

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

October 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by President Mark Hill.

SEPT 2015 MINUTES AMENDMENT: Roger Shaw: you can show up to vote on the day of the voting for general membership items; however, you need to show up to at least one prior meeting prior before voting for officers [board]. By-laws were changed May 2015.

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL: Special session 10/2015 x 30 days. Two items: gas reserves tax. Discussion of buying out Trans-Canada pipeline partnership we're in. Oil & gas working group re: taxes. Tax credits as well. Shell walking away: "that was extremely unfortunate" ... especially for the communities around there.

REP. LANCE PRUITT: budget aspects upcoming. Fire suppression will be requesting more money. Trying to fit everything into the Special Session. DNR issues will be major. We don't have to come out with any specific answers, but we will do our due diligence.

PAUL HONEMAN: Budget issues obviously continue. Fees, fines, taxes, etc. help fund the budget. Budget must balance by law. Adjustments will have to be made. Thoughts/ideas: please let us know. Massage therapist organization of licensed massage therapist discussion re: certification from the State now. We need to stay on top of these places that are causing problems. There are many good massage therapists and we are not looking at them. QUESTION: Street Maintenance did the Robin Street area: how much money did they save by not contracting the work out? Dickson was the only road dug out and the rest were not. HONEMAN: We would need to do apples-to-apples street comparisons but the funding came from another project that was too costly to work. Upcoming big issue: Ketchikan & Fairbanks school funding lawsuit will be important but that decision will not happen this year but could decrease tax payer burden for Anchorage.

PETE PETERSEN: \$5M extra for public safety; \$3.5M to police. Three police academies next year. They want 400 officers. Fire Department: they need more EMTs especially Fire Department 1 because of Brother Francis Shelter. Ordinance regarding cell towers is upcoming. The new computer program is on hold / "pause" to see what other options are out there; we'll be looking at other systems. MLP + Muni considering buying some of Conoco's leases in Cook Inlet. Mayor wants a 2% reduction from each department + fines being paid + increasing some fines. Tax bills will likely go up, but it's really too early to tell. Tax cap is going up but we've been collecting more revenue that we had not anticipated. Hotel bed tax is up 3%. Presidential visit: 20% occupancy of hotels and motels downtown probably made up for Glacier Conference increased security needs, so it's probably close to a wash. We'll get \$250K from the Feds as well. Cell towers: fall zone issue; no towers have fallen in Anchorage/Alaska and only in the Valley and it fell because a wire broke. Four classifications of cell towers. Federal Regulations must be followed, as well; 45% of Anchorage no longer have landlines and the trend continues to show that. More cell phones will need more capacity. If interested, the meetings are held Wednesdays @ 11:30 at Planning and Zoning. Tree looking towers are coming but the leaves don't fall off and might cause tower failure.

PAT HIGGINS, School Board liaison: Not present / in Fairbanks.

JERRIANNE LOWTHER: emails 500 newsletters every month, plus some 200 print newsletters. Communications: not only here, but also NECC. We are talking about expanding that even more with a coalition, so she has been going to all of their meetings for the last 5 years. We have more clout in a large group. Muldoon Town Square Park is a good example. Fort Richardson Fence. East Anchorage District Plan, etc. One missing piece: the business community. SFCC has virtually no businesses. NECC has a lot of businesses. We've been following what goes on over on the West side of Anchorage. Mark Butler, Federation of Community Councils has three community councils working together and have been successful. Jerrienne is now getting the businesses to work together to make a coalition: Muldoon Chamber of Commerce: muldoonalaska.biz; Facebook: Muldoon.Chamber.of.Commerce. We will involve the entire zip code of 99504. Newsletters and Constant Contact emails continue. Nextdoor.com analysis: we have 435 on Constant Contact and almost 400 on nextdoor.com but only 100 are on both lists. Of those 100, 36 did our survey of capital improvement. More effort in recruiting for nextdoor.com. Also keeps us in contact with adjacent neighborhoods, up to seven neighborhoods. Next move – cultivate more of nextdoor.com. Asking: Scenic Foothills Community Council to join Muldoon Chamber of Commerce. Approved.

DELL HUSTED, Education Committee Chair, update:

10/3/15 system outage. Online issues will be affected. 10/7/15 Walk to school day. Scenic Park has a lot of kids walking + staff members. Higher number of kids walking on the streets than usual. 10/15/15 Great Alaskan Shake Out at 10am – earthquake drill. Duck. Cover. Hold On. 10/16/15 No school. 10/17/15 Will Schneider: Archeology Day is coming up at UAA. 10/21/15: PTC. 20/20 Plan: attendance is big. Less than 2 absences per month per child. They want 90% of the students to graduate + reading, writing & arithmetic. 100% of the staff and children would be safe. Text regarding school issues: you must opt in list. Karen Bronga: SKORQ like a Fit bit. Motivates kids and staff to move.

KEVIN MADER, Parks Committee Chair, update:

He conveyed that he would like to get more input from committee members and efforts. Tightening of the belt, parks will be impacted.

TERRY SALDANA, Public Safety Committee Chair, not present.

GRETCHEN DAY, Transportation Committee Chair, Absent. Lois Hall, committee member, presented. Lois is working on capital improvement projects. State grant money for Capital Improvement Projects vs. bonding. Lots of issues regarding roads. Will continue to work on that. Pleasant Valley needs some focus. We need a better comprehensive picture: what neighborhood needs what? We have a lot of water drainage problems. Complaints along 36th Avenue gantlet and parking issues. Prioritize! Jerriane discussed projects completed and the length of time it took – some took 15 years! Gary Jones at Muni Public Works should be invited to come in.

JERRIANNE LOWTHER: University Annexation territory – because they were busy with UMED District Plan. They want us to take them off their hands because they're more in our CC. Survey sent to that area = same assembly district. Bringing them into our CC will bring in the entire 99504 zip code into NECC and SFCC; would be more efficient for NECC and SFCC coalition. We have 10,000 people in our CC. NE has 40,000 people. We have the largest active Constant Contact e-mail list. Jerriane thinks we should stretch a little and see if these people would like to join us with a survey. Mark Butler will help with the survey. CC Boundaries: Each CC originally set their own boundaries. Gaps were sucked up and planning adjusted. Roger Shaw: Every 10 years there's a census and the legislative districts may be redrawn. When the assembly reviewed/changed, there was a discussion about community council boundaries changing. Honeman: somewhat correct, but community councils can expand and retract boundaries as needed. A motion allowing for a survey was approved. Go ahead with the survey!

Second Muldoon Town Square Park meeting/workshop: 11/4/15 probably will be at Begich Middle School.

ROGER SHAW: Assembly required all community councils to pass new bylaws. SFCC adopted, sent to Muni clerk then Ombudsman and then he came back with issues. Should we disagree with him, we can have the Assembly Rules Committee review our concerns. Ombudsman concerns:

- Concerned our bylaws that there be regular status reports from the treasurer; our bylaws required an annual report. Status report is done as asked. Ombudsman was overly concerned.
- Portion of our bylaws that require prior attendance for voting is for our officers [board] only. We want our electorate to be informed and not stacking the deck.
- Officers [board members] must be residents and members of the community council. He believes it's against Muni law. Cannot be an officer of the Executive Board, specifically businesses. Non-resident business owners cannot sit on the officers group because we want the people who live here to be representing our neighborhood. Very similar to assembly elections.
 - We should take these concerns to the Assembly Rules committee.
 - Do not change the bylaws until the Assembly Rules Committee rules.
 - We would need to further change the bylaws if Assembly Rules Committee does not agree with us.
 - Roger will take this to the Assembly Rules Committee if the SFCC wants him to.
 - Motion approved.
 - Honeman abstained so he can vote from the Assembly end.

Muldoon Chamber of Commerce 99504. Jerriane moved that SFCC become a member of Muldoon Chamber of Commerce. Roger seconded it. Motion was passed. Jerriane will formally endorse and support the Chamber of Commerce.

BILL: Baxter School windows breakage wasn't vandalism but a weed whacker threw a rock and cracked a window and a kid that closed the door too hard shattered it.

UTILITIES: cost of fuel and availability of fuel. Read the handouts from your utility companies – Chugach recently sent one out. 2016 cost of gas that we will be using starts climbing and by 2022 a 44% increase in costs. In the past we could not store and hold gas, but now we can and so we don't have brownouts now. Get out there and find some oil. Creeping increases. Everything is increasing.

ASSISTED LIVING / GROUP HOMES: they are part of our community. Kushtaka needs to be looked into – and the records are well kept about the issues on that street. We will request a copy of their investigation of his concerns. He hasn't been able to get those answers from enforcement.

Meeting adjourned 9:09pm.