

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Call to Order: President Mark Hill 7:09pm

September Meeting Minutes Approved

Eagle Scout Project: Little Dipper Park Upgrade

Vice President Cathy Carte introduced **Boy Scout Troop 215**. As a thank you for their work this summer on Little Dipper Park, SFCC has provided decorated cakes in appreciation. Representative Lance Pruitt thanked **Franklin Durr** for his ideas and implementation of the work on Little Dipper Park, his Eagle Scout project. Pruitt presented Durr with an Alaskan Flag flown over the state capital in honor of Durr's hard work. Senator Bettye Davis and Representative Pruitt gave Durr a letter of appreciation for his service. Pruitt presented Troop 215 with legislative pins for their service at Little Dipper Park. Carte reminded the community that other Scouts are looking for Eagle Scout project opportunities.

Anchorage School District Report for 2011-2012 by School Board Member Jeff Friedman

Friedman provided SFCC with pamphlets explaining the school board's vision and focusing the school budget on that vision. Friedman shared about the ASD's program "Response to Intervention" that evaluates students' educational weaknesses and strengths. This year the district will focus on reading and math. Friedman encouraged SFCC to participate in the Mayor's Education Summit. Friedman acknowledged United Way's efforts toward 90% on time graduation. Attendee Jake Moe inquired about the current status of the ASD math curriculum. Friedman said the school board is waiting for new standards to be set and then ASD will select new math texts. Selection should be completed early spring or fall 2012. Attendee Roger Shaw asked about Friedman's personal "wish list" that was in the ASD budget. Friedman favors summer school for credit recovery, enrichment and AP classes, and would like to help bridge the summer gap. An attendee asked how "managed instruction relates to innovation?" Friedman said having the same education material at every school ensures children who switch schools frequently through the year will receive the same education. President Hill asked about the process and timetable for a new ASD superintendent. Friedman said the board has been working on a new superintendent since June. A survey was conducted to inquire from ASD staff what was desired in a new superintendent. After screening and background checks, the position is expected to be filled by the end of January 2012. Richard Benavides asked if ASD is working with the Anchorage universities for career/technical vocational classes. Friedman said he knows ASD needs to work more comprehensively with the local universities.

Rep. Lance Pruitt

Pruitt reported on the Kenai gas storage facility. He expects the reservoir to be completed in late 2012 and believes it will help during peak winter months as well as provide more level gas production in Cook Inlet. With the transportation committee, Pruitt traveled via the Alaska Railroad to Seward to visit AVTEC facility, the marine ship simulator, and the culinary institute. He also took the Chenega fast ferry to Valdez to visit the terminal pipeline facility and on returning to Anchorage International Airport spent time at the cargo facility. This past month, Pruitt also visited San Diego to look at new dam technology that could be used in Alaska.

Pruitt shared with SFCC that funds were acquired to put a turf at East High School. Rep. Pruitt and Sen. Davis would like to see Bartlett High School receive funds for a football stadium since BHS holds the opportunity to be a community center. Crawford inquired whether the transportation committee has had discussion about the Mat Su ferry. Pruitt said that Southeast Alaska is interested in utilizing the ferry but that Anchorage would have to make that decision. One scout asked how the gas reservoir would affect the environment. Pruitt said the reservoir has been well studied and, because it has held gas previously, if the pressure is kept low the gas should not move forward.

Senator Bettye Davis

Davis discussed district lines changes. She encouraged SFCC to attend an October 13 meeting for Denali Kid Care. She would like to see her Denali Kid Care bill move from the Senate in January. She is also working on the Medicare Affordable Act. After attending a tourism meeting in Juneau, Davis would like to see more done for tourism in Alaska. Davis encouraged SFCC to gather Capital Improvement Project requests for the coming legislative session.

Legislative Aide Richard Benavides encouraged council to listen in on legislative session via the web or telephone. Benavides announced the opening of the Goose Creek Correctional Facility and 305 job openings in July 2012. Davis also attended a corrections summit exploring alternative programs and housing to prison time.

Roger Shaw will help SFCC to gather Capital Improvement Project requests (CIPs) for upcoming legislative session.

Treasurer Harry Crawford reported SFCC account balance of \$186.16.

Publicity Chair Jerriane Lowther reported work on weedcutting from E. 36th Ave. and Muldoon Rd. Lowther worked on the picnic publicity and park report cards.

President Mark Hill attended the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) meeting this past month. He reported three dozen councils present. Hill said the FCC budget is tight but FCC will provide periodic area-wide mailings for councils. Councils are continuing to find ways to encourage citizen involvement.

Parks Chair Michele Pamer thanked Troop 215 and announced an opportunity for scouts to remove trees and plant new ones next year as a community service project. Pamer said Graffiti Busters have commended SFCC for lack of graffiti in SFCC's parks. If they spot graffiti, people can call 343-GONE. Pamer asked SFCC for new Eagle Scout Project ideas.

Public Safety Chair and Assemblyman Paul Honeman reported that Scenic Foothills Community Patrol has logged 300 hours in the summer and provided assistance to the community during that time. He reminded SFCC to be mindful of graffiti in the area, to prepare vehicles for the winter months, to be cautious with cell phone usage on the road, to clean dryer vents, and to update batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Honeman encouraged community members to attend Emergency Watch Brown Bag lunches. SFCC meets the first Friday of every month at the Denny's on DeBarr Road. Pamer suggested community members take shifts in groups of two on Halloween night to ensure community safety. Honeman said the patrol will be out to monitor the SFCC area as well.

Honeman reported that the Anchorage Budget 2012 has increased by 1-1/2%. Honeman said he wants to know where the extra money is going from last two years. He reports 14 new firemen and 30 to 32 new police officers will serve in Anchorage this year. Honeman updated the council on suspending a taxi cab driver's chauffeur license if he or she is indicted or arrested and charged with a sex crime. Forbes Magazine listed Anchorage as the fifth most dangerous city to live in. Honeman also reported the Citizens Academy is in week three of 12 weeks.

Andy Clary reported for **Assemblyman Adam Trombley**. He said \$85,000 has been set aside for the East Side District Plan. Assembly needs input from the community for this plan. Citizens can view the budget at www.munibudget.org.

President Hill reported his attendance to a Tidal Energy forum. He would like to see the speakers come to SFCC. Crawford commented on the potential for tidal energy from Fire Island. Ocean Renewable Power Company says tidal energy is 10 years behind where it could be. Alaska holds 90% of the USA's tidal energy.

Pamer asked for two more volunteers to place SFCC meeting announcement signs in the area on SFCC monthly meeting days.

Wayland Baptist University has been hit with graffiti. The university would like to see an increased awareness in the community.

Dawn Groth encouraged the council to make the SFCC Facebook page more interactive by allowing the public to post on the page and extending its reach to more than its current 40-60 Facebook friends.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00pm.