

UACC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
October 5, 2016

1. Opening: Paul Stang called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM. Paul next had the people in the room introduce themselves. 33 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting, with 16 UACC members signed in. An additional 17 visitors signed in and attended part or all of the meeting.
2. Approval of minutes: The motion was made to approve the September minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda: Paul Stang presented the October agenda. Susan Kline, with a Chris Tureletes second, moved to approve the October agenda.. The agenda was approved unanimously.
4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Senator Bill Wielechowski. Bill mentioned a public safety forum to be held at Begich Middle School. He mentioned the loss of police officers as a major contributor. Gangs, drugs and alcohol fuel much of the rising crime rate. Lack of enough of a police force eliminates their ability to be proactive in facing this crisis. He also mentioned the news of the big oil strike. He indicated that new oil produced would not contribute sufficient funds to the State until oil reached \$73/barrel. He said we need to be working to close the big tax breaks to close our State budget deficit.
2. Samantha Straus for Senator Berta Gardner. Samantha indicated that she has placed copies of Berta's latest newsletter on the back counter. She also mentioned that Berta is working on an Education Task force chaired by Gary Stevens. Next meeting is on Friday 14th. Will be other meetings held on November 18th, December 15th, and January 10th. The goal of the task force is to get the legislators, students, teachers, school board folks together to discuss education best practices, and how these relate to getting students involved in civics.

3. Andy Josephson. Andy said the legislators are moving to the “new” LIO in east Spenard. Said there will be litigation over the downtown LIO. He indicated he met in Fairbanks with research professors and administrative staff to talk about the UA research program. He said the research generates \$4 of Federal grant money for every \$1 of State funds. Andy addressed the upcoming efforts to address the fiscal crisis. He indicated there still those that dispute the severity of the crisis. Andy says he feels there is need to look at various solutions, and may not be able to fix it just on the back of the oil industry. Andy hopes there may be a bi-partisan coalition to deal with the crisis in the upcoming legislative session.

4. Ivy Spohnholz. Ivy said that this is her first in person council meeting after taking over from Max Gruenberg. She thanked Ted Madsen for all his help in the transition. She also said that public safety is a big concern and has ideas on how to address the situation. These ideas are available in more detail on her web page. She also expressed concern that many legislators are not taking the fiscal crisis seriously. They are just waiting until the price of oil goes back up. She used a personal story of how the last big oil bust in the 80’s affected people. 44,000 people left the state, 14,000 mortgages were foreclosed, including that of her parents.

5. Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on several items that can be found in her assembly report within Attachment 1.

6. Dick Traini said that one should go to the next FCC meeting held on the third Wednesday of the month to understand crime methods. He said that crime rates are high, but since the Muni cannot deficit spend. it may time take some time to provide sufficient funds needed to rebuild the police force required to reign in the increased in crime rates.. He said the old Lake Otis and Tudor fire station property parking lot is being dedicated and will be ready for public use.

7. Pete Peterson said the city has issued the first Marijuana permit at 73rd and Arctic. He said there still needs to be a testing facility before they can sell product. He indicated the voting by mail will be delayed till 2018, due to lack of time to get machinery to count the vote up and running.

8. Forest Dunbar said the citywide fiscal cuts will affect the plowing of streets, trails and sidewalks. The Muni goal of having plow out completed 72 hours after a major snowstorm will be moved back to 80 hours. Forrest said that Bill Evans is introducing an ordinance to change the Taxi industry in town. The number of permits would be increased, with the goal of not having an entry system after 5 years. Forrest indicated there will be political battle over this in the next three months.

9. Jared James said he is the new Community Liaison with the Office of the Mayor. He left business cards on the back counter for reference. One of his main emphases is to improve communications with communities. He also said that the John Thomas Building, with 20+ beds is now open, helping to address the homeless situation in Anchorage.

10. Starr Marsett mentioned that an outside auditor has been bringing together small lost accounts to streamline the accounts which should provide cost efficiency in the School District. She said that bonds could be used to implement energy efficient infrastructure, such as improved boilers and LED lighting. The operating savings from putting these into service would more than pay for the interest of the bonds. She also mentioned that overall enrollment at Anchorage Schools is near capacity, but the range at individual schools can vary from 66 to 140 %. This probably indicates some need for re-alignment. She also mentioned a large scale “climate survey” of students.

B. Community Council Board Reports

1. FCC:

a. AI has the “FCC Statement of Financial Position as of 31 August 2016.”

b. AI has the “ASD Update as of September 2016.” Starr Marsett is our representative.

c. AI has the “Neighborhood Crime Watch IMPORTANT Phone Numbers & Websites.”

d. AI has “How to Start a Neighborhood Watch Program” Information.

2. SAFETY:

EMERGENCY DISASTER:

THE GOAL: Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.

We count on electricity for heat, food, and medical needs. Many gas appliances even need electricity to run. A power outage is an emergency that often follows another emergency—like an earthquake, forest fire, or winter storm. That makes it even more important to be prepared in advance.

Have flashlights ready in an easily accessible place and check batteries in flashlights and radios.

Create a power outage plan – decide what you can do before, during and after a power outage to minimize the effect on your household.

3. Parks and Recreation Subcommittee- Barbara Garner said there was no report other than that contained in the new business section.

5. New Business

A. Folker Park Site Plan – Maeve Nevins, Project Manager, Anchorage Parks and Rec.

Maeve said that the Folker Park is a small 2 acre neighborhood park that can use some love. It currently has a beautiful garden. Stakeholders may want to be involved in the site planning process. Maeve is looking for members from UACC to be part of an advisory group. She passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested. She indicated there would be about 3 meetings to develop the site plan. The draft plan would go to the UACC for approval, then on to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Projects developed in the site plan would need a grant to be funded. There is a \$45 K available from the Anchorage Parks foundation. If the site Planning Group proposes major changes, there may be a need to go through a master Planning process. The proposed timeline looks to have the completed plan to the Parks and Rec Commission by Jan 2016, with Site Plan approval by January or February. If completed by this date there is a slight chance that recommended projects within the Site Plan could be included in an April bond proposition. It would be useful for the proposed projects be included in the CIP Bond list for 2018 projects.

B. Baxter Senior Living Development- Chris Cole, Architect; JW Wilcox Developer

Chris brought back more information about the proposed design. With the 35 feet height restriction, would need an additional 8 feet variance to be able to build the roof top gardens and greenhouses. If they don't do the rooftop gardens and greenhouses, the rest of the building would remain the same. Chris addressed concerns about summer shading by providing a handout that showed there is no significant shadowing from the additional height structures. He also mentioned that there is not a mountain view from the properties adjacent, as modeling shows the buildings are not above the tree line so he doesn't think this would be a problem with the view shed. JW Wilcox felt that under the new Title 21 height requirements he may receive a permit without needing a variance, though he would still like to get the support of the Community Council for the additional height. There was a question about how much additional light might emanate from the garden structures. Chris answered by saying the lighting would be interior in the greenhouse and would shine down and not up into the sky. There would be a glow from inside the greenhouse. There were questions about traffic on Baxter Road from the facility. The developers said that traffic should actually decrease from the current pattern from the trailer court. The main entrance would be from Baxter, but there is also service entrance from McLean Place. The timeline for building is to break ground in April 2017 and have the project completed by mid summer 2018. There was general support that there needs to be more housing, including assisted living facilities in Anchorage, and this project helps fill that need. John Wilcox moved, with Chris Cole seconding, that the community council provide a letter of support for the height variance. Mary Lu Harle suggested the developers come back to the community council when the permit and design progresses. JR and Chris accepted that as a friendly amendment. There was a question about whether there was enough nearby residents here to take a vote. Given the outreach that was decided there was. The vote for the letter of support was 13 for 2 against and no abstentions.

C. Decision on content of UACC email to Scott Thomas of Alaska DOT regarding traffic safety issues at intersection of Tudor Road and Wright Street- Barbara Garner.

Barbara led a discussion on the attached email to Scott Thomas, DOT, on the traffic safety issue at this intersection. There was agreement that the points on the email are still pertinent. A motion was made to accept the email as written. The vote was 14 for and none against

D. Discussion to testify or send comments to Muni Planning and Zoning Commission on the Draft Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map- Paul Stang-resident

Paul brought up the concern do we need to do more than the June 10 letter. Barbara Garner felt that the area needs to retain some of its residential character and the rezone to RO just results in more Office buildings and while eliminating existing residential buildings. Andy Josephson felt that the June 10 letter adequately addressed these points. JW Wilcox, as chair of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, felt that the UACC concerns were valid. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on November 2, 2016. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Paul Stang, UACC President

Attachment 1: Elvi Gray-Jackson Notes

Attachment 2: Email letter from Paul Stang to Scott Thomas, AKDOT;

Re: Speed Limit on Tudor Rd between Lake Otis Parkway and Piper St.

Attachment 1

University Area Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report
October 5, 2016

- The Assembly has received the Mayor’s proposed 2017 budgets. Highlights follows:
 - The General Government Operating budget is \$502,346,507.
 - Total property taxes - \$271,069,413 (taxed to the Cap)
 - Represents a \$12.67 increase per \$100,000 of a home’s assessed valuation or \$46 increase on a \$300,000 home.
 - Public Safety is increased by \$6.5M which includes funding for two academies which will increase the number of officers by 56.
 - SAP HR/Financial project will go live in 2017; therefore, a budget increase of \$5.6M is included in the budget for IT support, and depreciation of the capital asset.

- 2017 Budget Challenges:

Loss in State Revenue:

○ State Revenue Sharing	\$4.7M
○ PFD Garnishments	\$1.8M
○ ML&P Dividend	\$7.5M
○ Public Safety	\$1.4M

Municipality:

○ Health Care increase	\$1.4M
○ Labor	\$7.7M
○ SAP	\$6.8M
○ Police and Fire Retiree Contr.	\$3.3M

- 2017 Department budget cuts follows:
 - Fire - \$926K
 - Finance - \$719K

- Maintenance and Operations - \$677K
- Public Transportation - \$320K
- Employee Relations - \$253K
- Mayor - \$247K
- Development Services - \$200K
- Library - \$150K
- Municipal Attorney - \$139K
- Planning - \$113K
- Parks and Recreation - \$100K
- Project Management and Engineering - \$90K
- Management and Budget - \$77K
- Traffic - \$65K
- Purchasing - \$54K
- Health and Human Services - \$50K
- Real Estate - \$37K
- Chief Fiscal Officer - \$9K
- Public Works Administration - \$9K

- 2017 Capital Budget:

○ Facilities	\$ 2.04M
○ Fire	\$ 2.45M
○ Parks and Recreation	\$ 3.45M
○ Police	\$ 1.40M
○ Roads	\$36.79M
○ Transit	\$ 0.75M

Funding Source: Bonds

- October 25th - 1st Public Hearing
- November 1st – Second Public Hearing
- November 15th – Assembly amendment process and budget approval

Next meeting – October 18th

Attachment 2

June 5, 2016

Subject: Re: Speed Limit on Tudor Rd between Lake Otis Parkway and Piper St.

To: "Thomas, Scott E (DOT)" <scott.thomas@alaska.gov>

Cc: "Hanes, Julie M (DOT)" julie.hanes@alaska.gov

Bcc: UACC Ex Board

Hi Scott,

The University Area Community Council (ACC) extensively discussed the issues surrounding the speed limit on Tudor Road between Lake Otis Parkway and Piper Street and also addressed the speed limits as far east as Boniface Parkway.

We put various options to a vote and the majority view is as follows:

Basically, slow the traffic down from Boniface Parkway to Lake Otis Parkway. We rely on your traffic experts to decide on the optimal speeds. Also, improve pedestrian crossings and the visibility of signage along Tudor Road.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and for granting UACC some extra time to respond to your January 27, 2016 letter that somehow I didn't see until early May.

Best Regards,

Paul R. Stang

President
UACC