

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

May 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Vice President Forrest Dunbar. The April 2 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Alaska Legislative Report:

Senator Cathy Giessel introduced Akis Gialopsos, her legislative aide. She handed out paperwork about the budget and the percentages that go to each agency in Alaska. More than half of the budget goes to Health and Human Services and K-12 Education.

Representative Lance Pruitt said the budget challenge is that we are \$3.2 billion to \$3.9 billion short. They are trying to figure out where the money will come from and how to fully fund this budget. Because of the shortfalls in the capital budget this year, there will be no new projects in the Scenic Foothills area. Some projects that were previously funded will continue. If Muldoon Town Square Park planning money is not used this year it will no longer be available for the park project.

Glenn-Muldoon overpass is being “federalized” with construction starting in 2016 or 2017.

Questions about education funding and “No Child Left Behind.”

Executive Board Election:

Mark Hill reiterated that the structure of the community council is being changed, so that a board is elected and the board elects its officers. Terms would be two years (with half of the board to be elected each year after this election).

Executive Board Nominations

The current board members were introduced. (Roger Shaw and Harry Crawford were out of town and did not attend the meeting.) Jamie Lang was nominated from the floor. Ballots were passed out and counted by Lance Pruitt and Paul Honeman.

Board members elected: Roger Shaw, Forrest Dunbar, Jerrienne Lowther, Harry Crawford, Karen Bronga, Bill Miernyk, Mark Hill. The board will elect its officers at board meeting.

Anchorage School Board Report: No school board members attended.

Bear Activity:

David Saalfeld and David Battle – area and regional biologists for Alaska Fish & Game Dept. Nextdoor.com and social media is a great way to get messages around to neighbors; ADF&G also need to be called. The bad side is traffic jams to gawk and look at the bears; 99% of bear issues are trash related. They appreciate neighbors hanging out door hangers and educating others. They provide educational materials. Bear resistant containers are very effective. Sometimes trucks break them, but bears do not generally get into them. They provide public service announcements and educational materials and knock on doors and talk to people.

Livestock is a huge attractant and electric fencing needs to be added. ADG&G only needs to know about brown bears sighted in town. They need to know about bears on a food source.

Brad Kilger, Alaska Waste, said new bear-proof cans are easier to operate. Cans are resistant and bears look for the ones that are easier. They are harder for pickup, as they must be loaded manually. Cans cost close to \$200. Alaska Waste only charges extra rental for the summer. They are given out first come, first served. There is really no way of knowing what is the exact pickup time for trash, but it should be pretty close each time.

JBER Recreational Access:

USAF Sergeant Mark Sledge reminded us that to be on JBER military land we must sign in to www.jber.isportsman.net. Permits now cost \$10 a year. This is to keep you safe, so you'll know if there's live firing. They are working on a new app to show you exactly where you are on the installation. You technically need two passes to enter the base: a visitor's pass from the gate and the isportsman pass. They will be giving out tickets as warnings and then they will bar recreation access for one year. If you are caught again, there will be criminal charges.

Municipality of Anchorage Report:

Pete Petersen was unable to attend. Paul Honeman: Mayoral election turnout was still less than 30%. Working on a vote by mail, which could help with turnout. Assembly might move the elections to November in 2017. Elections could go back to April if vote goes to mail. New mayor takes office July 1st.

Assembly is still trying to figure out whether UBER can provide local transportation.

4th Avenue Theatre: Peach Corporation wants the theater declared deteriorating property to get a tax break for 10 years. Then they will refurbish, adding a tower, 27 stories, and possibly a second tower. They would also take down the old Northern Lights Inn.

Parking considerations – think about that. First four or five levels will be parking, per the plans. Anchorage Community Development Corp. would help with loans. We would need more parking. It might fall to the city or state to deal with parking.

Bad news: SAP software program was purchased in 2011. It was supposed to cost \$9 million to implement. It was supposed to be an “off the shelf” program. The city is now \$30 million in with another \$10 million required. Plus needing \$21 more million.

Public Comments and Neighborhood Concerns:

Take the Capital Improvement Projects Survey to help set priorities for our area. Muldoon Town Square Park cleanup is May 9th. We're still seeing arson in Little Dipper park and now graffiti in Scenic Park. Police reports for vandalized municipal property can't be done online; they require photos on CD. Scenic Foothills Trail Users trail connector project's start date for work has been postponed until next summer. Tennis courts need resurfacing at Scenic Park.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.