

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

March 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Roger Shaw. The February 5 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Alaska Legislative Report:

Representative Lance Pruitt called in on Skype. Final public testimony on operating budget is winding down. \$300 million has been cut. He has not seen legislation yet in the Finance committee. Capital budget has been very slimmed down with as much matching and federal funds as possible. He's not expecting much for our district, except possibly some for roads. Should be some revenue sharing. Due to the Ketchikan schools lawsuit, they are looking for solutions. They could choose to get rid of Base Student Allocation or re-analyze the formula.

Senator Cathy Giessel sent a newsletter with her views on expanding Medicaid, Capital Budget, gas pipeline and marijuana commercialization.

Anchorage School Board Candidates Forum:

Tam Agosti-Gisler, running for seat F, had a representative introduce her. She's running for second term. She taught school for 23 years.

David Nees, running for seat F, did not attend.

Kathleen Plunkett, running for re-election for seat E, had a representative, Michele Pamer, read her introduction. She's an accountant and has lived in Anchorage 50 years.

Derrick Slaughter, running for seat E, did not attend.

Starr Marsett, running for seat G, serves on four education committees, has substitute taught to learn about schools.

Elisa Snelling, running for seat G, is a life-long Alaskan who grew up in this area but lives in Eagle River now. She wants more charter schools.

Municipality of Anchorage Report:

Assemblyman Pete Peterson: If you're new to this area, register to vote soon (by March 8) to be eligible to vote in municipal elections April 7.

So far, the Assembly has passed a ban on public use of marijuana and banned making concentrates using butane. Uber is now charging for rides. They are working toward a memorandum of understanding but no agreement has been reached. Uber does not feel their drivers need to be drug tested.

Assembly has been working on first quarter budget adjustments, may find \$2 million surplus.

Park land should be dedicated, versus designated. If it is not dedicated it could be repurposed.

Assemblyman Paul Honeman added more information about the marijuana issue. He's concerned about commercialization of marijuana and thinking we should pass a resolution to opt out of the commercial end of this. He talked to us about "edibles" and the potency of marijuana today. He filled us in on some more Uber issues, including insurance, as well.

Anchorage Bond Propositions (in addition to school bond)

Prop. 2 – Emergency Medical Services, Public Safety, Public Transportation \$6.76 million

Prop. 3 – Facilities Bonds \$5.35 million

Prop. 4 – Parks and Recreation \$2.75 million

Prop. 5 – Anchorage roads and drainage bonds \$17.03 million

Basic information was available about propositions 3, 4 and 5 via [Anchorage Tomorrow](#) handout. Z.J. Loussac Library Director Mary Jo Torgeson, a Scenic Foothills resident, gave a pitch for Prop. 3, which includes \$850,000 for library's automated (book) handling system.

Scenic Foothills Trail Users Challenge Grant:

Tom Bronga presented on Phase 1 of the Northeast Connector trail. Scenic Foothills Trail Users are writing a Challenge Grant to make two bridges and boardwalk or gravel surface buildup through muddy areas from Klutina Street west towards Regal Mountain Estates. This would create a dry area for year-round use, which hopefully will be connected all the way to Campbell Airstrip Road, allowing access to the main trail system. Tom asked for a resolution to support the NE Connector. There was discussion on whether to support the full connector or just phase 1 and a decision was made to support the whole Northeast Connector. A resolution to support the Northeast Connector Project was put forward and passed. Roger Shaw will send a letter of support to the Scenic Foothills Trail Users group.

SFCC Bylaws Adoption:

Roger Shaw explained that we had been operating on default bylaws from the municipality. We have been working to rewrite these bylaws for our council. One of the biggest changes is to have people run for the executive board for 2-year terms. The executive board will elect its own officers. A motion was made to move version 7 of the bylaws forward for discussion; it was seconded. The changes to the bylaws passed unanimously after some discussion.

Vice President Forrest Dunbar update:

Forrest Dunbar was appointed by Alaska National Guard Adjutant General Laurie Hummel to rewrite the Alaska National Guard Code of Conduct and he will be in Juneau for the rest of the legislative session doing that. He hopes to conduct business with the Council via e-mail.

Public Comments and Neighborhood Concerns:

Jerriane Lowther: [Muldoon Farmers Market](#) organizational meetings will be the second Monday of each month at WBU. Markets to begin June 20 at a Muldoon Road location TBA. New Scenic Foothills website at scenicfoothills.org is easier to read and mobile-friendly; the old scenicfoothillsc.org website will continue as an archive site. [Nextdoor](#) invitations are on the table; 825 have signed up in Nextdoor Scenic Foothills and six nearby neighborhoods.

Les Sheppard will present information about a proposed tennis facility across Northern Lights Blvd. from Goose Lake Park at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.