

# Scenic Foothills Community Council

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2012

**Call to Order:** Vice President Catherine Carte, 7:06 p.m.

**House Representative Lance Pruitt** shared updates via a conference call. Pruitt said an ANWR bill is moving through the US Congress. A bill supporting military occupational training crossing into the civilian work force has passed the Alaska House of Representatives and is now in the Alaska Senate. The House energy committee moved for an additional five years for the renewable energy funding. This fund would continue to develop renewable energy in Alaska. An Anchorage Caucus meeting will be held February 18 at the Loussac Library at 10 a.m. Senator Bettye Davis is holding a constituent meeting February 25, location TBA. The renewable energy fund would request \$50 Million for five years.

**MOA Capital Program Manager Gary Jones** works for the Public Works Department, dealing with road and drainage projects. Each CIP project is determined by the city's needs and is typically proposed by the Mayor and then approved by the Assembly. Community councils can fill out surveys with project priorities and turn them in to the [Office of Management and Budget Department](#). Community members can write their elected officials to help them identify needed projects. Funds for CIP come from bonds, state funds, federal funds and mill levies.

[Community council surveys](#) are reviewed from March to May of a given year and CIP recommendations are sent to the current administration. In October, the CIPs are sent to the assembly and the assembly approves or disapproves of the CIP. Jones said 90% of CIPs get approved by the Mayor. Lynda Billmyer asked whether CIPs are always planned six years ahead and Jones said CIPs are constantly evolving; reprioritizing crucial needs and funding plans are key. Shaw requested that community council presidents be contacted prior to CIP survey distribution to help discuss CIP priorities and also work with community council presidents throughout CIP surveys process. Baxter Road repavement project, [East 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue](#) upgrades, Northern Lights Boulevard from Boniface Boulevard to Muldoon Road upgrades and street maintenance, [Pioneer Drive](#), and Pleasant Valley Subdivision design are approved CIPs in the SFCC area.

Alex Monterrosa asked when E 32nd Ave and Baxter Road projects will begin. Baxter Road will likely begin 2014 summer and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave construction should start this summer. Roger Shaw and Jake Moe asked why Baxter Road was placed on the CIP list, feeling other streets had higher priority needs. Jones said he had placed the street on the CIP list years ago when he lived in the area.

**Muldoon Town Square and Park Strip**, Roger Shaw shared that the assembly passed an acceptance to realign Chester Creek. Shaw shared concern that SFCC was not notified by our assembly members of this motion. Assemblyman Paul Honeman then asked for an extension to reconsider public testimony for the Chester Creek realignment. Shaw shared that SFCC is on record for showing support of the park strip to include the front properties. SFCC discussed this topic and concluded they would like our assembly representatives to show respect for the public process by notifying their community council when future issues arise. Shaw would also like SFCC to consider how the creek realignment fits into the use of the park and the development of the front properties. Jerrienne Lowther informed the council that the assembly will hold public hearings February 28 at 6 p.m. and on February 13, Planning and Zoning will hold public hearings for the Title 21 Rewrite.

**Alaska Botanical Gardens** has two CIP project requests and would like SFCC support. The first project is requesting \$375,000 to complete a Horticultural Work Center, with a research and propagation site. The second project asks for \$6,672,328 to build an Alaska Botanical Garden Visitor Center and Education Center. Harry Crawford made a motion that SFCC support ABG CIP projects and Monterrosa seconded the motion. One attendee asked if the facility is open in the winter, Lowther said there is currently no presence in the winter months at the gardens, but a Visitor Center would most likely allow winter openings. SFCC voted unanimously in support of ABG CIP projects.

**Updates:** The concrete mural art project along E. 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue is progressing. Dr. Bob Miller will now serve on the Street Committee in place of Art Johnson. The city is requesting workers for the April 3<sup>rd</sup> election; each worker will be paid \$9.50/hour.

**One Anchorage Campaign**, representative Jackie Buckley brought forth a resolution for SFCC to support the One Anchorage initiatives to provide gay and transgender Alaskans the same legal protections that we already provide to other persons in Anchorage in employment, financial practices, housing, and restaurants, department stores and other businesses. She said gay or transgender people can currently be removed from their apartments, fired from their jobs, and not hired because they appear gay or transgender. Monterrosa asked how it is determined that gays or transgender people are discriminated against. Buckley said that IdentityInc.org released documents in November recording cases where discrimination occurred. Buckley said there is currently no law against discrimination against gay or transgender or official documentation path to record these incidences. Monterrosa also asked how this initiatives passing will effect religious institutions. Buckley says that Title V exempts religious organizations and owner-occupied four-plexes and duplexes. Theuer stated that this initiative will help everyone to feel secure in their work and home. Buckley asked SFCC for three things, first to visit [oneanchorage.com](http://oneanchorage.com), second vote on April 3rd and lastly to adopt a resolution showing SFCC support of the initiative.

Will Theuer proposed a resolution of support; Shaw seconded the motion. Jake Moe asked for discussion and opposed the ?"" resolution based on different personal beliefs. Trombley expressed concern for basic property rights and personal protection with the One Anchorage initiative. Crawford encouraged people who were landlords to have proof of why they choose their tenants. SFCC voted on the resolution, seven were in favor, five opposed, and two abstained from voting.

**Assemblyman Adam Trombley** explained that when the municipality purchased land near the Muldoon Park Strip in 2008, realignment of Chester Creek was in the agreement. He said the public had seven to eight opportunities to share their testimony before the assembly and the last public hearing has been postponed until February 28. Crawford stated that community council members rely on their assembly members to communicate pertinent information. Trombley said that exempting widows of armed service personnel from property tax passed. Further discussion and plans are taking place to move the east side bus transit center from Muldoon Fred Meyer to Tikahtnu Commons.

**Community Patrol Officer** Will Theuer brought forth a resolution to receive legislative funds to become a member of the InfraGard Alliance, a member alliance working in concert with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which deals with computer security and gives member resources for cyber intelligence and helps protect from internet compromise. Benavides, Monterrosa, and Brynn Moe asked for clarification and more information with regard to the [InfraGard Alliance](http://InfraGardAlliance.com) membership. A motion was made to vote on the resolution to endorse legislative request TPS #55781, Alaskan Resilience: Critical infrastructure and key resources and request legislative representatives to fund this request ; seven voted in favor and all others abstained from voting.

**Treasurer Harry Crawford** reported an account balance of \$329.55 and savings account has \$530.00 balance.

**Assemblyman Paul Honeman** announced the end of the I/M testing on March 1, 2012. Fireworks usage at next New Year's Eve has been opposed. Anchorage Port Commission Meeting / Enterprise Oversight Committee will be held February 15 at 2pm.

**Utilities/Education Chair Alex Monterrosa** said a RCA representative will come to the SFCC meetings once he/she is hired. Monterrosa will be speaking in the 5th grade class rooms at Scenic Park and Baxter Elementary on community council functions. He would then like to invite student councils to attend SFCC meetings and share how SFCC can be involved at their schools.

**Senator Bettye Davis's** Legislative Aide Richard Benavides sends a newsletter out every Friday that will now be posting a community council of the week starting with SFCC. Roger Shaw requested that Davis's newsletter include encouraging people to attend SFCC's meetings and sign up for SFCC's newsletter.

**Jerrienne Lowther** reported (for Parks Chair Michele Pamer) that motion detector lights are being installed in the Chugach Foothills Park.

**FCC Advisor Linda Billmyer** encouraged the community's input for the Bartlett Turf, due to South Anchorage High's efforts for a turf were shut down because they did not have the community's involvement.

**Meeting adjourned** 9:15pm.