

**Scenic Foothills Community Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Call to Order: President Alexander Monterrosa 7:00 p.m. January minutes approved. President introduced executive board.

Personal Initiative for Neighborhood Change: Kathleen Stevenson, former Scenic Foothills council member and park volunteer, Chugach Foothills resident 23 years, 1980-2003. The Council was dormant 15 years ago and things happened in our neighborhoods because no one was paying attention. I learned about capital improvement projects. We weren't getting anything because we weren't putting forward any projects we wanted to get done. We went around and took pictures of everything we wanted to get fixed. We learned that it takes 12 to 15 years to get things done IF they choose your project. It's very rewarding now to drive by and see the wall along Muldoon Road and various safety issues taken care of. One thing that hasn't been done is Pioneer Drive. Developer plowed down trees on both sides of road all the way to Resurrection Drive. Developer had permission to take down trees on south side where the condos were built but not on the north side ... and that's how we got Chugach Foothills Park. I wanted to come here tonight to thank those who have taken such good care of my neighborhood and encourage the rest of you.

State of Alaska Legislative Report, Rep. Lance Pruitt: Capital Improvement Projects, get information to Jenna Crouse for input into CAPSIS system. There will be a tighter capital budget this year. There will be an Anchorage Caucus meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, February 23, at Loussac Library in the Assembly Chambers.

Senator Anna Fairclough: at the end of the last session we expected to have a \$490 Million budget surplus but the price of oil and production both dropped so we have a \$410 Million revenue shortfall this year. We have money in savings but this is affecting conversation about a large capital budget. If next year's spending matched this year's spending there would be a \$920 Million deficit. We're OK on the operating budget but it will depend on capital budget what we take from savings. Senator Fairclough introduced two bills, on small procurement process and reauthorization of Alaska Suicide Prevention Council (with Rep. Berta Gardner). There will be a District 25 Town Hall Meeting with Rep. Pruitt from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, February 16, at Wayland Baptist University. In response to Harry Crawford question: revenue shortfall is before Governor Parnell's oil tax cuts. Crawford expressed concern for \$25 Million Anchorage School District cuts this year and similar cuts for the next four years due to shortfalls in state funding. What is the plan? How do we turn this around and fund education so we do not have drastic cuts to the Anchorage School District in educating our kids? Senator Fairclough: Everyone is looking toward being able to fund education. Senator Fairclough then asked that, at some point in the [near] future, we try to prioritize SFCC's capital budget requests. President Monterrosa said we would do this.

Karen Ferguson, Program Director/State Refugee Coordinator, presented her perspective regarding Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services in the Municipality of Anchorage. Catholic Social Services Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS) is the only state and federally funded resettlement program in Alaska. The primary goal of the program is to promote employment and self-sufficiency. Welcomes refugees, who are unable to return home or stay in country to which they fled. Third option: resettlement. US largest resettler in the world, more than all the other countries combined, up to 70,000-80,000 a year since 9-11, out of 12-14 million waiting a long time in refugee camps – a drop in the bucket but it helps a lot. This is a different process than for regular immigrants coming to pursue education or economic opportunities. Refugees seek life, freedom and safety from persecution. About 1 in 500 accepted for resettlement. Sent to places where they have a relative, or other ways to support them linguistically and culturally for first five years, referrals and consultations after. Every year about 120 refugees (40-50 households) per year. Bhutan, Burma, Sudan, Somalia, mostly in Mountain View, Fairview, Muldoon for low rent and ESL and Catholic Social Services are close by. Support focuses on food, housing, education, employment so they can get started and become economically independent. Secondary migrants started somewhere else first; 90% employed within six months, more than 70% of adults within five years. They have a gardens project in Mountain View; they sell their produce in Farmers' Markets. They also have a Far North youth soccer team. Need donated household items, volunteers and employment for refugees.

Dan Gallego, Principal of Bartlett High School, on the status and preliminary conceptual design of the baseball, football, soccer and softball sports expansion project. Soccer-football field runs north-south. Unused hockey rink room for baseball-softball fields. Turf fields for football, soccer, baseball, softball. Also grass area, not turfed, for ski and running trails. Handicapped access, blacktop trail for wheelchair access. People will park in faculty parking lot to get closer to softball field

and student parking lot to get closer to football field. Funding \$3.5 Million to a private association works faster than through Anchorage School District. Muni approval is needed first, but they hope to start construction mid-May and by middle of August fields will be ready to go. They need five days of great weather in August. Bartlett H.S. will manage fields but American Legion Baseball Association will have access to the fields in the summertime.

Bike Skills Park and Pump Track proposed for East Anchorage, presented by Pedro Kim, Bicycle Advocacy Coordinator for Alaska Center for Environment with Nick Moe, ACE Sustainable Communities Coordinator. Made of dirt and clay, not concrete. It's a near level, closed circuit track, so you can ride around it continuously. Rollers are used to gain speed, with banked turns. Can be built in 1,000 square feet or 10,000, can be in a wooded area. Palmer is building one; Fairbanks has built one in a Lions Park, maintained by Parks & Recreation. Local kids came out to help build it and they feel a sense of "ownership" of "their" bike park. Fun for all ages, full body workout, builds skills and confidence on and off the bike. SFCC passed a resolution of support (12-0) of the Municipality's request for \$61,000 from the State to plan, select a site, design and construct a Bike Skills Park and Pump Track in Northeast Anchorage.

Arnold L. Muldoon Park The Council approved a resolution to support the Anchorage Park Foundation and Anchorage Parks & Recreation legislative request for \$43,000 [to replace fitness signs, fix and clean bollards, thin trees to improve visibility and minimize fire hazards, remove graffiti, install lighting, repave bike path, install bear proof trash bins and remove weeds].

North Bicentennial Park The Council approved a resolution to support the Anchorage Park Foundation and Anchorage Parks & Recreation legislative request for \$500,000 [for general improvements to the park and to move a section of the Rover's Run trail onto the ridge to help avoid bears].

Pioneer Drive: Robert Miller reported that the Pioneer Drive upgrade, Muldoon Road to Resurrection Drive, is up for legislative funding this year. The public meeting planned for February will be postponed until late March or April, per Dan Kirsch, PTS.

Assemblyman Adam Trombley said Title 21, public testimony is closed now, except for industrial zoning. Assembly work session for amendments February 22 [open to the public] and last session with final vote planned for February 26, if it can be done then. Trombley is working with Debbie Ossiander and Dick Traini on changes to Title 11, Taxicabs. There is a shortage of taxicabs, especially at bar closing hours. Under charter, Municipality can add up to 10 permits per year. Proposed special permits would allow taxicabs to take people home from bars after closing on Friday and Saturday only. Municipality could issue special permits to supplement Anchor Rides, also. JBER can authorize anyone to operate a cab on JBER property but those cabs cannot operate in the surrounding Municipality. Could permit a JBER taxicab to take a fare into the Municipality and back to JBER but not pick up additional fares in the Municipality. He is also working with Dick Traini on possibly modifying bar hours, allowing them to stay open until 5 but with no alcohol sales after 3 a.m.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman confirmed that Title 21 is open for written comments until February 12 but public hearings are done. You can still speak on non-agenda items at end of the meeting and Assembly still accepts input until there is actually a motion to adopt Title 21. School District funding: \$25 Million shortfall. The hope is that the Legislature will look at it and increase base student allocation, additional funding sources and gap or find other methods to fund education as a priority. First quarter budget revisions: when 2012 books are closed we'll see what's left; expected budget surplus of \$2-5 Million. Concern about Fire Service, one tanker not fully funded in budget we approved and fire on hillside or Basher where no hydrants takes every tanker in town; additional concern about lack of arson investigators. Arsons are climbing and spiking. Acting Fire Marshall 4-5 years. Wants to put surplus back into budget to restore cuts. They got money for academics but now need money for people. Fire Department and Police losing 12-20 people per year through attrition. You can't hire policemen on Friday and put them to work on Monday. It takes five months in classroom, three months on the street to get a policeman up to speed and 3-4 months for a fireman. Bar hours could stay open later under state law but they would still have to stop serving at the time set by the Municipality, which would give them a cooling down period to drink coffee, etc so more time for taxicabs to cycle back without putting them on the street. Taxicabs permits before city and borough were transferable; new permits are non-transferable, revert to Municipality; there is potential conflict here if we flood the market with non-transferable permits, which would drop value of transferable permits. We have serious challenges. Liquor licenses cost about \$250,000; taxicab licenses about \$200,000. Bar owners want more cabs; taxicab permit holders like things as they are.

Harry Crawford said he's very much opposed to leaving bars open until 5 a.m.; he remembers when they did. Honeman agreed that shootings and stabbings have spiked, quoted, "an unsupervised street party turns into a street brawl." We are sucking up all the police resources and sending them to one location. Give all the bills to the bars? Bars are responsible only when they are inside, not when they are out on the street. We are going to "sunset" this after a two year period, he said.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:17 p.m.

Three Resolutions Passed at the February 7, 2013 meeting:

130207-1: Arnold L. Muldoon Park

The Scenic Foothills Community Council hereby resolves:

That the proposed maintenance and repair project for Arnold L. Muldoon Park is a priority for our community and, as such, we fully support this project; and

The Scenic Foothills Community Council urges the Legislature to fully fund this project through appropriations.

Approved by the Scenic Foothills Community Council this 7th day of February, 2013.

Alexander Monterrosa, President

Attested: _____
Brynn Moe, secretary

130207-2: Far North Bicentennial Park

The Scenic Foothills Community Council hereby resolves:

That the proposed maintenance and repair project for Far North Bicentennial Park are deemed important; and

The Scenic Foothills Community Council urges the Legislature to fund this project through appropriations; and

The Scenic Foothills Community Council requests full details of the project and the costs of each upgrade or repair.

Approved by the Scenic Foothills Community Council this 7th day of February, 2013.

Alexander Monterrosa, President

Attested: _____
Brynn Moe, secretary

130207-3: Bike Skills Park and Pump Track

**Scenic Foothills Community Council
A Resolution**

Supporting the construction of a Northeast Anchorage Bike Skills Park and Pump Track and encouraging the State Legislature to fully fund the project.

WHEREAS, the Scenic Foothills Community Council fully supports providing safe, healthy activities for youth and their families in our community; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Anchorage would benefit from additional structured outdoor activities for youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Anchorage has several locations of excellent community space that could host a Bike Park; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Scenic Foothills are committed to increasing the quality of life and making it the best possible place to live and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Scenic Foothills are enthusiastic to partner with City of Anchorage Parks and Recreation, non-profits, and the Youth Employment in Parks, to build and maintain recreational opportunities in Northeast Anchorage for our residents; and

WHEREAS, this project would be the first pump track in Anchorage and would serve as a destination facility for cyclists Anchorage-wide, increasing economic activity in the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal budget request to the State legislature contains a request for \$61,000 for site location, design, and construction of a Bike Park and Pump Track, using the Youth Employment in Parks, in Northeast Anchorage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scenic Foothills Community Council fully supports the Northeast Anchorage Bike Skills Park and Pump Track and encourages the State Legislature to fund it as a Parks and Recreation budget request.

Approved by the Scenic Foothills Community Council this _____ day of February, 2013.

Alexander Monterrosa, President

Attested: _____

Brynn Moe, secretary