

Scenic Foothills Community Council
Thursday, December 2, 2010
Meeting Minutes

7:07pm Vice President Cathy Carte called the meeting to order. November meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Boy Scout Troop 215 attended the meeting in an effort to earn their Community Merit Badge.

Public Observer Bill Miernyk had no news to report.

Public Safety Chair and Assemblyman Paul Honeman reported that the Assembly would vote on the budget December 7. The tobacco tax would increase to relieve property taxes. Honeman shared that money would still be left on the table since the 2011 budget will not be taxing to the cap. Honeman reported that Fire Station 6 has a new building designed and funded by the state. Honeman reported that the SFCC Community Patrol has a new logo design and is purchasing cameras, radios, and batteries. Honeman asked for CP volunteers.

Assemblyman Honeman proposed a resolution to recognize State House Representative Harry Crawford for "passionately, diligently and honorably serving the residents of Alaska, Anchorage, House District 21 and most certainly those who live in the Scenic Foothills Community Council area..." The complete resolution, which passed unanimously, is posted [here](#). Assemblyman Honeman and Vice President Cathy Carte presented Rep. Crawford with a plaque reading: *Our deepest appreciation and heartfelt thanks for your 10 years of service in the Alaska Legislature representing District 21 — 2000–2010 — Scenic Foothills Community Council.*

Utilities Chair Alex Monterrosa introduced **Phil Steyer, Chugach Electric Association Customer Service & PR Representative, and John Sims, ENSTAR PR Representative.**

Sims reminded SFCC of the importance of carbon monoxide detectors with the recent scare in south Anchorage. Sims reported on the Gas Contingency Planning to alleviate strain on the Natural Gas System. Attendee Pamer asked where a breakdown in the system could occur. Sims said a breakdown could occur with a "perfect storm" scenario; producers would not be able to meet demands created by long cold weather spells. Monterrosa pointed out the customer credit received on the latest ENSTAR bills labeled Fort Richardson credit. Monterrosa asked Sims when it might be necessary for a customer to shut off his/her gas. Sims discouraged customers from turning off their gas for any reason because this would require ENSTAR personnel to be present to turn it back on. One firefighter in attendance encouraged customers to call the fire department if they smelled gas.

Harry Crawford asked Sims when he expected the natural gas storage system to be operable. Sims said gas storage will be operable in the summer of 2012 and will help with deliverability. Crawford also wanted to know if there were any companies looking for gas, and Sims said that there are some independent companies searching for gas.

Steyer presented a chart about emergency preparedness for Chugach Electric Association. Three main categories include 1) utility company action 2) voluntary action of the consumer and 3) system interruptions. Rolling blackouts are an action the utility can take during an emergency situation to help sustain the electricity system. Steyer said that CEA will have a new facility by 2013 that will burn less gas. Steyer knew of three cable injection projects in the SFCC area planned for next summer and one cable replacement project. Carte asked when everyone's overhead lines should be expected to be underground. Steyer said that 20% of consumer's monthly bill (\$3 million/yr for projects) goes to fund the conversion and there are 600 miles of lines left to bury. Steyer estimated the cost of burying lines to be \$1 million per mile.

One Boy Scout in attendance asked Steyer what happens to fluorescent tubes when they are broken. Steyer said that the tube blows up due to excited gas and this breakage is not good for people or the environment.

Attendee asked Steyer about the results from the city asking the Anchorage community to reduce energy usage October 20 from 6-8pm. Steyer stated a 3% energy reduction as a result and about 1/3 of the population participated. The energy reduction was a way to get the community used to taking action to reduce energy usage. One scout asked Steyer how the community will know if the gas system experiences problems, thus needing the community to decrease energy usage, and Steyer said the media will notify the community if such a situation occurs.

Attendee Pamer asked Steyer about the diameter of the cable that runs to homes to supply electricity. Steyer said the cables are one to one and half inches in diameter but must be buried 42 inches deep, thus a 20-foot easement has been provided for utility companies.

Publicity Chair Jerriane Lowther shared that the SFCC's newsletter is available on the SFCC website but also apologized for the delay in mailing the newsletter due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Lowther asked NECC to co-sponsor the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) tour and they have voted to do so. Lowther also asked SFCC attendees to "like" the "I Love Muldoon" and SFCC Facebook pages. Lowther informed the council that a sign-up sheet for ideas and the history of Little Dipper Park is available on SFCC's website. Lowther also highlighted that the Centennial Campground and potential Muldoon Road Park Strip at DeBarr Road along Chester Creek could be included in the NUSA tour.

FCC Advisor Linda Billmyer encouraged the council to attend or participate in the NUSA conference in May 2011. She said there are 35 different proposals for workshops (i.e. recreation, grassroots organizations, green community initiatives, housing, multi-generational and cultural). The Neighborhood Pride Tour will give SFCC an opportunity to showcase our community. Billmyer reported that the FCC is expected to receive a two-thirds budget decrease in 2011, which would cause the FCC office to close. Billmyer encouraged the council to contact their Assemblymen, Paul Honeman and Mike Gutierrez. She reminded SFCC that we benefit from FCC services in mailings, photocopies, and computer services.

Elise Huggins, board member at the Alaska Botanical Gardens, told SFCC that ABG was built in the 80s by Anchorage gardeners and opened in the early 90s. ABG is supported by paying members and donations and they have received capital money to build the gardens. ABG entertains every elementary school in the district as well as a Nine Star summer youth employment program. ABG has a 10-15 year plan designed by a landscape architect, which is available online [here](#). ABG has 110 acres. Their first capital project was a fence built around the land (to keep moose out) that cost \$.25 million. ABG built an east garden that is unfinished. Representing ABG, Huggins asked SFCC for a letter of support or a resolution to propose building a facility where ABG could hold classes and provide offices for staff, allowing ABG to become self-sufficient. ABG currently has four part-time employees and one full time employee. A motion was made for SFCC to write a letter of support for ABG and the motion was seconded by another attendee. The council voted unanimously in support of a letter.

Parks and Recreation Chair, Michelle Pamer told SFCC that 42 volunteers worked over 420 hours in 2010 towards beautification projects. Pamer reported that a committee has been established for Little Dipper Park restorations. Two meetings will be held at Scenic Park Elementary School to gather ideas for the park and to discuss restoration costs. both meeting to be located. Pamer shared with one scout that the park is located off of 32nd Avenue and Cherry Street. Pamer requested permission of the council to glean information for Senator Bettye Davis on the cost for motion detector lights and cameras for Scenic Park and Little Dipper Park. Pamer also reported 65 volunteers worked on Spruce Up Muldoon Road for half a day. Billmyer asked Pamer about 2010 park improvements in SFCC. Pamer said Little Dipper Park scored an F and presents safety issues, as does Scenic Park.

Education/Schools Chair Alex Monterrosa shared the results of his meetings with Baxter and Scenic Park elementary school principals Vicki Hodge and Karen Pollard. He reported that both had concerns with health and safety issues, including driving speed in school zones, smoking and drinking occurring on school property, animal waste left on grounds, and vandalism. Both principals would like the community patrol to stop by after school and on weekends to monitor the area. Monterrosa will share his findings with School Board Member Jeannie Mackie. Monterrosa plans to meet with Totem Theater's manager to address after school hang out issues and with Street Chair Art Johnson to address road safety issues. Monterrosa will next visit Wendler Jr. High and Begich Middle Schools.

Legislative Aide Jenna Crouse (Lance Pruitt) asked council to sign up to receive updates from the State House sessions. Crouse reported that Pruitt is co-chair on the energy committee and also on the transportation, education, fishery, and judicial state affair committees.

Jennifer Adzima reported for **Mike Gutierrez** that an amendment had been put forth on the 2011 budget for the East Side Plan. Representative Harry Crawford asked if there had been any movement in the assembly for requiring all drivers' licenses to be checked when purchasing alcohol. Adzima said the assembly is moving toward a ballot initiative.

Vice President Carte encouraged council members to **donate blankets** for Brother Francis Shelter at Wayland Baptist University from 10am to 6pm throughout the week.

Street Chair Art Johnson stated that to receive funding for 32nd Avenue improvements, SFCC should propose resolutions to submit to Governor Sean Parnell, House Representative Lance Pruitt, and Senator Bettye Davis.

Vice President Cathy Carte shared that SFCC is **open for recruitment** for the Utilities Committee Chair, Public Safety Committee Co-Chair, Community Patrol Captain, and Treasurer/Executive Board Member. Carte also asked for financial support for SFCC.

8:46pm: Carte motioned to adjourn meeting and Crawford seconded the motion. Coffee and cookies were served. Thirty-eight people signed in, 40 people plus the Boy Scout Troop 215 attended.