

## Scenic Foothills Community Council

### Meeting Minutes, Thursday, April 7, 2011

**Call to order:** President Mark Hill 7:02 p.m.

**March Meeting** Minutes approved

Vice President Cathy Carte introduced Boy Scout Troop 215, Tiger Cubs, first graders working on government elective badges.

Fire Station #14 has a mobile command vehicle available for mass disaster. Station #6 project located on Debarr Road and Patterson Road will begin this summer.

Claire Stockert, **Anchorage Public Library** Development Director, and David Libty, member of the library advisory board, shared with SFCC the library's 2011 State Capital Requests. Libty encouraged the council to share with legislatures what they would want from their local libraries. Stockert said that in Anchorage 60% of the population has a library card. The Anchorage libraries see 870,000 visitors each year. Stockert informed the council of the many resources the library has available to the public (online book rental renewal, online book holds, live homework help/tutors, online study guides and eBooks (Listen Alaska). Stockert said that for every tax \$1 = \$1.42-\$2.46 for the library. In 2006, the library initiated renewal of the Mountain View, Muldoon, Loussac Teen Center, Eagle River, and Girdwood Libraries. September 10, 2011, the Anchorage Loussac Library will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a community picnic.

The Anchorage Public Library is requesting \$5 Million for the Lousacc Library renewal and \$3.4 Million for improvements on the indoor book drop, collection enhancement, and technology upgrades. Stockert and Libty urged the community members to let legislatures know the importance of the library to them. One attendee questioned why their library card was invalidated last February. Stockert and Libty shared that the library purged its card database. Another attendee asked where funding comes from for live tutoring available online. Stockert said the state library budget provides for the public tutoring.

#### **32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Project**

Todd Jacobson, Project Manager for the Municipality of Anchorage, said 65% of the design for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue project is complete and 95% can be completed if a \$3 Million dollar grant is acquired in June 2011. If acquired, construction could begin as soon as August 2011. This would mean construction would start in 2011 but not be completed until 2012, two construction seasons. One attendee asked if one construction season would save the city money and Jacobson said that it would. Jerrienne Lowther expressed concerns shared by 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue residents for water drainage issues if the project is started in the fall 2011. Bill Miernyk suspected that the community would lose the money for 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue if the project is not started this year and Jacobson reassured the council that funds would be set aside and reserved for construction in 2012.

#### **Resolution 2011-02 of the Scenic Foothills Community Council**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE 32<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE UPGRADE—MULDOON ROAD TO BROOKRIDGE DRIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska may approve the appropriation 2011 capital grant monies to the Municipality of Anchorage to fully fund the completion of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Upgrade—Muldoon Road to Brookridge Drive;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Works Department, Project Management & Engineering Division, will have bid-ready design documents prepared at a date that will permit construction activities to commence by approximately August 15, 2011;

**WHEREAS**, the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Works Department, Project Management & Engineering Division, estimates the period to complete the construction activities to be One Hundred Fifty (150) days, thereby requiring major construction activities to extend into 2012;

Now, therefore, on April 7, 2011, the Scenic Foothills Community Council resolves that the construction of the subject project, assuming the availability of funds, be performed during one (1) construction season (2012) versus a portion of two (2) construction seasons (2011 and 2012).

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2011.

Resolution passed, 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

## **Senator Bettye Davis Updates**

Richard Benavides said that Senator Davis had two bills passed this year and nearly guarantees oil taxes will not pass this year. Senator Davis has been working on acquiring \$4.3 Million for 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave., \$1.4 Million for Cherry Street, and \$5 Million for Library projects for fiscal year capital projects. Senator Davis has helped work on acquiring funds for Scenic Park and Little Dipper Park's security cameras and lights. Richard Benavides responded to Harry Crawford's inquiry about funds for Totem Ball Fields and Benavides said funds were included for the ball field project.

## **Chugach Electric Association Election, Board Candidate Forum**

Harry Crawford said he is running for the CEA board because Anchorage needs energy options because gas is not going to get any cheaper. He wants to look at using natural and renewable options.

James Henderson said he would like to diversify electricity. He has had experience with pushing forth an experimental hydro-electric project in Girdwood on Crow Creek Road. He said clean energy is the way of the next century.

Janet Reiser, currently serving on the board, said CEA is a business that should provide reliable affordable energy to the people of Anchorage. She celebrates construction of the south Anchorage power plant that will save CEA \$30 Million. Reiser's two main concerns are for safety and risk management at CEA.

Doug Robbins, currently serving on the board, said he is committed to transition to renewable energy and in his own study has found that 50% of energy requirements could be supplemented by hydro-electric projects. He would like to continue working on long term planning, improving wholesale relations, financing needs, safety culture, and emergency planning.

Steve Pratt was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a letter to SFCC which was read by President Mark Hill. Steve Pratt is currently a professional economist and has served for Anchorage mayors. He is a member of the Consumer Energy Alliance. He can be contacted at 345-0032 or [voteforpratt@acsalaska.net](mailto:voteforpratt@acsalaska.net).

## **Candidate Q&A Forum**

Attendee asked candidates whether nuclear power is a viable option for South Central Alaska. Robbins responded that it is not and Reiser said it is a cooperative producer but not worth pursuing for Anchorage. Crawford said that nuclear power works well for large economies but nuclear power would provide more energy than necessary for South Central Alaska. Henderson shared that new smaller nuclear units can work well for rural areas.

Roger Shaw questioned Robbins on the cost effectiveness of large scale hydro-electric projects and whether these projects are self-sustaining and is the funding made by the state. Robbins said that Chakachamna project and Susitna hydro projects are estimated to cost \$.065KW/HR. The Chakachamna is estimated to supply 1/3 of the rail belt energy needs and the Susitna River project is estimated to provided 60% of rail belt needs and \$800 Million cheaper than Chakachamna.

Paul Honeman asked candidates what length they would go to explore long term energy options. Reiser says she spends her personal time studying options and assessing current options versus the future options. Reiser would like to keep both energy options open. Crawford would like to have a number of options and wants to pursue hydrogen renewable energy projects. Crawford mentioned geothermal projects, Mt. Spurr opportunities, Fire Island pilot project, and learning from the Bradley Lake power plant. Will Theuer encouraged board candidates to look to the eternal community, question who pays for the projects, and evaluate the fundamentals of economics. He said that hydro-electric projects pose many conditions and must be financially sensible. Robbins stated that it is a long road to transitioning to renewable energy and requires cooperation between utilities. Reiser stated that Bradley Lakes provides \$.04 KW/HR, cheapest energy on the railbelt currently. Reiser said the renewable projects are in their infancy. Henderson said that these projects must be broken down into layman's terms for the people of Alaska to understand.

Shaw asked candidates about coal gasification. Reiser responded that there is no clean coal or mining, but coal gasification is a viable option. Jacobson said all renewable energy projects in Alaska are in their infancy and wanted to know what a realistic estimate of a renewable project is in the next 20 years. Reiser responded that a dam project could be completed in 10-15 years and the Fire Island project could be completed in five years. Reiser said that due to the time of renewable energy being a viable option, Alaska must look at importing gas. Jacobson stated that renewable energy is a megaproject and Alaska has not completed

a megaproject since the 1980s. Robbins stated that the Fire Island project would provides 2% of Anchorage's energy needs and you have to get behind a renewable energy project. Robbins believes the Susitna River project is the most viable option.

Reiser concluded that energy is a business and we must address today's needs and our future needs. Reiser said not to expect reduced rates but that the board would do their best to keep rates as low as possible and move in a professional direction. Henderson concluded that he is for picking a renewable project and moving forward in that direction. Crawford desires to start a project and get going for the next generation of energy.

### **FCC Advisor Linda Billmyer**

Billmyer encouraged community participation in NUSA starting May 25-27, 2011. Registration costs \$200 and \$150 for early registration for Anchorage Residents. Cost includes four plus meals, museum entrance, Alaska Native Heritage entry, hearing speakers Martin Buser and Father Olexa, awards luncheon at the Egan Center and workshops (Community Building, Green Projects, Safety, Health and Recreation, Grass Roots, housing, grant writing etc.). Volunteers are also needed for shifts from 7am-11am, 11am-3pm, 3pm-7pm and/or 6pm-10pm. Scenic Foothills Community Patrol would like to fund a volunteer to attend the NUSA conference.

### **Assemblyman Paul Honeman**

Honeman said the school district budget passed. He reported that Mike Gutierrez brought forth an ordinance requiring background checks on all ice cream truck drivers.

Honeman reported on crime in the area, announced fire mitigation to occur this summer in the Stuckagain Height area and Brown Bag Lunch schedule April 15. Scenic Foothills Community Patrol is requesting a \$13,000 grant for next year and encouraged volunteers to come out on Friday and Saturday evenings to patrol the area.

Will Theuer proposed resolution volunteer and police services. Resolution passed, 12 in Favor, 0 Opposed.

### **Resolution 2011-03 of the Scenic Foothills Community Council**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY PATROL LEGISLATIVE FUNDING REQUEST**

**WHEREAS**, public safety in Scenic Foothills and our wider community is a continuing community concern.

**WHEREAS**, a community patrol can be one level of a tiered response and contribution to local knowledge.

**WHEREAS**, a patrol for our council needs resources to engage neighbors, public agencies and the coalition of community patrols.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, SFCC endorses our legislative request for financial support and further be it resolved we support a coordination of request with the coalition and VIPS program office in the Anchorage Police Department.

### **House Representative Lance Pruitt**

Pruitt reported that the State House is currently working on an operating capital budget, education initiatives, and SFCC projects. He said the energy bill was successful in the House and now has gone on to the Senate. He said SFCC to share their concerns.

Theuer asked Pruitt his thoughts on recent election results, especially the school bonds that did not pass. Pruitt said he is behind education and that the state gives money to ASD as well as other districts in the state.

Crawford asked Pruitt about progress made on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Project and Totem Ball fields. Pruitt said 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is the number one priority right now and his secondary focus is on schools in the SFCC area to make maintenance and technology improvements. Pruitt encouraged community members to call or e-mail him or stop by his office when he is in Anchorage.

Honeman moved to **adjourn meeting at 9:06 p.m.** and Miernyk seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn was passed.