

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2011

Call to order: President Mark Hill 7:04pm. (27 people signed in.)

May Meeting Minutes approved

Bill Miernyk commented that the RCA had increased phone bill costs from 1.6% to 9.6% – nearly \$10 per month. The Utilities Chair was asked to research the cause of the price increase.

June Sobocinski from **United Way of Anchorage** presented a bold goal for our community: 90% On-time Graduation by 2020. Sobocinski stated a 70% current rate of graduation. Studies have shown graduates produced over \$400,000 in a lifetime as well as being half as likely to commit a crime. Graduates are a public benefit and provide higher government revenues. **Anchorage United For Youth** (AUFY) is a group of 40 organizations gathered to provide mentors, after school programs, family help, school assistance, public communication, rallies, and volunteers to help reach a 90% on time graduation rate for Alaskan high school students. A rally will be held September 22 at Begich Middle school from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for AUFY. Sobocinski asked for volunteers and pledges to participate in the AUFY efforts.

Harry Crawford stated that early childhood education efforts and English as a second language training have proven results and would like to know if AUFY is advocating for them. Sobocinski said AUFY is making an effort to advocate on all levels. Sobocinski asked SFCC to make a difference on our streets by encouraging youth and getting to know them.

E 32nd Ave Water Upgrade Project, CRW Engineering Group

An engineer representing CRW shared with SFCC that trenchless technology will be used to upgrade an existing water pipe on East 32nd Ave off Baxter Road. The project will start in two to three weeks and should not affect the residents' water supply. The project will last 10 days to two weeks.

An attendee asked if this is the first time trenchless technology has been used in Anchorage. The engineer responded that this is the third project in Anchorage using this technology. Attendee Jake Moe enquired whether this project was mainly preventive maintenance and the CRW engineer confirmed that it was and would replace pipes placed in the 1970s. Mark Hill asked if the neighborhood had been informed and CRW ensured him that fliers announcing the project had been given to the homeowners.

Mural Project on E 36th Ave

Cindy Hill stated that graffiti has been an ongoing problem in the Anchorage community. She is proposing a student painted mural along the concrete wall from the corner of Patterson Road along East 36th Avenue. Hill said these murals have been shown to stop graffiti. This mural themed "Seasons of Scenic Park" would involve students at Scenic Park Elementary, allowing the children and community to take ownership of the area. Council members suggested using paint recycled by the municipality to reduce cost. Honeman suggested enquiring about donations from local building stores. An attending police officer volunteered to ensure safety during the mural project process.

Public Observer, Bill Miernyk commented that a letter had been sent to Phil Steyer enquiring on Chugach Electric Association replacing bushes that were planted years ago and now have died. Where? Miernyk has asked Harry Crawford to follow up with CEA as a serving board member.

FCC Advisor, Linda Billmyer was unable to attend the recent FCC meeting. President Hill commented that funds have been decreased for FCC thus cutting usage of FCC for mailings and copies.

Publicity/Communications Chair Jerrienne Lowther asked meeting attendees to provide email or mail address for SFCC communications. She said I Love Muldoon web site was planned.

Streets Chair Art Johnson thanked our representatives and senators for East 32nd Avenue upgrade funds. He said the design will be finished at the end of September and construction will start May 2012. Johnson suggested prioritizing projects to preserve the streets in SFCC area. Johnson also noted East 36th Avenue resurfacing was completed this summer and continues to vie for collector road upgrade for East 36th Avenue from Patterson Street to Muldoon Road.

Vice President, Cathy Carte stated that about 100 people attended the Scenic Foothills Community Picnic. She thanked the volunteers. Carte suggested beginning picnic planning for 2012 in January. Carte also informed SFCC that East 36th Avenue had been under repairs to connect city sewers for the Foothills Storage property.

Parks Chair Michele Pamer reported that SFCC parks did not undergo much vandalism this summer. She said motion detector lights will be placed before snowfall in Chugach Foothills Park. Next month, Troop 215 and the Eagle Scout who helped improve Little Dipper Park will be at the SFCC meeting. Pamer reported a woman had been attacked by a black bear off Creekside Drive near the Arnold L. Muldoon Fitness Park. Pamer also asked for recruits for the head of the Parks Committee and a volunteer for host/hostess duties at SFCC meetings. Every three years Parks and Recreation asks community members to grade Anchorage parks. Pamer asked SFCC to complete these Anchorage Park Report Cards and return them to either her or Parks and Recreation.

Fire Station 14

Firemen Marc Nokelby, Eric Taylor, and Tom James introduced themselves to SFCC. The firemen reminded community members to clean their dryer vents and also announced the "Fill the Boot" campaign will take place September 2. Mr. Taylor also told SFCC to bring children by the fire station for free bike helmets. Kevin Keene is the Station 14 Battalion Chief. Honeman asked about smoke in the Stuckagain Heights neighborhood. Nokelby said the fire department was working with the forestry department to clear brush for wildfire safety.

SFCC Leadership: Harry Crawford nominated Roger Shaw for the SFCC Vice President position. SFCC voted between Cathy Carte and Roger Shaw. The council selected Carte as Vice President. All elective positions will remain with the same officers.

Senator Bettye Davis announced that district lines will change in 2012. Attendee asked the senator her position on an in-state gas line. Davis encourages SFCC to contact their legislature with comments on a gas line. Honeman asked Senator Davis if she had any bills she was pre-filing. Davis stated that she will continue to work on her many bills from last year; one being the Denali Kid Care that was vetoed by Governor Parnell in the spring. A public hearing for Denali Kid Care will be held October 13. Miernyk asked what the DKC bill covered. David stated 1400 children and 300 pregnant women that are beyond qualifying for Medicaid are covered with DKC. Cindy Hill asked to clarify that DKC covered children, pregnant woman, and also termination of pregnancies. Carte said that DKC is something Alaska needs.

Other bills Senator Davis is working on include hate crimes, a mental health grievance, additional stanza to the Alaska Flag song, lupus, adding pre-kindergarten students to the school district, termination of the graduation exit exam, and increasing school dropout age to 18. Miernyk asked the senator her position on the exit exam. Davis said she'd like to see the district do away with the exam. Honeman thanked Senator Davis for acquiring funds for the community patrol.

Representative Lance Pruitt attended the NECC picnic, which adopted many of SFCC's ideas. He also thanked Wayland Baptist University and Lowther for the efforts to make the phone communication work while Pruitt was in Juneau. Pruitt announced an iPhone application so residents can follow legislative sessions. Serving on six committees, Pruitt's recent efforts have been with concerns for fiscal policies and fishing charter businesses. Pruitt said SEMCO will drill the first hole this week for a gas storage facility. Hearings will be held in Seward and Valdez and there will be a state caucus held by Peggy Wilson.

Honeman asked Pruitt about East 32nd Avenue upgrades. Pruitt said he covered the area with the DOT and construction will start May 2012. DOT also decided to resurface East 36th Avenue after this meeting. Crawford asked about funds for Totem Ball fields and Pruitt said he focused on the importance of education and road improvement in the area. Pamer stated a growing concern for Pioneer Drive improvements and water in the Chugach Foothills Park.

Assemblyman Adam Trombley said he is working on a color coded map for East Anchorage that could help SFCC with CIPs for the coming year. Trombley commented on Dick Traini's amendment to \$5,000 bail set for cab drivers charged with sexual assault to include loss of chauffeur's license. Trombley wonders if the amendment will pass legal muster. Attendee commented that when a teacher is accused of molestation, he/she is immediately removed from a classroom. Trombley serves on the Assembly Budget Advisory Commission and they are currently recommending a bond holiday to help pay down debt. Nineteen cents per tax dollar would go to debt service. The city currently has \$11.3 Billion of debt excluding utilities. Trombley said this recommendation will be voted upon September 30.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman reported on the Scenic Foothills Community Patrol. The SFCP has distributed brochures and is working on a volunteer coalition. A joint grant of \$80,000 has been obtained to purchase radios and portable cameras to monitor parks, schools and trailheads. Honeman serves on the Public Safety Committee and reminded SFCC of bear safety in Anchorage. Honeman presented a resolution to SFCC concerning a Traffic Calming Program to add speed humps to Upland Drive. SFCC unanimously approved the resolution. *(See copy below.) Honeman encouraged council members to attend the Brown Bag Lunch September 8 at 12 p.m. at the EOC.

Honeman co-sponsored Dick Traini's amendment for chauffeur license suspension when charged with sexual assault. He said this was in the interest of public safety. Honeman says he agrees with the governor to "Choose Respect." Suspension of the chauffeur license would occur until the crime was adjudicated. Honeman said the city budget will come out in October. Honeman suggested a fund balance without cutting services. He said a fire academy has just finished and a police academy will start this fall. Honeman stated that the current plumber and pipefitter contract will stand for AWWU employees until a hearing on November 4.

Honeman spoke with the city manager Vakalis about the motion lighting and camera monitoring of parks. Vakalis said he does not think the cameras should be placed because they cannot properly be monitored. Honeman said the cameras would record and could be reviewed remotely. The funding for their placement resides in the Parks Foundation and Honeman does not believe the project has been bid upon.

SFCC voted for Crawford to pay \$151.14 bill incurred for picnic costs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

* WHEREAS, there is a Traffic Calming Program within the Municipality of Anchorage – Traffic Engineering Department; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Traffic Calming Program a Resolution of the concerned areas Community Council is required; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Upland Drive have requested a traffic calming for their street due to continuous speeding vehicles, which presents a hazard to public safety and;

WHEREAS, Danny Seryico, a resident of Upland Drive spearheaded a house-by-house survey of the neighbors of Upland Drive; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the residents of Upland Drive signed the petition requesting that a traffic study be conducted, hoping for the installation of 'speed humps' or whatever appropriate traffic calming strategy be implemented; and

WHEREAS, The Municipality of Anchorage Traffic Calming Program requires that over 50% of the neighborhood residents sign a petition requesting and supporting a Traffic Study for traffic calming purposes;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scenic Foothills Community Council supports the request of the residents of Upland Drive in their efforts to achieve Traffic Calming upon their street, and that the Municipality of Anchorage – Traffic Engineering Department is requested to conduct a traffic study with the hopes of immediate remediation.

Approved by the Scenic Foothills Community Council at its regular meeting on September 1, 2011.

(signed) Mark Hill, President and Cathy Carte, Vice President.