

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 5, 2012

Call to Order: Vice President 7:08 p.m.; March minutes were unanimously approved.

Begich Middle School Wind Turbine: Teacher Scott McKim and two students from Begich MS shared with SFCC about their recently installed wind turbine. Begich MS has used this wind turbine as an educational tool about renewable energy for their students. In an applied technology class, students learn about a turbine blade's angle, shape, and energy efficiency. Funds for the turbine project came from many local companies, ASD, and Begich MS's PTSA. Concerns many communities have with wind turbines are visual draw, property values (McKim stated studies show turbines increase property value), and death of birds. (McKim said two-story homes harm more birds than a wind turbine will in its lifetime.)

Harry Crawford asked about the turbine's efficiency at Begich MS. The students and McKim said the Begich MS turbine is mostly an educational tool, whereas Fire Island wind turbines will be 32-33% efficient. The wind turbine has not needed maintenance yet but the school will turn to companies that helped install the wind turbine when it does need upkeep. The Begich MS wind turbine provides enough energy to sustain about one average home's power needs.

East Anchorage District Plan: Roger Shaw and MOA Senior Planner Thede Tobish. A "Visioning Workshop" meeting will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. May 22 at Begich Middle School for the public to share problems and areas of improvement for east Anchorage with EADP consultants. Issues include high density in the Muldoon areas, highway connectivity, utilities, and access to schools and parks. The EADP has an advisory group that includes AWWU council, military, representatives from community councils, park representative, school district representative, real estate representatives, and youth activist. Richard Benavides asked if a public safety officer was currently involved in the EADP advisory group and currently there is not a safety officer involved.

Muldoon Town Square/Park Strip: Roger Shaw asked administration to extend time for federal grant for land use in Chester Creek realignment, thus not rushing through the planning stages. MOA plans for construction completion in 2014.

School Based Health Clinic Proposed for Begich Middle School, Principal Jeanne Fischer and Social Worker Tari O'Conner:

Fischer stated that 60-64% of Begich MS receive a reduced lunch cost, students have difficulty getting physicals for sports, families typically do not have a doctor and use ER more regularly for medical issues, thus effecting school attendance. O'Conner says that a School Based Health Clinic would provide three main services for Begich MS: immunizations, sports physicals, and minor healthcare for injury or illness. This care would require parents' signed permission. The clinic is put on by Christian Health Associates and is not funded by the ASD. School Based Health Centers have been shown to reduce absences, impact disciplinary issues, increase healthcare access, and help with educational participation. Their goal is to reduce ER visits, increase sport participation, and increase student health. In order for the clinic to begin, the school must support the health clinic, funding must be in place (grant from Rasmuson Foundation and the Mental Health Trust) and equipment and supplies in place.

Begich MS is the only site being considered currently; Clark Middle School already has an operating School Based Health Clinic. A Title I status for Begich MS would allow for educational and staff resources but not health care. Billmyer asked how this program would work with school nurses. O'Conner said the clinic would complement the school nurse and provide care above a nurse's licensed abilities. The goal at Begich MS is to have a doctor on site two to three hours for four days a week. The health clinic can bill for services if a child has insurance or is covered by Denali Kid Care or Medicaid.

Capital Improvement Projects Survey Process Review: Roger Shaw provided a list of CIPs for SFCC members to review and prioritize.

Senator Bettye Davis: Legislative Aide Richard Benavides shared that the capital budget is out of the senate and includes \$9.5 Billion. The senate is working on Port Bonds that include some bush projects. The senate is also working on funding for a Muldoon Road/Glenn Highway interchange bridge project and Pioneer Drive upgrades should be funded, if not vetoed by the governor. Senator Davis is also working on a bill to require kids to be in school from age 5-18 rather than previous requirements

of age 7-16. Benavides also reports that Kevin Meyer is working on a bill that deals with sentencing for persons that are affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Benavides expects the legislative session to conclude April 12 or 14 and begin a special session thereafter.

House Representative Lance Pruitt: Pruitt reports asking Mayor Sullivan to participate in planning for the Muldoon Town Square and development of a park in that area. Pruitt said there is not enough time for the house to review the bill for oil taxes at this time, but the governor will make the final decision. Pruitt reports that Senator McGuire has requested a \$250 Million state loan for power projects in Alaska. This would create a great opportunity for private and public corporations.

Assemblyman Adam Trombley: Trombley reported that a property value assessment ordinance introduced to the assembly would require avalanche, earthquake, and flooding to be included as natural disasters that would devalue the home for tax property purposes. Trombley said the issue for the recent election was the distribution of ballots to the polling locations. Trombley said he would report to SFCC on any movement for the Chester Creek realignment from MOA to allow for community members to be informed.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman: Aide Kristi Cada-Brown asked for any concerns from constituents for recent mayoral election. ACLU hotline number is 263-2015. Attorneys are doing a review of the election. SFCC members expressed concerns about ballot availability and counting machine issues. City hall will hold a meeting April 18 from 12-1 p.m. on the fluoridation of water.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 p.m.