

Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – October 5, 2017

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

President Jamie Lang introduced Mayor Ethan Berkowitz.

Mayor Berkowitz: Thank you for your feedback about the Bus Barn – the public process worked and we heard you. We are looking for a new home for the bus barn now and working with the school district to meet their needs. The bus barn is the last piece in a larger development project to replace the DHHS building downtown. The municipality issued a solicitation for proposals to replace the DHHS building and a residential development with a grocery store. They could build around bus barn but it is not ideal. Project leads to affordable housing.

Q – Why can't they [DHHS] lease vacant commercial space instead?

A – There is no current available space that suits the needs of the DHHS. This development is good for the local economy and will keep jobs here and fix affordable housing crisis.

Q – Why is it a private developer, and why does it need to be replaced? Keep the bus barn away from homes and schools!

A – The private developer replied to a call from the municipality for a proposal. The current DHHS building is dilapidated beyond repair.

Q – Rumor of new location at Tudor snow dump?

A – Not going to happen – there is a conservation easement there.

Q – The muni should have issued project notices to a larger region instead of the 500 feet for such a large project. Where were the SFCC meeting notices and mailers?

Q – Why do we have two bus systems?

A – Ask ASD [Anchorage School District].

Q – Does the developer have a [particular] grocery store in mind?

A – Yes

Q – All are in favor of affordable housing but need to change the process.

A – Send comments to Chris Schutte [Municipality's Director of Economic & Community Development]

Q – Lance Pruitt – Bus Barn was built in the late 80s – new locations are hard as they affect people who invested in the area. Do we have to move it?

Mayor Berkowitz – Thank you to all.

Jon Lang: I want to contradict one thing the mayor said – the public process did not work. We only knew about the proposed move because Lance [Pruitt] told us.

Mayor: Forrest Dunbar and Pete Petersen stood up for the neighborhood and they made a difference.

Jon – NECC was chosen as the official meeting but that meant they could not conduct their council business.

SFCC [Resolution To Oppose Moving the ASD Student Transportation Facility to Scenic Foothills](#) passed 21-1-1.

Legislative Report:

Representative Lance Pruitt: Thanks to all of you who pulled together against the bus barn's proposed new location. Going back to Juneau for special session. Two agenda items: 1. to talk about revenue – specifically payroll tax. 2. to discuss SB54 to fix some of SB91. SB91 was too big of a bill – SB54 will not be as all-encompassing. We will talk about re-absorption of criminals. I will come back in December to update you.

Q – finances A- This income tax is a political issue and doesn't address larger problem. Only \$300 million. Need to talk about permanent fund as part of budget fix.

Q – When can you shoot them? story about safety and crime.

A – SB54 will address break-ins but not trespassing. I have been listening to victims' rights representatives.

Q – Invite to AWAIC – Domestic Violence Action Month October 10th

Senator Cathy Giessel: Bus Barn issue could not be solved by us at the State. Had to clear that up. Upcoming session – two things Lance stated. Story of Crime. Trying to pass SB54. Must go through three committees – the house can change the bill. Magic bullet joke. Couple of good things in SB91. We should contact the leadership in the committees about how we want them to vote.

Q – bus barn traffic.

A – Ask Assemblymen.

Q – Trooper numbers are low because they are leaving to work other places.

A – More money in this year's budget for troopers and District Attorneys.

Crime is part of the opioid crisis - working hard. Marijuana – I am opposed because of effect on young brains. How much does marijuana cost this community? Drugs stories.

Municipality of Anchorage Report:

Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar: Forrest – Just received Mayor's preliminary budget. It includes reconstruction of Pleasant Valley roads. Please support the bond. It also includes Police and Fire Academies to offset attrition. \$500,000 for homelessness and \$500,000 for additional snow removal on state roads. Working to revise Joyriding statute from "knew" the car was stolen to "should have known." \$200,000 fund for property cleanup of derelict properties for code enforcement officers to use.

Assemblyman Pete Petersen: Special Assembly meeting on Saturday for SB91 hearing. Solid Waste Services will waive \$30 change-out fee for bear-resistant cans this spring. (This applies only to residents whose trash is collected by Solid Waste Services, not by Alaska Waste.) 2040 Land Use Plan approved. Scenic Park Playground sign in the works. Muni will start vote by mail in April – there will be Community Council visits by the committee. Proposed 10 cents per gallon gas tax would come in under the tax cap and would be used to reduce need for property taxes; out-of-towners who use the roads would contribute via the gas tax.

School Board Report:

Tam Agosti-Gisler, ASD Board: Reviewing Bond “asks” right now. Exploring options but the motto is to take care of what we have. Safety, and deferred maintenance issues. ASD has \$2 billion in replacement value properties. Current projects and repairs at Willowcrest, Rogers Park and more. Re-dedications at Gladys Wood, Turnagain elementary schools. Ten charter schools in town, have to re-certify every 10 years. Earthquake drills: Shakeout at 10:19 on 10/19! Customer Service for whole community – handouts and business cards.

Q – Contract Negotiations?

A – not a part of it.

Q – ASD property rentals to close at 8pm instead of 9?

A – budget cuts but will consider later case by case.

Visit the schools but call ahead!

Scenic Foothills Community Council

Baxter Senior Living to come to the November meeting. Park Planner Maeve from Parks and Rec to come to next meeting about re-doing playground in Chugach Foothills Park. Parks and Rec will also take over rehabbing the median flower beds at the Chugach Foothills Park entrance.

SFCC Secretary Melissa Morse is moving out of Scenic Foothills – we need a new SFCC secretary.

Thanks for the bus barn effort – there is cake just outside the door! Have some!

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 2, 2017