

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – November 3, 2016

Call to Order: President Roger Shaw. October Minutes approved as presented (later in the meeting).

Chinese immersion school program at Scenic Park Elementary: Shi Feng and Wendy Roberts, Chinese Immersion program teachers, brought some of their students to sing two songs in Chinese for us.

Anchorage refugee process: Clara Williams, Refugee Volunteer Coordinator

cwilliams@cssalaska.org / 907-222-7300 RAIS (Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services), gave a short program describing the refugee process in the U.S., how refugees are vetted, the refugees in Alaska, some of the reasons that they were awarded refugee status, and the challenges they face and answered questions about the refugees in our area. If interested in volunteering – e-mail Clara. Alaska receives about 125-140 refugees resettling to Alaska each year. 10 Staff member, 4 AmeriCorps, 300+ volunteers. Most clients settle in Anchorage – cheaper housing areas, Mountain View, DeBarr, Catholic Social Services = closer. Usually by year two the clients are super independent. Apply for green cards. Citizenship classes at year five; they don't have to, it's very difficult, but many do it.

Refugees: fleeing their nation – war, violence, etc. Immigrants: voluntarily move in search of opportunities Asylees: fleeing but have money to move themselves, internally displaced persons: stay within their nation; still fleeing from their original location but not leaving their borders. 19.5 million Refugees in the world right now; the US is the largest resettlement country in the world. 110,000 will come in this year. Less than 1% of refugees are resettled. How do they get to Anchorage, Alaska? 13 Simple Steps – can take up to 17 years! Usually get sent to places where there is already a community. Take into consideration about where it's going to be best to settle them. United Nations High Commission for refugees, US Department of State. US Dept. of Homeland Security. National Voluntary Agency: United States Council of Catholic Bishops; Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services (RAIS). Always looking for English tutors and volunteers in general. Welcome center is next to Costco on DeBarr Avenue. Fresh International Gardens growers brought in \$13,000 this past summer!

Legislative updates were postponed to the December meeting.

Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar: Another month of Muni budget talks. Two public hearings on the budget. Many work sessions. Cuts across the board except the police department. At least two more academies next year. Savings everywhere, including libraries. More cuts will be proposed. Park Bond: \$500,000 for the new park at Muldoon & DeBarr for developing the middle part of the park. Utilities are in. Next year: parking lot, trails, dog park. Jerriane is on the naming commission. Road bond: asking for \$500,000 move from West Anchorage to Pleasant Valley. Pressuring the administration. Doing it in stages. Engineering needs to be done first. Priority for Forrest and Pete. Pleasant Valley has THE WORST roads in our district. Taxi ordinance: current closed system, now Bill Evans would extend for five years, then open-based system. Government medallion is a huge monopoly. Next public hearing/rules 1pm tomorrow 11/4/16. Come and testify. This is separate from Uber, which has a state law regulation problem, something regarding workers' compensation. Drivers, Dispatchers, Medallion holders – all hate each other. Tax cap – we're going to the tax cap. Snowplowing will be more like 80-102 hours – state is reducing their plowing, so there's a TORA and the MUNI will plow more of the roads. Prioritizing schools. Safety issue: talk with Forrest/Pete/State. Road Bond package will be larger than normal because we need critical repairs. Tudor is a State road – State is doing less and not maintaining as much.

School Reports: (none available)

Memorial service for Cathy Carte will be 10 a.m. Saturday, November 5th, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Public Comments and Neighborhood Concerns:

Tanya McPherson: people mover transport [peoplesmover.org/transittalks](http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/PeopleMover/Pages/TransitTalks.aspx) <http://www.muni.org/Departments/transit/PeopleMover/Pages/TransitTalks.aspx> They want the public's input! Go review it. Lots of problems with people mover – employees, changes that need to happen, talking to the public, etc. Lots of problems using public transit/people mover.

Michelle: one SFCC roadside reminder sign was crunched on Pioneer Drive – now we're down to three.

Jerriane: community patrol/trail watch: anybody interested? Muldoon Chamber of Commerce – Mountain View wants in. Russian Jack maybe wants in. Airport Heights might be in, too. Maybe end up being like FCC ... Bill suggests talking to Bruce at Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. On hold, one more time. Last time.

December 8th is our next SFCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:13 p.m.