

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Call to Order: President Mark Hill 7:11 p.m.

November Meeting Minutes Approved

Monty Worthington, Director of Project Development for Ocean Renewable Power Company, spoke to SFCC about Tidal Energy in Alaska. Worthington stated that Cook Inlet has the fourth largest tidal range in the world and second largest in North America. Hydrokinetic energy turbines have been around for five to ten years and over a hundred companies are designing them around the world. The Beta turbine puts out 60 Kilowatts, BetaTid Gen 150 Kilowatts, and OCGen 600 Kilowatts. These power systems sit forty feet below the water surface without interfering ships and ice flow.

ORPC has two projects currently in Alaska. The Fire Island project requires a power cable to be connected to the rail belt and the Nikiski project can connect directly to the rail belt. Harry Crawford asked Worthington how much energy the Fire Island project generates and the cost per megawatt. Worthington said Fire Island produces three megawatts per hour and estimates for tidal energy to be competitive its cost will range from ten to twelve cents per hour. Worthington stated environmental studies by the University of Maine have shown that the turbines have had no effect on marine life. The Nikiski project would provide 50% more energy than the Fire Island project and the energy would be sold to Homer Electric Association. Alaska has the opportunity to birth the tidal energy industry. One attendee asked how the power is transported from the turbines and what the maintenance schedule entails. Worthington said the power is produced from the bottom of the turbine and transported by cable to the surface. A current study at UAA will determine the needed maintenance of the turbines in Cook Inlet due to silt content.

Foothills Storage Construction Update, Serena Jones of Spreng and Associates Architectural Firm reported that the first floor of building one will be completed the second week in December. It has 24,000 square feet and heated units that are five by five feet and ten by thirty feet. The remaining upstairs is expected to be completed at the end of December. The retail building along Muldoon Road is currently in the design phase with 12,000 square feet and construction will begin in the fall of 2012. Two more buildings are planned to be added to the property as heated storage facilities in the future. Michelle Pamer expressed safety concerns for the driveway entrance off Muldoon Road into Foothills Storage. Alaska DOT has studied the driveway entrance and has not found it to be a safety concern.

Senator Bettie Davis's legislative aide Thomas Obermeyer asked SFCC for their CIPs. Obermeyer reported that Senator Davis is moving forward with her Denali Kid Care bill, preschool education bill, and health insurance bill to expand coverage of retirees' children. Davis is working with the Jason Flatt Foundation to spread awareness and prevention of teen suicide among educators.

Assemblyman Adam Trombley's aide Andy Clary reported that the 2012 Legislative Program passed the Assembly. Capital requests included \$1.8 Million for the Loussac Library, \$5 Million for the Sullivan Arena's parking and other funds for the Performing Arts Center, Ben Boeke, and Spenard and Fairview Recreation Centers. Requests pertaining to SFCC's area include \$2 Million for Pioneer Drive improvements and \$2.4 Million for Baxter Road.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman invited the community to attend December 6 and 13 assembly meetings. Eleven amendments have been made to the budget. Assembly is recommending reinstating full time staff for the Parks and Recreation Department. Assembly is looking to reroute Bus Route 9 to reach to the new Neighborhood Health Center (C St. & Tudor Road) in 2012. Honeman would like to see the sitting and lying down on downtown sidewalks law to be revoked. Honeman said he would like to see the port director resign due to lack of port project completion and no accountability. Anchorage port needs \$350 Million to complete the port design. Honeman stated that the Point Mackenzie port has the same port design and has been completed for \$11 Million.

Treasurer Harry Crawford reported \$498 in SFCC's budget. A Check will be given to Cathy Carte for \$151 to cover picnic expenses, leaving \$347 in SFCC's account.

Public Observer Bill Miernyk reported his appreciation of the blinking left hand turn light at Muldoon Road and Northern Lights Boulevard. He also would like to see progress on some of SFCC's trails such as James Drive to Scenic View Drive and Scenic Park trails leading to Scenic Park Elementary.

Parks Committee Chair Michele Pamer reported on NECC previous meeting with John Rodda. Centennial Park campground will remain park land and \$490,000 is needed to finish the park. The Muldoon Park Strip is being discussed by the city to divide the land into parkland, commercial land, and residential land. If a portion is commercialized the Campbell Creek will need to be rerouted. SFCC showed concern for salmon that use the stream if the creek is to be rerouted. Russian Jack will have a new urban designed playground like Westchester Lagoon's new playground. Pamer encouraged SFCC to attend a zoning and planning meeting December 5 at 6:30 p.m. with regard to expanding the Anchorage Rescue Mission.

House Representative Lance Pruitt complimented SFCC on CIP projects for Pioneer Drive and Baxter Road. Pruitt reported that turf project for Bartlett High School could save the ASD \$150,000 every year by allowing for the state track meet to be held in Anchorage rather than Fairbanks. Pruitt also reported that Begich Middle School is having its first year of the Chinese Immersion Program as students move from Scenic Park Elementary Chinese Immersion Program.

Pruitt will hold a constituent meeting at Begich Middle School on Saturday, January 7, from 10 a.m.-noon. One attendee questioned Pruitt on the transportation of fuel from Nikiski to North Slope, thus increasing diesel cost to \$6-7/gallon. Pruitt said that Alaska was planning on building a fuel facility on the North Slope but ACES legislation removed facility plans. Same attendee stated that the North Slope needs an east to west road to develop the \$500 Million oil fields. Pruitt admitted that the DOT has been more focused on mining versus oil and gas in recent years. Attendee encouraged the state to tax Pebble Mine. He said that this land is state owned and taxation would quadruple the PFD. Attendee wants state representatives to talk about finances of projects and benefits to Alaska. Honeman expressed a desire for the state legislature to follow the constitution mandate of Alaska's resources. Pruitt shared about his experience in Iceland and their creation of jobs in the aluminum industry. Pruitt sees that Alaska can use resources and sell the excess to boost our economy.

Harry Crawford expressed concern for Pruitt's efforts in completing the Totem Ball Fields. Pruitt said the land for the fields is not in the same state it was in 2001. ASD is looking at building more charter schools to meet the needs in the district and the site for the fields is a possible option. Crawford stated that the land was transferred to park land years ago.

Public Safety Chair Paul Honeman reported that Brown Bag Lunch will be held December 9 at noon at the Emergency Operations Management office. This session will discuss Emergency Preparedness for Immobile Seniors. Honeman encouraged SFCC to check chimneys and dryer vents to prevent home fires. He also encouraged members to look out for symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) at this time of year.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:06 p.m.