

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

March 6, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice President Roger Shaw.

Vice President's notes: Minutes approval will be postponed to next meeting, since this is joint meeting with Basher Community Council. In an effort to welcome youth to our community council, we have invited several students to present tonight.

Youth Presentations:

Brian Durr, Eagle Scout Candidate (Bartlett student), Little Dipper Park Project

Brian got a \$6,000 matching challenge grant to start the funding for his project. He will build a viewing platform on the east side of the property by the creek. This project will be next summer. Was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies because of Class A wetlands. Will be fiberglass decking that will allow grass to grow through. He has also received leftover parks and recreation money (\$17,000) from a project in the park.

Motion to approve was brought forward and seconded

Chris Biro, Eagle Scout Candidate, Troop 214, Alaska Botanical Garden Project

His project is to replace steps by the north fork of the Campbell Creek. These steps are chemically treated and he will use natural cedar wood to make them more environmentally friendly. He will raise \$3,500 through fundraising in the spring. He hopes to do the project this summer. He is looking for cedar wood donations. The gardens have wanted this for years but have no funds to do this.

Brendan Gerdts, Bartlett student, Students with a Voice

There is a statewide movement to increase the Base Student Allocation. Students from all schools have come together and have gone to Juneau to talk with the Legislature. They have 800 "likes" on Facebook already. This group is also against the voucher program. Partnered with Great Alaskan Schools.

Baxter Road Reconstruction and Senate District M Projects, Jessica Smith (CRW

Engineering Group, LLC): Baxterroadrehab.com has a plan to look at. This is a three-phase project; work will proceed until there is not enough money to continue. PM&E: Bob Palmer.

Bond Propositions:

School District Bond Proposition 1, Bettye Davis (ASD School Board Liaison)

Approved by School Board and Assembly \$57.2 million. The package is 60-70% reimbursable by the state. Biggest project is for Airport Heights Elementary, but is for 19 schools. This money is just for capital improvements.

Municipality of Anchorage Ballot Propositions, Eric Gunderson (Anchorage Tomorrow)

Local, non-profit that champions bond measures. This year its bond choices are 3, 4 and 5. Bond Proposition 3 – \$5.55 million for Loussac Library stairs, Chester Creek's sports project parking and exits; Bond Proposition 4 – Parks and Recreation – \$2.55 million for Chester Creek greenbelt repaving, Kincaid Park chalet replacement of part of the roof. Proposition 5 – \$20.2 million for roads, drainage. Shaw listed the other propositions that are on the ballot.

Anchorage School Board Election Candidates

Seat D:

Don Smith – Wrote the tax cap. Speaks out on issues. BSA- Certain schools get football stadiums and such because people able to get grants. He doesn't agree with \$400 increase but thinks it needs to raise some and inflation proof. Would like to combine retirement programs.

Kameron Perez-Verdia – (Currently on the board). Born and raised in Alaska, parents in education, has children, works for United Way. Fiscal Conservative Realist. Thinks the time is now to invest in education. Increase computers and decrease administration. BSA – problem with \$18,000 per student. People think this is going to the classroom. This money is not getting to the classroom.

Seat C:

Liz Ross – mother of two. Ten years Dept. of Defense and in the National Guard. Worried about runaway budget. Expand charters. Contract out services like plumbers. Muni fund SRO. BSA was flat, so not inflation proofed.

Pat Higgins – (school board for 6 years) worked in public and private sector. Got involved because of the slow and steady approach. Very interested in career tech, math curriculum change. Thinks they will reach the 90% graduation rate for 2020. Would not change insurance. Would save on facilities management. Energy savings activities. BSA money used to hire teachers. Agrees with Berta Gardner proposal for \$400 increase; must forward fund it.

Dean Williams – Superintendent at McLaughlin Youth Center. Spearheaded a suspension school. Cut 1% from health insurance and cut paying SRO. Expand keeping kids in school. Drop outs are a cost to our community. BSA – for increase in it but also knows that budgets run out of control. Need to unwind ourselves from this spending.

Anchorage Assembly Election Candidates

Mao Tosi – Attended Bartlett and East. Has worked in youth programs to give back to our community. Looking to education, workforce development, and community revitalization.

Adam Trombley – Attended East. Kept taxes down, funding for community plan, sponsored bill to designate all 29 acres of the greenhouse property for park. Would like to see the transit center move to midtown.

Pete Petersen – 33 years in Alaska. Owned and operated a business. Has been a landlord. Served two terms State House. Energy committee for long-term state energy plan. Also on education and early development committee. Open door policy.

Assembly Reports:

Adam Trombley – unable to stay due to family emergency

Paul Honeman – Not in attendance

Legislative Reports:

Senator Fairclough – unable to connect the call

Rep. Lance Pruitt – unable to connect the call

Gave an opportunity to bring up neighborhood issues.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.