

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

October 2, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Roger Shaw, Acting President. The September 4 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Candidates Forum – Alaska House District 27 (Lance Pruitt, Matt Moore)

Matt Moore: has lived in the district for many years. Has been Basher Community Council President. Looking for a fully funded education system, which is inflation proofed. Focus on safety with well paid police officers. He will exercise fiscal responsibility by picking the best projects and choosing wisely. As a small business officer, he understands this.

Lance Pruitt: has represented community for last four years. House majority leader. Sits on a few key committees, including the judicial committee. This is a great committee because it really impacts people's lives. He worked on a bill to do some more background checks on the mentally ill purchasing guns. Has enjoyed the opportunity to interact in Juneau and do good things for our community. That is the culmination of a lot of work from the east side representatives. Has added to the BSA each year. It hasn't been as much as some wanted but he looks forward to more work. Pleasant Valley subdivision streets will be looked at and Campbell Airstrip is being studied. Another problem area is on State Street.

Question: How will you balance the budget with shrinking revenue?

Moore: not looking at cuts, but efficiency. Looking at resources that would bring money into the state coffers. We need a plan of where we need to go.

Pruitt: sponsored HB30 a bill for auditing all departments in state government. Looking for waste through audits and talking to those on the front lines. Looking for district to get caught up on roads and then move on to work on trails.

Candidates Forum – Alaska Senate District N (Cathy Giessel, Harry Crawford)

State Senator Cathy Giessel: grew up in Alaska, lives on the Hillside, has grandchildren. She is a nurse practitioner. Has worked with the homeless population at a shelter.

Harry Crawford: known by most of the council. Wants Alaska to be the same place he remembers when he came up the highway to work on the pipeline. He wants to get the economy on the move with the Gas Line.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROPOSITION NO. 1 (repeal of AO 37)

Vote "Yes" representatives were not able to attend. Sergeant Gerard Asselin from Anchorage Police Department gave his perspective on the repeal of AO37. He is advocating "No on 1." Collected 22,000 signatures to get this on the ballot. If AO 37 remains law it will be hard to get qualified candidates, as it would be a 20%-30% reduction in salaries. Police work has changed and he wants to keep the police department standards high. AO 37 puts decisions about their jobs in the hands of the politicians. We don't want low bidder when it comes to our community services.

Anchorage School Board Report – Kathleen Plunkett:

She came with more information on free meals. This is a Federal pilot program that is locked in for four years; 20 schools are [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) schools](#). The goal is to review every April and the idea is to try to keep this going.

Also shared the ASD Points of Pride. Newcomer's program for English Language Learners (ELL) program has gone away and tutors are now provided.

Budget dialogue this week – looking at losing 200 + positions a year for the next three years due to budget cuts. The cuts would add three more students to classrooms. At community budget meetings, there were lots of comments on not cutting highly gifted, gifted or special needs. It is more expensive to live in Anchorage and inflation keeps going up, which increases school costs. The BSA is not keeping pace.

Municipality of Anchorage Report:

Paul Honeman: applauds the revision on Community council bylaws to bring some consistency. The budget building season has begun. There will be a 1½% reduction in funding by departments. This will have impacts on city services. There is pretty much no theft department in APD at this time. City graduated two police academies recently.

Working on Chugach State Park Access Plan. There hasn't been a protocol to develop access to the Park. Basher has highest per capita access points to the park. The most controversial is at the top of Basher. There is a lot set aside for Nearpoint access, but it would be costly to put in parking, trash cans. Community members are very vocal about this proposed parking area's impact on them.

UBER, an online ride sharing service, has come to Anchorage. MOA working on guidelines.

Pete Petersen: At a budget meeting we were informed that there might even be a surplus in funds (instead of a deficit) this year. Tourism and building permits are up. Fewer folks are also on the city salary. Pete is on an Ad-Hoc committee looking into alcohol abuse. Costs for this have gone up markedly (17% in the last four years). Looking at solutions to this problem.

They are cleaning soil and working to realign Chester Creek at the old greenhouse property.

Bylaws Revisions:

Roger Shaw informed us that bylaw changes were mandated by the Anchorage Assembly for all community councils. Copies of our bylaws were given out to review prior to a vote at our November meeting. We have been acting under default bylaws. If anyone has questions or concerns about the proposed bylaws they should contact Roger Shaw directly.

Reports by SFCC Council Board:

Roger Shaw encouraged community members to attend a meeting at Marston Theater, sponsored by Alaskan Common Ground, for a discussion of the fiscal future of Alaska.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.