

# Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council

November 5, 2015

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 p.m. by President Mark Hill. October Minutes approved.

**Anchorage Police Representative (Officer Jones):** City is very short on police officers; actively recruiting. Trying to increase use of crime-mapping websites Raids Online <http://www.raidsonline.com> and Nixle <https://local.nixle.com/anchorage-police-department/> – it notifies users of missing people, road problems, etc. There is also an online reporting system for the police. There is information on community patrols, also.

## **Representative Reports – Alaska State Legislature:**

**Senator Cathy Giessel** not present. She sent a letter and Mark Hill read part of it. Special session just concluded was on the buyout of TransCanada and the costs this might incur.

**Representative Lance Pruitt** not present. Staffer Jenna Crouse read a note from Rep. Pruitt. House adjourned last night; they voted unanimously to buy out TransCanada. This gives Alaska a 25% share, puts us at the table.

**Anchorage Assembly: Assemblyman Paul Honeman** said Assembly is looking to bolster public safety with both police and fire. The numbers of public safety officers is low and there has been a spike in “Spice”-related emergency calls. Assembly looking at criminalizing Spice. Anchorage budget will go up a bit, which may make property taxes go up slightly. Will be looking at school budget later. Questions/concerns raised about Town Square bad elements. Answer: Good things are the change in vegetation in the park and that Covenant House is gone and a good business has replaced them in the space. Signs have gone up about decorum and more security. Questions: How is Spice getting here and could it be caught at the airport? Answer: some is from China.

**Assemblyman Pete Petersen** said Muni has introduced a new fine schedule for traffic and he has seen lots of complaints with people thinking that we are raising fines to balance the budget. Inflation had reduced the effect and fines needed to be raised to have the same deterring effect as before. You can testify at the budget hearing next Tuesday, November 10. Our budget is \$186,000 under the tax cap. We had a loss of \$11 million this year. There was a Muldoon Town Square Park meeting last night. Brainstormed ideas and prioritized. You can still add input by going to the Parks and Recreation website and taking the survey. Question: Is there basis behind deciding to enforce traffic laws more strictly? Have there been more accidents to spur this decision? Answer was not definitive. Question: Where is Title 21 (cell tower rules) in the process? Public is invited to participate; there is another meeting next week.

## **Old Business:**

**SFCC By-laws** Assembly Approval process is on hold. Assembly rules committee will take it up in December.

**Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map** is in process but is weeks behind schedule.

**UACC Annexation:** Jerrienne Lowther showed a map of the area we are considering annexing [Baxter Road to Boniface Pkwy]. She had learned that they are already included in the East Anchorage District Plan. UACC also has a NextDoor.com group. She is working on a survey to get their opinion about possibly joining our Council.

**Muldoon Chamber of Commerce:** Jerrienne Lowther said this is a way to create a larger coalition by having businesses from NECC, SFCC and the area we are considering annexing work together. Anyone can join; it’s not a legal entity yet; it’s an organizing committee and there are no dues. Go to the website to sign up for it: <http://muldoonalaska.biz> – the Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/Muldoon.Chamber.of.Commerce/> .

**Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan:** There was a planning meeting Wednesday, 11/4/15. There is a \$1 million legislative grant that expires the end of June so this park master plan process must move forward now.

**SFCC Park Users Maintenance Crew 2015 Report:** (Mark Hill) Miller's Reach fire started us thinking about the deadfall in Muldoon Park and the possibility for fire. Mark's crew has been working since 2005 to clear the park out. Now this park is complete and they are looking to possibly work near Baxter Bog to clear blown down cottonwood trees.

### **New Business:**

**Scenic Park Playground Naming:** Mark Hill has been working to find out the process of naming a park playground after one of our members. We will need to bring a resolution forward from our council in the near future.

### **Committee Updates and Presentations:**

**Transportation committee:** Gretchen Day ([gretchenday@hotmail.com](mailto:gretchenday@hotmail.com)), Chair of the SFCC Transportation Committee. is interested in pedestrian and alternative transportation. Tanya McPherson will be working on mass transportation and Lois Hall will be working on roads. The team is working on a database with information on who to call for problems and who is most helpful.

**Capital Improvement Projects Process:** Gary Jones, MOA Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator: Many needs for roads and drainage. Needs are identified by members of public. In March, new lists of needs of communities are publicized. We have had state grants for our district. This last year there was no money from the state. In May and June, a 6-year plan is made (this is the CIP list). CIP requests are reviewed internally. This list of projects is given to the Assembly and the public has a chance to comment. State grants are requested.

**Pleasant Valley subdivision:** We have \$400,000 to begin the process of project planning for Pleasant Valley. They are checking soils, planning drainage. It will be a \$15 million project and they are hoping to phase it.

Streets and storm drains were built in a hurry in the 70's and 80's. We are now paying for this. We have a local road rehab process, where we can just do the surface and not have to do the entire re-make. They targeted neighborhoods that had the most red flag areas to rehab. This area has gotten a good share of funds for roads.

He knows that Regal Mountain Drive/Chaimi Loop is very bad and it couldn't just be resurfaced. It will cost \$4 million. Since the state has no money, it won't be placed on the CIP at this time.

Another option for getting road work done is to form a Road Improvement District. This is where residents of an area agree to pay a portion of the job through special taxation. This is often too costly for neighborhoods.

In the CIP list, there is one line for traffic calming. They look for the most needy areas. School areas will rise to the top of the list.

### **Public Comments and Neighborhood Concerns:**

There was discussion on whether or not Legislative and Assembly reports should be each month. Decision was to limit them to 3-5 minutes each and perhaps have legislative representatives only report every other month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.