

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

September 3, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Mark Hill. May Minutes approved.

Board update: Roger Shaw withdrew – he's on new mayor's transition team and off the board. Secretary Jamie Lang ran and is the new member on the board. Mark Hill, president; Forrest Dunbar, Vice President; Harry Crawford, treasurer; Bill Miernyk, Public Observer; Jerrienne Lowther, Publicity Chair, Karen Bronga.

Committees: committee structure starting again, as in the past. It gets more people involved. More exposure on different issues. Committee chairs were introduced. What role could you play? Are you especially interested in one thing, or a few? If so, please step up. Broad topics.

Communications/Publicity: Jerrienne Lowther. Want to know what's going on? Give us your current e-mail address and use the SFCC website: <http://scenicfoothills.org/> (<http://scenicfoothillsc.org/> is an archive only website now.) If you use the sign-in sheet, we will double check to make sure you're on the list. Also: Sign-in needs to be done for each meeting you attend because we will need to validate your eligibility to vote on elections to SFCC board in the future. There is no sharing of contact information.

Education: Dell Husted was introduced – he has been in this field for many years as a safety trainer and organizer. Pat Higgins, Anchorage School Board Member liaison, should be coming to these meetings.

Economy AKA Finance: Open Position w/ Mark Hill as interim chair. People that have a particular interest / skill / knowledge about this area please step forward. We've got to make a bunch of decisions economically.

Parks: Kevin Mader, Fireman at the airport, was present. We have five parks in our immediate area. Steve Rafuse, Chief Park Planner from Parks and Recreation, was present. Major goals: safety, cleanliness, etc.

Public Safety: Terry Saldana. Terry brings experience from FAA administration, has a son in law enforcement; the majority of her experience is in emergency preparedness, hurricanes, giving training, etc. She has lived here many years and can step forward and help with this area. She is open to hear about what's happened in the past.

SFCC Voting issue came up again: parties need to be around for meetings. We want to work on giving a complete presentation from both sides to make better decisions and have more information before the result/vote happens. To vote in board elections, you need to sign in and attend at least one prior meeting per year.

Transportation (a.k.a "streets"): Gretchen Day has experience working with DOT and when she lived on the Southside. Mass transit is one area we could start looking at to meet the needs of our growing community. Bike trails, Uber, etc. Now with Gretchen and the committee, they will help us be better informed about conditions in our area. Transportation: biking trails, bus system, walking, etc. are all part of transportation. Comments from Bill Crawford: Chugach Foothills roads are original from the early 1970s. When are they going to put in new roads? Why do we get no attention? Is there anything to get these streets repaved? Bill Crawford complained but refused to join the committee. Mark Hill noted that without volunteers we cannot get things done. We can demand all we want, but we need to work with what we have (money-wise) and with those who are able to help in the committee.

Utilities – Open Position. w/ Alex Monterrosa Acting Committee Chair: fuel is going up so utilities go up. We do have some say. We need to learn the mechanisms to be heard. We need a chair to dig in – it's complicated and will require a number of different areas. A lot of things will take a while to understand – we need to stay in

for the long haul. Comment: Harry Crawford discussed Cooper Lake which has taken 5-6 years to finish the Stetson Creek project, now online.

Special – established for a limited period of time to address a specific issue/concern. Organize and get educated about projects that are upcoming. We don't want to be sideswiped. Example: artillery range that did not happen.

Senator Cathy Giessel staffer Akis Gialopsos was here and explained the updated LNG project update – state team, governor's people, private stakeholders that needs input and involvement. Jerrienne will get updates for these impacts: roads, emergency services, etc. This is an opportunity for everybody to get their voices into the federal document.

Representative Lance Pruitt: budgetary process with legislature is finished. Everything is funded but some is coming from savings. What do we do going forward? Economy committee is very important. Many different veins of thought: where do we get revenue? Where do we make cuts? Special session discussion about gas lines. No matter what comes out of the special session, complex issues that need to be dealt with, etc. October discussion. Again, goes back to economy piece. Expenses and revenue is really the focus. No capital this year, none next year (e.g. roads). There is still money that we can use, about \$2 billion in grants that hasn't been put out on the streets. But new additional projects were not added in our district, actually in most districts. Much of it was matched via DOT funds. But a little more work will happen but not a lot. Some projects have increased in prices and then there were some contractor issues. Getting everything in order in terms of finances, we'll be trying to figure out how to finance projects. Medicaid discussion: bill not to go forward. Governor went forward. Challenge wasn't expansion of Medicaid – but whether it was a separation of power issue. Dollar reductions pretty much across the board. Jenna Crouse from Lance's staff was also here.

MOA Assembly (New Administration Changes) MOA Assemblyman Paul Honeman was absent.

MOA Assemblyman Pete Petersen: new department heads are being replaced. Lots of changes. \$11 million deficit. Regulatory commissions says that ML&P cannot give MOA \$7 million each year in dividends. Revenues are \$3.5 million ahead – which is a good since projection is less than we had expected. Looks like a balanced budget. First MOA vote by mail will be April 2017. Collecting info from OR and WA, some info from Salt Lake City, UT – turnout was 2X the regular turnout. Title 21 committee – community and development committee – cell phones and cell towers has not been looked at yet. Approval for Muldoon Town Square park 10:1! 28, almost 29, acres of park! Master plan is getting put together. Steve Rafuse is helping with that. Master plan will help us develop this park. It has been 20 years in the making. \$1.2 million: planning and moving dirt. Planting trees. Trails are going in and contractors are trying to finish everything up before snowfall.

Harry Crawford: new head of ML&P has been meeting with Chugach to cooperate and combine operations to save money. Cooperation in the future saves money. Efficiencies help save us all money.

Marcia Million: Wayland Baptist University is having an open house October 2 (Friday) from 11-4 with canned food drive, giving tours. (Come down – they have been a wonderful host. Great neighbor. They're great.)

East Anchorage Community Councils Coalition (Basher, NE, RJ, SF) – Mark Hill conversations between Basher CC, NECC, etc. He proposed that we work together better; Jerrienne has been working very closely with NECC. Let's think about a coalition for issues that affect multiple CCs. This will help us be more affective in the Muni and other areas.

SFCC Commercial Property Updates – Mark Hill – things of interest: Joel Fuller, one of the owners of Foothills Storage, has made some really great improvements lately and he's looking to sell but there are no commercial interests at this time, so they continue with storage. Totem Theatre is also waiting for somebody to buy them so both properties are going to change in the foreseeable future. Front runner is a Chevron gas station.

No deal yet. Restaurant? The door is open to make our recommendations. We could win by inviting others into our neighborhood. South Central Foundation: not interested. We don't have a lot of commercial space.

Michele Pamer: could Foothills Storage donate some space for a covered bus stop? Also: turn lane to avoid traffic accidents.

Capital Improvement Project requests are available to review on the MOA website <http://www.muni.org/departments/budget/pages/default.aspx> Take a look at that. We've often been behind on this issue and we need to stay on top of this. The Board of Directors could use some help for recommendations in this area.

Glenn-Muldoon interchange: moving along. Design is finished. www.glenmuldoon.com is a bit confusing. The animation is a bit clearer. Construction will start spring 2016 but they don't have funding at this time. Federalized money, Lance says the money is all on track. Go look at it! Keep an eye on it. Done by Fall 2017, Spring 2018 is probably more realistic.

East Anchorage District Plan has been approved. We are acting on it. "Muldoon Town Square Park." It's all in motion with the coalition of CCs. Planning phase is next. Steve Rafuse – Senior planner at Parks & Recreation with NECC. Master plan will help design how the park will look. Pretty much all park. \$1.5 million for park development. Less than \$100,000 on planning. SFCC should call or e-mail him if they'd like to provide Steve with any concerns or information about what you would like. Last week of September will be the first open house meeting. Everybody come out – give info. \$1 million grant to plan it expires next year.

Muldoon Farmer's Market. Forrest Dunbar: Four more markets left. About 30 vendors. Wildly successful. Next year will probably be again at Begich Middle School but will move to the Muldoon Town Square Park when it's finished. Times: 9-2 each Saturday through the end of September.

SFCC By-laws were changed. You must sign in at one prior meeting to be eligible to vote next spring (May).

Nextdoor: Jerriane Lowther: Nextdoor.com has 365 in Nextdoor Scenic Foothills now. Around 350 are not on SFCC list! National website; a large operation in our city with a lot of people involved. It gives us another way to get information out. Crime. Babysitters. Selling stuff, etc. It's a good connection. Neighborhoods are grouped along CC boundaries. Perfect way to send information – to get the word out on ways of keeping informed.

Group Housing/Assisted Living Facilities (ALF): big houses getting sold are sometimes becoming group homes for elderly care, etc. There are others who are not happy about these houses. Bill Crawford lives on Kushtaka. 8651 Kushtaka was going to house women prisoners. Zoning and Land Use Department. R1A: residential only. Single family homes. None of these are able to be in our neighborhood. Transitional living 12-14 little kids that play on that street. State Troopers have been around looking for a person of interest. Owner doesn't live there – she comes/goes. There are worried parents of young kids due to the criminal backgrounds – what's going on? Do they have permits to be an ALF? Second ALF on their street. There's no limit on ALFs on any street. Bill has been recommended for that special committee. Several complaints on the ALF; results are confidential.

Annexation: last year at Federation of Community Councils (FCC), University Area CC wants to give us area from Baxter to Boniface, about 1/3 the size of our CC moving West. They have a large trailer park: it's already being phased out. Condos. Single family homes. Commercial things: school district headquarters, charter school, gas station, a lot of similar area as ours. One reason we decided against this before: it's stepping across legislative boundaries. That would mean more "hot air" people to talk. Special Committee. Do we want to take this on? Or should we just let it die? Bill Miernyk: we should ask them if they want to be part of our SFCC area.

Michele: lights are working in all parks.

Signs: Michele Pamer: should we put the signs up every month? Do we want to continue to put signs up? Mark Hill: it has its place. It's a basic tool that still works. One sign per person to put it out. Michele is suggesting three people to do signs. After market: there are about eight signs to use. Tap people on the Tudor/Muldoon curve – invite them to our meetings. Mark: there are smaller groups that already have associations (condos).

Harry Crawford: requested vote on bills from Scenic Foothills picnic expenses. Approved for payment.

Mark Hill: we need to keep having social functions to get people involved.

Meeting Adjourned