

Scenic Foothills Community Council Meeting Highlights April 1, 2010

Council President Mark Hill called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.; 40 people attended at least part of the meeting; 33 signed in.

President Hill requested approval of March meeting minutes. Roger Shaw questioned March minutes resolution content. Michele Pamer said content was taken directly from earlier Baxter Bog resolution wording. March minutes were approved.

The Fiscal Year 2011 Capital Projects Scenic Foothills Community Council Priority List (survey) has been posted [here](#). It is due back to the Municipality by June 1.

Treasurer Lance Pruitt will report on SFCC finances at the May meeting.

President Hill asked where East Side District Plan stood. Heather Ireland, representing Sheila Selkregg, said the plan was a work in progress and advisers are being gathered.

President Hill called for volunteers to fill officer positions in the council for the May election. Public Observer Bill Miernyk is seeking candidates.

President Hill questioned council on status of branding and public relations for Scenic Foothills Community Council. Jerrienne Lowther said Spruce up Muldoon will kick off next month and anyone who would want to volunteer their time would be appreciated.

Publicity Chairman Jerrienne Lowther attended the March Federation of Community Councils meeting and requested a volunteer to be a liaison between FCC and SFCC.

President Hill informed council of a meeting April 13 on the 1st quarter revisions of Municipality of Anchorage budget operations if anyone would like to attend.

Candidate Forum

Individual presentations, plus group Questions and Answers

Assembly

Paul Honeman said early voting is available at Lousaac Library and City Hall. He said he was a 37 year resident of Alaska and has spent 33 of those years in Anchorage. He has two children and two grandsons and he is a Bartlett High School graduate. He said he is running because he thinks the city has a good government but there are a few areas that lack. He said the city defers maintenance on roads and facilities such as the Patterson Road fire station. He also said he is a liberal who enjoys the arts and hockey rinks. He also said he is a conservative who manages rental property. He doesn't believe government should be modeled after business and thinks the government should spend only what we need. He is concerned about property taxes and mentioned that according to a study the city cannot

sustain itself by property taxes alone. He said the city needs to diversify revenue. He said he is a 23 year veteran with the Anchorage Police Department.

Adam Trombley is 3rd generation Alaskan and graduated from East High School. He went to Virginia Military Institute and served his time. He started Premier Garage business with his brother and is now working in the oil industry. He does not believe spending up to the tax cap is necessary. He believes in the protection of life, property and infrastructure. He said by creating competition service would increase and the price would decrease and mentioned an example in Minnesota. He said the municipality needs transparency in taxes and that long term labor contracts need to be available to the public for 30-60 days online before being voted on. He also pointed out that crime is the east side challenge. He believes the city needs to pressure the state to fight gangs and create a war on drugs. He believes the fight against crime must be coordinated on a state level.

Thomas Purcell was unable to attend.

School Board—Seat A

James LaBelle was born and raised in Anchorage and said he dropped out of high school and joined the military and then got his degree. Labelle said he has spent the last 17 years in youth family education, child welfare, developing vocational education in middle schools and high schools, and career exploration. He said 85% of the jobs in Alaska do not require college education. He said he is a part of the Northeast Community Council. He is concerned about the recent attempted child abductions and said that safety is the number one issue. He supports early childhood learning. He said the school fund comes from 50% state, 30% property taxes, and 20% federal government. He said the city needs a way to balance property tax.

David Nees is a Jr. High teacher since 1983 at Clark and from 1987 at Hanshew. He teaches math and believe he has a unique perspective as a teacher. He said currently the school board looks at each small piece of the budget and the budget hasn't been available in our libraries in 10-15 years. He said people need to know how much things cost and the school board budget should be simplified. Simplifying the budget would allow the schools to run faster and cheaper. He mentioned the school district pays \$2,700 a day for a school district attorney.

Tommy O'Malley was born and raised in Anchorage and lives in Girdwood. He taught school (kindergarten) for 20 years at Wonder Park and Scenic Park Elementary Schools. He said this has allowed him to get to know the different departments needed to run the school district. He also said by talking with the parents he feels he knows what the children need. He said the current testing in schools does not cover basic life, social, and vocation skills. He believes early childhood education should be an option in the ASD. He said 51% of children in the ASD are minority and there needs to be options such as ESL taught. He said only 65% of the ASD students graduate high school. Only one-third go to college and not all of those make it through. He said Alaskans don't mind paying for things if it is worth the money. If you were starting a business, he said, you would want someone with experience.

Don Smith was born and raised in Anchorage and his family came up during the development of Independence Mine. His childhood home used to sit in what is now Town Square. He said he spent two years in the State House of Representatives and was a chairman on a committee. He helped with unification of Anchorage borough and city in 1975. He said he spent 10 years on the Muni Assembly and has the background that the school board needs. He said in 1982 he wrote the words for the tax cap and led a petition drive. He believes the city is not suffering from a tax cap; the tax cap lid would fluctuate with population growth and consumer spending. He discussed \$830 million school budget and the \$1.9 billion debt that does not include the utility debt.

School Board—Seat B

Bob Griffin was not present.

Jeannie Mackie was appointed to the seat in February 2009 and won the seat last April. She said she has spent one year on the board and has invested time into learning the district (transportation, child nutrition, operations, employees, and what it takes to deliver education). She has seen employee growth and change in demographics and the need for more teachers. She encouraged citizens to just scratch the surface of school board issues and how decisions are made in the school board. She was raised in Nenana and is a customer of the district as she has kids in school. She said she seeks to be balanced, open minded, and believes in public education.

Ted Wilson was not present.

Propositions

Dean Karcz from Anchorage Tomorrow spoke about the propositions on the ballot:

Proposition 1 2010 Road & Drainage

Karcz said the proposition is shovel ready and is a bond package costing \$37 million, \$35.5 million grant, and \$51.02 million state grant request. He said passing this proposition would help progress future projects such as 32nd Ave and Pioneer Drive projects. He said 90% of bond will go toward construction. He said 72nd Ave and 88th Ave would be a significant project as well as intersection projects.

Proposition 4 Area wide Public Transportation Capital Improvements

The cost would include vehicle purchases, facility improvements, bus purchases, and fleet improvements. He said this proposition is affordable and would include federal matching funds of \$3.7 million.

Proposition 5 Sisterhood Park Land Exchange

Karcz said this proposition supports the road project at Van Buren near Spenard Recreation Center and included an equal land exchange; it would decrease traffic conflicts and add playing fields. The planning and zoning department, local community

council, and ASD supports the proposition. He said you can find out more at www.anchoragetomorrow.org and www.muni.org/

End of Candidate and Proposition Forum

Michele Pamer mentioned vandalism that occurred off Resurrection Drive at Tikishla where three tires were slashed; a police report was filed. The residents said they heard a noise that sounded like a gun hitting the street. Lance Pruitt also said he observed two rear tires that were slashed off Baxter Road.

President Hill encouraged committee (street, utility, parks, and schools/education) members to get involved. The President also mentioned the need for SFCC publicity through the web site, social functions, branding, and recruitment. He suggested that committees continue to function in the summer.

Jerrienne Lowther requested help for Spruce Up Muldoon and to contact her if interested. Areas of beautification include the Tudor Muldoon curve, Pioneer Drive, 36th Avenue at Muldoon and on up to Bartlett High School.

Michele Pamer also mentioned the need for safety when volunteering. She said safety vests are available.

Bill Miernyk is also looking for future leadership and recruit officers for May election.

President Hill requested thoughts on summer meetings. Attendee suggested an active executive committee and relying on numerous e-mails going out to the community council in the summer months.

Michele Pamer mentioned that community council meeting signs are missing on the corners of Patterson and Tudor and Baxter and Tudor and would like to know if anyone has seen them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.