

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

October 3, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Alexander Monterrosa; Minutes approved.

President Monterrosa complimented our council on our open forum and the fact that we have respect for each other's concerns. We have big and small issues. All issues are to be respected. We provide a forum here in which individuals may come forward that we have a difference of opinion or philosophy with but the absolutely critical factor is that we always engage in positive dialog. Ultimately, the aim of the community council is to recognize what the issue is and find ways to address it, working cooperatively toward that and making compromises. This is the 35th year that this community council has existed. Our first concern is local issues. The second concern is areawide issues. All community councils have a cooperative relationship with government. They are not a branch or layer of government. We have to be sure what our mission is, what our goals are.

He said he plans the meeting agenda each month like a chef preparing a menu but he is not receiving any input. He would like to have more "menu" suggestions each month.

Joel Fuller, owner Foothills Storage: He was asked to give a status of the storage facility. A development was planned that would have contributed to the community, but it fell through. Another development is looking at a strip mall type business. This fall they will continue landscaping on 36th Avenue and attempt to raise the elevation a total of three feet to meet the building. This elevation change encompasses 8,400 feet and 600 feet of storm drain. They will not be able to remove the fence at this time. Tim Lind was introduced as the caretaker living on the property.

Question: What is the long term plan?

Answer: three years is the estimate. There are easement issues on 36th Avenue.

Question: Is he waiting for something to go up on the other side of Muldoon?

Answer: He says he is waiting for things to happen on the other side of town and give him finances.

Attendee suggested having Bartlett students paint a tree mural on the fence or something to make it less unattractive.

Joel says he has problems with the Municipality approving the height of the fence. They only allow eight feet and he has 13 feet.

President Monterrosa talked about how people step forward to help, based on their own interests to make a difference or change their quality of life. One such person is Ron Fink, who lives on Pioneer Drive and has concerns regarding the Pioneer Drive upgrade.

Ron Fink: Pioneer Drive updates: Two years ago and then last spring there was talk about upgrades on Pioneer Drive from Muldoon Road to Resurrection Drive. Dan Kirsch (PTS) is designing and overseeing the project. In October, active planning will begin again. They will hold at least a couple of meetings to inform neighbors of the scope. Some of the plans are as follows: street lighting, sidewalks on both sides of the street, sewer lines under and drainage to collect run off, considering narrowing it to slow traffic, pushing the street towards the

condos, considering eliminating off street parking, changing parking by pushing into the park in a curved fashion to make 25 spots along Pioneer, eliminate the flower garden down the middle of Pioneer and put the flower bed onto the edge of this parking area. The whole plan is still up in the air. Ron would like people to give their input at these upcoming meetings. So far, an informal poll of neighbors say:

On street parking, yes or no: “yes”

Rolled curb versus squared: rolled curb

Two sidewalks or one: about an equal split

Bob Miller: Road Resurfacing Reports: Scenic Park road upgrades this summer were good, with grinding the tops and resurfacing. They were done by a contractor.

Baxter Road contract is MOA Public Works. This is a 2014 project designed by CRW. They will be taking off the top surface and resurfacing.

Mao Tosi: Youth Center: Mao talked about the discussions to work on a community center for Muldoon. Mao talks about all of the mentors and that sports have been a big part of his life. His interest is in a facility to benefit the kids on this side of town and city wide. Mao is passionate about athletics but wants to have a facility that would also lead kids in the arts and other opportunities.

Carla Jo Fargo: Chugach Foothills Flooding: Since 2007, when the military cleared trees and leveled swales and berms and then replaced and repositioned the Bulldog Road culverts, there have been flooding issues. They have been in contact with military which lends pumps. Carla had a river in her yard this spring. She had four inches of water in their living area. The city stepped up to help out neighbors who have had significant flooding to their homes. Some are so bad they cannot get the repairs fully made before there is more damage. This problem stretches clear north to the Muldoon Elementary School area. Military and MOA have walked through the property to inspect damage.

Nothing was happening. Last week Alex and Carla met with Dept. of Public Works including Jerry Hanson and Mike McCally. MOA will hire a civil engineering firm to investigate the problem from Chugach Foothills to Muldoon Elementary School area. They will assess the problem, what can be done and what this will cost. Now it is costing a great deal of money for MOA to come each year and pump this water away. It is important that neighbors who are having problems are stepping forward so that the puzzle of this problem can be complete. Action on this might be two, three or four years. This may cost \$1.3 million. JBER is not taking responsibility, even though they passed out claim forms during the spring flooding. Mr. Monterrosa encourages residents to fill out the claim forms, so there is documentation.

This problem has gone through many community council leaders and Alex and is encouraged to act strongly and be diligent with JBER with the history of not listening to the community such as the fence issues from several years back

We have a new secretary for the community council: Karen Bronga.

Adam Trombley, Assemblyman: Talked about Bolin Street flooding issues. Anchorage roads and drainage system will have 5-10% added to help to sell that the city is willing to contribute to the fix.

Question: Can Indigo Furniture Going Out Of Business signs be removed?

Mr. Trombley says that he will ask about this and there should be code enforcement.

Participant reports that the Indigo owner was in an accident and is now in a wheelchair.

As for southside tennis facility, Assembly was never asked to vet this project. This court is an entirely new structure that will need maintenance so we're raising the costs of government. Ordinance to bifurcate the \$10 million tennis court money from the entire package and give it different legislative intent. Court money could be spent to pay off performing arts center or something like a youth center.

Question: Could the \$10 million be used for finishing project 80s?

Jerriane Lowther pointed out that East Anchorage does have a community center with Boys & Girls Club, wanted to know how Mao's possible youth center would be different.

Lance Pruitt, House Majority Leader: He has been hearing the Basher Road concerns and has encouraged them to work with other councils. He answered a previous question about reappropriation and says the \$10 million from the tennis facility could probably not be used to for Project 80s and probably will have to go back to the district it came from for other needed projects.

Sex crimes bill: People say that if you have a sex crime on your record, Alaska is the place to go. Legislature is interested in putting forward a bill to address this.

Gas tax issue question: The referendum might cause the gas issue (taxation) not to be addressed. Governor has to come up with a plan. Decoupling oil and gas tax issues might at some become at discussion topic. Attendee suggests more than oil and gas being in discussion but the education of students. Lance Pruitt attended the new ground breaking in \$50 million engineering building. The sports center will give more campus life. Aside from the university, Ketchikan is working on mariculture. Acidification of water is coming up in Puget Sound; it is threatening industry harvests and they are considering Alaska as an opportunity. Ship building is another possibility for growth in these areas.

Priorities: MOA gives a prioritized list of projects. It is good for councils to give their prioritized list.

Betty Davis, School Board: Scenic Foothills is one of the four councils she has been assigned to attend as a school board member. She encourages you to speak to the governor about things you see in the budget and what you want to see. Work together as a community to make our children have the best education they can get. New rating system, points 1-5. Military schools are all at 5, whereas Scenic Park has a 3 or 4. Military schools are the same population demographic as the rest of the east side and she wonders how they are getting 5 ratings. Government continues to fund lower than the funding formula that hasn't been changed since 2009.

Alex Monterrosa: Education committee report: He plans to visit Scenic Park and Baxter Elementary Schools.

Mark Hill: Emergency Preparedness: Mr. Hill reports that Neighborhood Crime Watch has no one answering phones. It has been reduced to a web site. Emergency watch has a new leader from the Mat-Su and she has turned back to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept. This is a return to something that was used years ago. Mr. Hill believes Community Patrol is too broad based.

Alex Monterrosa: Neighborhood Concerns: Bus shelters were brought up at the last meeting. Not only do we not have shelters, but there is not even anywhere to sit at many of our area stops, leading to someone chaining chairs to poles on Patterson Street. Steve Million talked about previous shelters being used for target practice.

Paul Honeman, Assembly: Has talked with People Mover about some sort of shelter. Previous shelters were literally used for target practice. Talking about adding them to a transit bond. This side of town doesn't ask for much and he wants East Anchorage to get what they need. We need to make sure schools are #1 and that the right thing is done with the money. Is it time for a seasonal sales tax? He said 55% of budget revenue comes from property taxes. ASD pays \$2.5 million for school resource officers and that has become a burden of the school district that, in Mr. Honeman's opinion, should be paid by APD.

December SFCC meeting will not be first Thursday of the month at Wayland as the room will be used for another purpose. The date and place will be announced a later time.

Meeting adjourned 9:05.