they could organize themselves and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.