

# Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – September 7, 2017

Call to Order: President Jamie Lang, 7:00 p.m. May Minutes were approved as presented.

## Legislative Report:

**Senator Cathy Giessel:** Senate Bill 91 has flaws – there are two Senate bills to correct the flaws: SB 54 and SB 55. Passed legislation to stop giving oil companies cash. Eye care legislation – worked with Representative Ivy Spohnholz to get this passed. PFD earnings solutions to fix the budget, all agreed, just not on the details. The fourth special session has not been called yet, although the news agencies are saying it is time to go.

**Representative Lance Pruitt:** budget/finance discussions – reductions not accepted. SB91 voted no. Agrees there are many flaws and it needs to be corrected.

## Municipality of Anchorage Report:

**Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar:** Ordinance regarding names of public parks, etc. to require consideration of indigenous names has passed. Outlawed the sale of non-indigenous trees and plants in big box stores, passed. Vera Whole Health contract for Muni employees to save money on health care. Meeting 6:30 p.m. September 27, 2017, at the Permit Center, 4700 Elmore Road, to discuss new Health and Human Services building (Tudor Road at Elmore) and moving of the Anchorage School District bus barn next to Totem Theatre.

**Assemblyman Pete Petersen:** Phase 1 of the Pleasant Valley rebuild is at 35% design completion. Lawsuit of two police officers versus the Municipality of Anchorage: MOA lost and will need to pay out \$3 million. Vote by Mail will happen in municipal elections April 2018. Practice election December 2017 with Muni employees only. Anchorage Police Department is ramping up to 420-430 officers after this police academy and training gets completed. Storm Water research started two weeks ago.

## Anchorage Public Library Report:

Jim Curran, Muldoon Library: lots of internal updates; 10% decrease in budget for 2018 – huge loss for them.

## School Board Report:

Starr Marsett, ASD Board: test scores – lots of learning and changes with this first time test:

<http://www.adn.com/alaska-news/education/2017/09/01/more-than-half-of-alaskas-public-school-students-failed-to-meet-standards-on-2017-statewide-tests/>

There's no money, so they won't be throwing money at this issue. Classes are larger and will continue to grow. They're continuing to cut, but they're down to bare basics. If you have ideas, let them know!

## Scenic Foothills Community Council

Chugach Foothills Connector Trail Update: AMATS is Federal money so they need the connector trail to be ADA compliant. And they want to take about 2/3 of the money to redesign the entire trail. The money will probably go back to AMATS as this is nowhere near the amount needed to create the connection to the rest of the city now. Details are still being worked out though, so there could be future changes.

Jerrienne needs help with digging flower beds in median, Chugach Foothills Park parking lot. Updates on Spirit of Muldoon picnic, Chanshtnu Park. New bear resistant trash containers are being purchased for Scenic Foothills parks and more safety vests for volunteers to wear while walking their dogs through our parks, not to confront but to create a visible presence in parks, similar to what Trail Watch does on other Anchorage trails.

Trail Watch: training sign up available here: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/trail/Pages/default.aspx>  
Next training is 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 2, at Fairview Recreation Center in the multi-purpose room.

Catherine Carte Playground in Scenic Park: the Parks & Recreation Dept. intends to determine the price and time needed to furnish and install a bollard-type of sign. They will let us know as soon as it happens (updated August 2017). Pete Petersen and Forrest Dunbar (and Chris Shutte, Director of Economic & Community Development for the Municipality of Anchorage and Scenic Foothills neighbor) will investigate this.

Melissa Morse, Committee Chair for Chugach Foothills Park, explained that we have bond funds available to update worn and obsolete play equipment in the park.

There was a huge discussion about Anchorage School District moving 120 buses into our "backyard." Lots of really concerned people discussed traffic, odors, air pollution, houses losing value, etc. All very valid concerns. Robin Ward, Real Estate Director & Chief Housing Officer for the Municipality of Anchorage, had declined to present the "bus barn" plan for the land next to Totem Theatre at this meeting but agreed to do so in October.

Jamie Lang updated everybody on the new board and introduced the new officers.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: October 5, 2017**