

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

February 6, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Alexander Monterrosa; Minutes approved after Roger Shaw made a correction to clarify that we are opposed to 16-year-olds voting.

President's notes: President Monterrosa thanked us for attending, being community servants and exercising civics. This is the 39th year of this council, thanks to volunteers.

New Business:

Ben Cogger, municipal code enforcer, spoke regarding rules on Group Living: Title 21. Group Living is divided into six groups:

- Assisted Living
- Community Residential System
- Habilitative Care Center
- Rooming House
- Severe Alcohol Dependency Housing
- Transitional Living Facility

Mr. Cogger brought rules/guidelines for each of these housing types. In general, these homes are protected by the Fair Housing Act.

Council member complained about two group homes on her *cul de sac* with employees parking on the street. This causes problems for residents. Mr. Cogger says this could be under Title 9 as an on-street parking issue. [E-mail Alex](#) and he'll move forward with concerns about on-street parking. There are many such homes in our neighborhoods.

Municipality of Anchorage Reports:

Adam Trombley, Assemblyman: Referendum date will be the November general election. There is talk of moving the April election to November in 2017, so it can be pushed to the general election, without extending current terms. Watch wetlands plan – they have made aerial photos of Anchorage and may find restrictions on private property. Old Alaska Greenhouse property will have remediation of the property this summer. After questions about whether two or three parcels were set aside for the park, Mr. Trombley said he wasn't sure but could add the third lot if it hasn't been done.

Dan Kirsch, Pioneer Drive Upgrade – project is fully funded with plans to start in June. He worked with Ron Fink as neighborhood representative and knows that his concern was on-street parking. This could not happen with the current plan. They will do their best to improve drainage and will rebuild the existing pathway to meet up with Muldoon pathway. Some highlights:

- expanded parking with 23 parking spots
- They will work with AWWU to reduce impact of doing water upgrades at the same time
- Pathway will be elevated over wet area at west end of the park
- New street lighting along Pioneer Drive to Resurrection Drive
- 5-foot paved path on south side

- 8-foot multi-use path on north and west
- Curb and gutter entire length. Square curbs are required; he hopes to blunt the edge
- Project cost is \$2 million
- Who will remove snow from paths? Municipality of Anchorage
- Possible warning light on Muldoon Road at Pioneer? This is a municipal project and Muldoon Road is a state road
- Acceleration lane to the North? No money for such amenities

Rodney Crum, Regulatory Commission of Alaska – the Commission regulates all public utilities and decides whether rates should be allowed to rise. If consumers have problems with a utility, Commission can mediate. He described complaint process. Go to utility first.

- Informal complaint
- Formal complaint

Lifeline, Link-Up can help with telephone utility bills for low income households (handout)
Energy tips of Alaska – ideas for lowering bills

Paul Honeman, Assemblyman: First Quarter Budget Revisions in process. He is concerned about the school resource officer program. This administration made the schools pay for these officers. Bill the schools for using parks, too. He does not agree with this. Part of the problem is the charter has limits on the mill rate, causing a budget shortfall.

Mat-Su Assembly and Anchorage Assembly held a joint meeting. Mat-Su is trying to motivate Alaska Railroad to run self-powered trains to alleviate Glenn Highway traffic. Anchorage noise ordinance does not extend to military. They are live firing for several days. Changes to community councils are still being looked at. If you are a business owner and live here you can't have two votes. He hears concerns that 16-year-olds don't pay taxes but hopes we form ways to have their voices be heard.

Is overtime for police basically a shell game? Agrees that we are paying more for less. Police have lost 60 people in the last two years and hired only 37 replacements.

Anchorage School District Report – Bettye Davis, School Board:

Reiterated the problems with School Resource Officers being paid by the School District. The reason for the budget shortfall is that the foundation formula has not been fully funded for the past four years.

Governor wants HB1 to take public funds to put into private schools. Vouchers don't work in the Lower 48. Private schools can reject students. Poor students won't be able to afford them, even with a stipend. Vote on this will be February 7th. It has already passed the senate side. If this passes, Parnell will add \$85 per student the first year and then \$58 the next two years. This does nothing to fill the gap – 50% of his increased funding would go to charter schools serving a small group of students. Out of 50 states, we are 47th in preschool education.

Legislative Reports:

Senator Fairclough, via teleconference (with very bad reception):

Repeal of high school exit exam

Overviews of Alaska Railroad changes

Concern on closure of Flint Hills

She was asked why school funding wasn't mentioned.

Senator Fairclough will co-host meeting with constituents February 15th from 1-3 p.m. at Wayland Baptist University, 7801 East 32nd Avenue.

Representative Lance Pruitt, via teleconference (with very bad reception):

Reiterated much of Senator Fairclough's comments

Gas line emphasis

John Rescobar, P.E. from AWWU: Water system upgrades along Resurrection Drive.

AWWU chose to upgrade due to water master plan indicating recent failures in water mains.

Working with Pioneer Drive Upgrade project so people will have access to their properties.

These affected properties will have new key boxes and water mains.

They will re-pave Resurrection Drive in the affected area and fix yards that are damaged.

Estimate 45-day project, possibly 7am-7pm schedule. Might work weekends to hurry project.

Fire hydrants will be fully operable throughout; they will have temporary water to houses.

Project uses PVC pipe, with small areas being opened at a time. No rate increase in relation to this project. More information: 564-2709; or e-mail John.Rescobar@awwu.biz

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.