

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

April 2, 2015

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

Alaska Legislative Report:

Representative Lance Pruitt called in on Skype. Senate was planning to kick out operating budget for review tomorrow, he said. Larger changes were differences in University, Public Education and Public Television funding. Marijuana commercialization legislation was to define some of the terms to assist municipalities in their enforcement. They are looking at ways to shrink the budget in the future, such as eliminating bond reimbursements.

Senator Cathy Giessel sent a newsletter with updates of her work in Juneau.

Anchorage School Board Report: Kathleen Plunkett was unable to attend.

Municipality of Anchorage Report: Paul Honeman was out of state, unable to attend.

Assemblyman Pete Peterson: Municipal election is next Tuesday. You can vote early at several locations. Anchorage budget has a \$3.1 million surplus. Car tax, hotel and building permit taxes were up. Looking at 1st quarter budget revisions. The Fire Department is \$400,000 over budget; all other departments are in line.

Mayor Sullivan is interested in selling Solid Waste Services. The Assembly thinks this needs more research. Administration is trying to get a new software program (SAP) for the Municipality up and running. They already have put \$40 million into it.

School Bonds update: Legislature is trying to get rid of reimbursement retroactively and take away the 60-70% reimbursement. This did not pass.

Boy Scout Troop 215 attended the meeting. They are working on a merit badge for Citizenship in the Community. They are going to community council and school board meetings and will then discuss their thoughts on the process.

Little Dipper Park: Eagle Scout Candidate Brian Durr updated us on his Eagle Scout project in the park. The winter put a pause on it. He still needs to add a bench on the back of the viewing platform. This platform and the railings were already completed.

Jamie Lang gave an update on recent vandalism at Little Dipper Park. There has been graffiti on the stop sign and at the park. There have been three fires. They burned down the twisting slide and tried to burn the picnic tables. On April 1st, they tried to light a walkway on fire. Neighbors have observed five middle school students that seem to be perpetrators. They were found and taken to their parents.

Tennis Structure – Les Sheppard was expected to introduce his idea for a tennis complex across Northern Lights Blvd. from Goose Lake. He did not attend the meeting.

Scenic Foothills Trail Users Challenge Grant:

Jamie Lang said the Scenic Foothills Trail Users Challenge Grant was fully funded and work will begin this summer. The trail will go from Klutina Street west to the Tudor Road area with bridges and a new route to keep people out of the mud and away from the mushing trail.

Nextdoor Scenic Foothills presentation

Albert Whitehead said he does not work for Nextdoor.com but he believes in it. His interest started when someone tried to break into his reindeer enclosure. He said he didn't know his neighbors well enough to communicate with them and he wanted to change that. He found the Nextdoor.com site in 2013 in some other cities. He now has more than 500 neighbors in his neighborhood. He demonstrated some of the features: Nextdoor can post agendas, poll neighbors, encourages getting to know your neighbors. There are also classifieds and crime reports. Using your real name is required on Nextdoor. His goal is neighbors, not strangers.

Anchorage Capital Improvement Projects

President Roger Shaw introduced a list of capital projects. Every year we are asked to prioritize projects for our area. Some of these proposed projects include:

Safe routes to schools

District M road rehabilitation

Chugach Foothills area drainage

Pleasant Valley Subdivision roads

Northeast trail connector

Road and drainage matching program

Perimeter trail

Muldoon Right turn lane at 36th

Upgrade of Patterson Street

Upgrades to Old Muldoon Road

Forest health and park safety

Far North Bicentennial Park improvements (one such project is the blue dot bridge)

Dog park site selection

SFCC Bylaws Adoption:

Bylaws were adopted by our council last month. The Ombudsman says there are a few issues that do not conform with their requirements. Some little word changes may need to be made.

Board Election will be at May meeting. Board members will serve 2-year terms, with half of the members to be elected each year, in accordance with the newly adopted bylaws.

Public Comments and Neighborhood Concerns:

Mark Hill's brush clearing crew to work in Arnold Muldoon Park the 4th Saturday of April.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.