

UACC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
June 1, 2016

1. Opening: Paul Stang called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM. Paul next had the people in the room introduce themselves. 20 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting. 13 UACC members signed in. An additional 7 visitors signed in and attended part or all of the meeting.
2. Approval of minutes: The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting. Al Milspaugh moved to approve the May minutes, with Susan Share seconding. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda: Paul Stang presented the June agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Dick Traini presented on the latest events from the Anchorage Assembly. He talked about Title 17, Electric Bikes on bike trails, banning smoking from the Town Square, and getting rid of the fountain in Town Square.
2. Felix Rivera with the Mayor's office explained how the muni was dealing with the homeless situation in Anchorage, including the census of the homeless population, housing for the most vulnerable portions of the population, and the potential for employing homeless individuals in temporary municipal jobs. He also spoke to the removal of the fountain at the Town Square Park. He finally mentioned that he was moving on within the Municipal Administration and there would be a new Mayor's representative at our next meeting.
3. Senator Bill Wielechowski. He was working on the State Operating Budget, Omnibus Crime, Oil Tax Credit Reform and Medicaid Reform Bills
2. Senator Berta Gardner. Berta was also working on the State operating budget, State Capital Budget, Omnibus Crime bill, and Oil Tax Credit Reform bills. She mentioned that the Governor is considering vetoing the

operating budget if the Legislature does not come up with a solution to the budget deficit that includes several new potential sources of funding.

3. Ivy Spohnholz talked about the need to fix the oil tax credit program. She also mentioned that she opposes the State mega projects and the need for residents to write the Governor to request the defunding of the UMED Northern Access road project. She also talked to the benefits of House Bills 27 and 200 which amend the State Foster Care program allowing for foster kids to remain in the same school; make it easier to relatives to retain custody of foster kids; and make it easier for them to adopt the children.

B. Community Council Board Reports

1. Safety: Al Milspaugh - Al stressed the need for a disaster preparedness plan. He stated that is particularly important if one has small children.

2. FCC: Al Milspaugh

a. Al has the FCC quarterly accounting report if anyone is interested in reviewing it.

3. Parks and Recreation Subcommittee- Barbara Garner reported that vegetation within the 2015 clearing area is re-growing, and may need to be thinned again. She said that bark beetles are infecting spruce trees within the Park creating a fire hazard. She has talked to homeless individuals about the potential fire hazard of smoking within the Park. She also has reported to APD about the increased incidents of Homeless individuals sleeping on park benches and picnic tables, but has not received a response back.

5. New Business

A. Resolution re: UAA Drive Pedestrian Undercrossing. – Susan Share

Susan explained that the Resolution primarily states that the UACC strongly supports the construction of the UAA Dive Underpass and moves the construction project up to our #2 priority on the CIP list. There was discussion about the potential funding of the \$9 million project. Funding could come from State capital funds. Chris Turletes discussed how the project might be funded. He indicated that the Muni supports the project

but has no money available for construction. There was some concern about the cost of the project and by funding it may impact construction of other bike path related projects. There was discussion about the use of the current UAA overpass, how it was the only way across UAA Drive in the vicinity until the Underpass is constructed. There was also discussion that some form of fencing may be needed in conjunction with the underpass to preclude continued unsafe crossing of UAA Drive. There was also discussion about lighting and the need for security within the tunnel. Chris Turletes made a motion to amend the resolution to include the statement “The tunnel should provide adequate security lighting and surveillance.” Al Milspaugh presented a point of order about how Chris is a visitor and could not make a motion. It was determined that Chris was acting a representative to UAA, as such is a member of the UACC. The amendment to the resolution was passed unanimously. Chris Turletes moved, with Barbara Garner seconding, to approve the Resolution. The Resolution was approved with **12** voting for and **3** votes opposed.

B. Posted Speed Limit-Tudor Road, between Lake Otis Pkwy and Piper Street-Barbara

Garner

Barbara stated that Scott Thomas with the DOT is looking whether the current speed limit for this section of road is appropriate, particularly due to safety concerns, as evidenced by pedestrian deaths within this segment of Tudor Road. There was discussion about how good roads make for high rates of speed. There was discussion about how the need to slow down traffic for safety purposes conflicts with Tudor’s role as a major traffic arterial passing traffic east and west through the middle of Anchorage. There was discussion that the 50 mph speed limit further east on Tudor may exacerbate the safety problem on Tudor from Elmore Drive to Lake Otis Parkway. Four alternatives were developed to address the issues: 1).40 mph from Elmore Drive to Lake Otis Parkway; 2) speed leave as is at 45 mph; 3) Boniface to Tudor Center at 45 mph and Tudor Center to Lake Otis at 40 mph; 4) Boniface to Elmore at 45 mph, and Elmore to Lake Otis at 40mph. The vote was taken on the alternatives with the **for** votes as:

1). **11** 2). **2** 3). **4** 4). **0**.

An email will be sent to Scott Thomas, DOT traffic planner, stating the UACC support for reduction of Tudor Road traffic speed from Elmore Drive to Lake Otis to 40 mph. In addition to the above, the email will suggest other potential traffic calming features such as an automatic speed indicator sign, construction of pedestrian crossings, and making current speed signs more visible.

C. Rezoning change requested by South Central Foundation (SCF) for height of proposed dental office and parking garage in the Tudor Center are Terry Schoenthal

Terry indicated that the SCF is looking toward amendment to the zoning under the new Title 21 for the proposed 6 story Dental Office/Parking Garage complex to allow for a building height of 75 feet, as well as other buildings within the Native Health Campus area. They are requesting that UACC support such an amendment. The previous Title 21 had an unrestricted building height within the area, but the new Title 21 limits the B3 zoning to 45 feet. The newly amended UMED Plan indicates the Native Medical complex buildings may go to 75 feet. There was discussion about whether Title 21 needs to be amended to reflect this direction. There was also discussion about whether added incentives, such as pursuing mixed residential/commercial buildings, to allow for 75 feet should be considered. There was also discussion about whether allowing this variance would result in a proliferation of 6 to 7 story buildings in other areas, thus “ruining” the aesthetic of the area and well as creating large areas that would be shaded by such construction. Three alternatives were developed to address these differences of opinion. Paul Stang asked for a vote from UACC members. Following are the alternatives and the number of votes for.

Alternative 1: No comment as insufficient time/information to provide UACC comment - **6** votes

Alternative 2: Support the rezoning change - **8** votes

Alternative 3: Oppose the Rezoning change - **2** votes

D. Request for feedback on Muni Draft Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map – Kristine Bunnell, Senior Planner/Project Manager, Community Development Dept.

Christine presented the idea that the Muni is looking toward comments on the Map Land Use designations on Muni Draft Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan around the University Area. The central concepts of the Land Use Plan Map are 1). Residential and mixed-housing neighborhood south of 40th Ave. and north of Tudor Road; and a 2). Tudor Road commercial corridor from Piper Street to and including the intersection with Lake Otis Parkway. She indicated that a letter to Tom Thomas, Muni Planning Department, surrounding these ideas, or other comments would be useful. There was general comment that the plan should stress mixed use, particularly in regard to providing opportunity for grocery stores as well as for pedestrian and bicycle safety. There was uncertainty on what the actual proposals are and the lack of time for the UACC to make informed comment. Christine said she would better articulate what the Land Use Plan points are for the area and get back to the UACC Executive Board. Due to lack of time and clarity to take up the request at this time, it was determined that the UACC Executive Board would craft a letter of response to Tom Thomas in the next week or two.

E. Summer Picnic: Yea or Ney?

Paul presented the question whether UACC should hold a picnic this summer. Al Milspaugh moved, with Barbara Garner seconding, that UACC hold a picnic this summer. The motion failed with 1 voting yes and 7 voting no.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on September 7, 2016. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Signed

Paul Stang, UACC President