

Scenic Foothills Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 2011

President Mark Hill called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Twenty-five people attended the meeting; 22 signed in. January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the council.

Foothills Storage Update: Daniel Clift from Spreng Associates, the architectural design firm involved in redeveloping the site, brought a drawing of the proposed facility at 36th Avenue and Muldoon Road. He was accompanied by Kristina Elliott, daughter of ArctiCorp owner Joe Fuller; she currently resides at the site. Drawings are posted on [Foothills 36th and Muldoon on Facebook.com](#). The drawing showed three construction phases: Phase 1 (2011) is a two-story building along the western edge of the property with access from Old Muldoon Road. It is to be built into the hill in such a way that only the top story will be visible from Old Muldoon Road; it will be fenced and landscaped. A house there now will be removed. Phase 2 (planned for 2012) is a two-story building in the center of the property with storage facilities above and a restaurant and retail shops below. Phases 3 and 4 are long term and are not yet in the design stage.

Trees and landscaping are to be added along Muldoon Road. Drainage issues on the site are to be addressed by civil engineers at [Lounsbury & Associates](#). A turn lane along Muldoon Road is shown in the drawing. Harry Crawford asked about that and also said he did not want to see a package liquor store go in there. Phases 1 and 2 are being planned as a package. Clift was requested to return with engineers to answer questions about storm drainage and other issues. Roger Shaw asked what part of the approval process includes public input. With no re-zoning involved maybe just the platting board. Paul Honeman said he was focused on getting process with Alaska Department of Transportation clarified. Shaw said he wanted to see landscaping as soon as possible as the facility in the heart of Scenic Foothills is an eyesore now.

Alaska Waste: Alex Monterrosa introduced Craig Gales and Ashley Barney from the Alaska Waste marketing team. The 245-employee firm serves Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kodiak and the Kenai Peninsula with refuse service and recycling. They have pilot projects on curbside recycling, composting and biodiesel. They recycle cooking grease from restaurants to make biodiesel to run their garbage trucks with the goal to run all trucks on biodiesel. Harry Crawford said his pet peeve was trash blowing out of trucks. Gales acknowledged that there have been problems. Newer trucks are hydraulic; with older ones, if they don't recycle the compactor every time, trash can blow out. Trucks that take roll-on cans are the worst. Auto tarps are not as good as lids. It's not perfect. Bill Miernyk asked about a place to call on big items dumped on the roadside. Yes, you can call in to get special pickups for items such as furniture, appliances, hot water heaters, etc. for charges arounds \$5 or \$10. Yes, call if you see a truck "leaking" trash. They have a SWAT team.

Composting is only for commercial sources now. Glass recycling isn't available now. The nation is glutted with glass. Bottle bill states find glass very expensive to process. You have to crush it, burn off the glue, then screen and there's not much market for it. It accumulates at 150 tons in four weeks. Cathy Carte asked about bear-proof container problem and was told that the answer she had gotten on a defective can was wrong, that she should call again and they would fix it or swap it out. Same with a tipper cart – if a lid won't close, driver should report it to dispatch to get it swapped out; if it isn't happening, call. Miernyk asked about getting the Municipality out of the trash business and Gales said they wouldn't be opposed to taking over, but they probably couldn't take over the landfill as it is an MOA revenue producer.

Monterrosa asked what affects rates? Rates are regulated by RCA, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska. There is a rate case every two years to work it out between Alaska Waste and RCA. Curbside recycling started two years ago and has grown to be available to almost everybody as an opportunity but they haven't run campaigns yet to get customers. They can recycle newspapers, magazines, mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans and plastic bottles. They can be comingled in the same container. They bale everything together here and ship it to Renwick, WA, where the bales are broken apart and sorted by hand. (Alaska Waste does not run the Smurfit-Stone recycling center at 6161 Rosewood Street; they ship their separated recyclables to Seattle.) We still recycle only 17% of what we could recycle.

Federation of Community Councils: SFCC representative Lynda Billmyer reported that the Anchorage Long Range Transportation Plan for 2035 is now in the beginning stages. The [Neighborhoods USA Conference](#) (NUSA 2011, May 25-28) at the Egan Center is coming along, with registration booklets to be printed in the next week. Download the [full catalog in pdf format here](#). You can sign up for five workshop sessions out of 40 workshops offered. [Registration info is here](#). Cost is \$200 before April 15th and \$350 after. Birmingham, Alabama, is bringing 190 conferees and is looking into chartering a plane. She urged interested residents to sign up now.

Schools: Alex Monterrosa met with Principal Jeanne Fischer at Begich Middle School about a community council relationship with the school. She said it was important that community residents have a physical presence at the schools. Vandalism occurs at all times and it is important to have residents concerned about how schools are used and abused to observe, assess and report. You don't have to have a child enrolled there to do this. When she sees skateboarding that's inappropriate, she reminds the skateboarders that cameras are all around and they will be identified whether she knows them or not. The school needs more bear-proof trash containers – four is not enough for 1,039 students, including about 39 that do not live in the district. Graffiti and trash occur on the bridge over Chester Creek. Vandalism includes graffiti and garbage. Resident hosts in an RV in front of the school were happy; those in back were unhappy, due to partying behind the school. There are plans to construct a wind turbine at Begich to supply electricity for a greenhouse and compost garbage from the cafeteria. They are building a hangar for four airplanes to learn aircraft fixing. The next school Monterrosa plans to contact is Wendler Middle School. Mark Hill asked whether we could work with the schools to get community council messages out to residents through sending handouts home with students.

Alaska House of Representatives: a telecommunications hookup with Rep. Lance Pruitt did not work but he was able to relay a message via a cell phone call this time; it is expected that the telephone glitch will be fixed by March. Rep. Pruitt said he had signed on as a sponsor of a crime bill to oppose synthetic marijuana (sometimes called “K2” or “Spice.”) He urged everyone to go to a Public Safety Meeting from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, February 12, at Begich Middle School. He said Anchorage Police, Troopers, and AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid In Crisis) would be there. He also urged attendance at a District K Constituents' Meeting from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, February 12, at King Career Center, to meet with Senator Bettye Davis, Rep. Lance Pruitt and Rep. Sharon Cissna. He said if a choice had to be made between the meetings, go to the Safety Meeting; there will be another Constituent Meeting in mid-March.

Parks: Michele Pamer reported on the Little Dipper Park upgrade scheduled for Saturday, July 9, 2011. About 80 volunteers will be needed that day. There will be a picnic in the park after the work is done. Cost of the upgrade is estimated at \$52,755 and 25%-30% of the cost of new park equipment is handling and shipping, she said. Eagle Scout candidate Franklin Durr received a \$5,000 challenge grant from Anchorage Parks Foundation and will match the grant funds with equal value labor by volunteers to paint, shovel sand, remove brush, install signage, etc. Removal of split and hazardous trees will be done earlier by the Forestry division and will be paid for under a different budget.

Chugach Foothills Park is also slated to receive attention with removal of more trees and brush to improve visibility and safety. City Manager George Vakalis wants this to be done before motion detector lights are installed. He is not prepared to go forward with surveillance cameras at this time. It is important to do the trenching and cabling in such a way that trenching only needs to be done once, whether or not the cameras are connected immediately. Cathy Carte said lights won't help in the summer and that is when most of the damage from vandalism has been done. Mark Hill questioned effectiveness of cameras. Cathy Carte said cameras are used in three parks in Juneau. Attendee Jeremiah Stephen said cameras work for ABT (Anchorage Baptist Temple) and that British Petroleum and Alyeska Pipeline use surveillance cameras and they work.

Public Safety: Community patrol received \$13,500 last year and will need to spend the rest of it before it expires in June or re-categorize it. Paul Honeman and Will Theuer have begun patrols and Honeman will do a media piece to promote the patrols. They also intend to do some walking around and talking to people who live in the Scenic Foothills neighborhoods. Honeman has been meeting with other Community Patrol Captains monthly to compare notes.

Emergency Watch: Several attendees attended Emergency Watch sessions in January and there will be more training opportunities coming up, including Ham Radio and CPR training. Know your neighbors – in an emergency, there will be more need; neighbors will need to help each other and cannot rely on first responders to handle everything.

Streets & Other Capital Improvement Projects: Art Johnson has prepared a list of desired street projects. Harry Crawford pointed out that Totem Fields (three soccer fields behind Totem Theater) made it all the way through the legislative process last year and was vetoed by the governor. He wants to see it approved for completion this year.

Senator Bettye Davis's office: Richard Benevides reported that the first bill introduced this year benefits seniors who qualify by need; they are to receive \$250 per month, to replace the longevity bonus. He also said Capital Improvement Project requests need to be submitted now. The public has until February 11 to request CIP funds directly; he can still get requests made or adjusted until February 28 through his office. He also invited everyone to a District K constituent meeting from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, February 12, to meet with Senator Davis, Rep. Lance Pruitt and Rep. Sharon Cissna. He noted that District K has the best fed constituent meeting attendees in the city.

Anchorage Assembly: Paul Honeman reported that the Assembly had approved bonds to appear on the ballot for the April 5 Municipal Election. The School Board asked for \$100 million. Service High School needs to finish the re-build. A proposed municipal charter change designed to change city's tax cap wording failed and will not appear on the April 5th ballot. The change would have meant that using a windfall to reduce property taxes in one year would have lowered the tax cap for subsequent years. A proposal to make ID checks at package liquor stores mandatory will be on the April 5th ballot. A state law prohibits selling liquor to anyone with a red stripe on their driver's license or DMV photo ID card (which shows two or more DUI convictions), but there is no statewide requirement to check IDs. Some liquor stores do check but it's voluntary. Anchorage residents will be able to vote for (or against) the proposal in April.

Honeman also reported that the Municipality of Anchorage now appears to have about a \$20 million budget surplus. Fire and police force budgets were reduced unnecessarily, which means spending more on overtime and reducing firemen causes our insurance rates to go up. A popular library with paid up rent for two years was just closed.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Jerrienne Lowther reported a learning experience regarding "shelf life" of carbon monoxide detectors. According to firemen who have checked out malfunctioning alarms, including hers, the detectors don't last forever and should be replaced about every five years.

SFCC meeting was adjourned.