

UACC MINUTES

December 6, 2017, Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Paul Stang at 7:00 pm.

MEMBERS & VISITORS PRESENT: There were 15 members and 5 visitors signed in.

INTRODUCTIONS: The Chairperson asked each individual to state their name and location or business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. He requested that an item relating to an ordinance of land use regulations for issuance of more marijuana permits be added to the end of the UACC Committee section. There was no objection to this addition. Mary Lu Harle, with an Al Milspaugh second, moved to approve the agenda as amended. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTHS MINUTES: The November 1, 2017 Minutes as written were approved unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM ELECTED & MOA DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS:

1. Senator Berta Gardner: She said to that version of SB 54 passed could have Alaska State constitutional issues. She also said that a fiscal plan will be front and center for the new session starting January 16th. There was also discussion on the potential impact on the State budget if the Federal Tax bill currently under consideration in Washington D.C. is passed.
2. Senator Bill Wielechowski: Bill mentioned there will be a town hall meeting to discuss snow removal operations. The meeting is planned for 6 PM on December 18th at Wonder Park Elementary. He also mentioned another town hall meeting at 6:30 PM January 11th to discuss upcoming issues for the legislative session. He also said there will be a survey designed to assess issues confronting the State coming out the first of the year.
3. Representative Ivy Spohnholz: Ivy talked about how SB 54 is complicated. She has a comparison chart on how SB 54 relates to SB91 on her website

and Facebook page. She indicated that the final version of SB54 keeps many of the SB 91 “re-entry” provisions designed to reduce recidivism of people released from prison. She also mentioned she will be hosting a “coffee” on January 6th to discuss items for the upcoming legislative session

4. Representative Andy Josephson: Andy talked about how exasperated he was with the amount of time he spent during this year’s legislative session (basically all year), and the failure of the Senate leadership to come to terms with a viable fiscal plan. His House Resources Committee will be considering bills relating to mining and oil and gas taxes, as well as one relating to climate change. Al Milspaugh had a question about apparent price fixing collusion from gasoline retailers in regard to the 10 cent municipal gas tax scheduled to be implemented next year. He observed immediate price increases from all retailers immediately after the Assembly passed an ordinance allowing for the tax, even though it would not be implemented for several months. Apparently Bill Wielechowski is taking the lead on this with the State Department of Law. Dick Traini mentioned that he talked with a gas company representative, who indicated that they upped the price because the Assembly passed the resolution. .
5. Assembly Member Pete Peterson: Pete informed us about the results from yesterday’s Muni Public Safety meeting. He said that car thefts are up 73% to a total of 338. He indicated that many of the thefts come about from people leaving their car unattended while they are being warmed up. Among other items he reported on was a 4 month test rental of an electric bus for the people mover system. The Solid Waste Service will also be monitoring the bus for winter application, as electric powered garage trucks being considered by SWS are using the same engine and running gear. Pete also mentioned that at the November meeting the Assembly passed a budget that is an increase, but is fiscally prudent, as all Departments took an overall decrease in funding, except for Public Safety and Information Technology. He also talked about the homeless ordinance that reduces the homeless camp abatement period from 15 to 10 days. Finally, he mentioned the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Safe Harbor Muldoon transition housing.
6. Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar: Forrest mentioned that there will be two meetings to deal with what will be on the 2018 bond issue election in April. In response to a question by Paul Stang he said he will check on whether 42nd Avenue and University Lake Park projects will be included in the bond package. Forrest also described several highlights of the 2018 budget. He indicated there will be \$500,000 for traffic calming. The increase in budget for public safety will allow for 2 more police academies. These, along with the 18 new officers from the recent academy graduation, should allow the

police force to be around 440 officers, even allowing for attrition. He indicated that the increased police force has resulted in a 25% increase in arrests. The new budget increases the prosecutor's office budget to deal with the increase. Forrest also mentioned a \$4.7 M Cliff Row Center expansion to help deal with the substance abuse crisis. Finally, he talked about the need to craft an ordinance on APD uses of drone aircraft. He feels it should allow for search and rescue, tactical use, and traffic accident investigation, but not warrantless searches, routine patrols, or weaponizing of the drones.

7. Assembly Member Felix Rivera: Felix added more items on the budget. He said there will be additional dollars for homeless camp cleanup this year. He said that additional funding also came through to keep Loussac Library open on Sundays. He mentioned that money was allocated to assist in a needle exchange program. He said that needles are currently being used from 25 to 100 times. Finally he mentioned that \$500 K had been set aside to do three things: 1) establish a Mental Health Outreach at the Bean's Campus; 2) provide for a Cold Weather Overflow Shelter (currently 110 bed deficient); and 3) plan for an Elder Stabilization Project designed to get elders out of the Bean's Campus. Al Milspaugh asked about an ordinance that may make Beans pay for additional public safety calls. Dick Traini said that he thinks the Beans Security Team isn't effective. There appeared to be differences of opinion on whether such an ordinance would be useful in calming the difficult safety situation on the Beans Campus.
8. Assembly Member Dick Traini: He also emphasized that we all have to work together to address the homeless situation. He said that Nancy Bird is the Mental Health Coordinator for Brother Francis Shelter and will be leading discussions about how to improve the atmosphere at the Beans/Brother Francis Campus.
9. School Board member Kathleen Plunkett: Kathleen said that the Anchorage School District has held the line on the upcoming budget. Because of inflation and the reduced enrollment many programs will be impacted. We should know State reimbursement levels by March. She said that Teacher contract negotiations will occur in January. She said the latest school bond will be 50.4 million, which is less than the bond debt that is being retired. This will go primarily to roof repair, seismic remediation, and other maintenance. She indicated that the meeting with the State Legislative representative was productive. Andy Josephson mentioned he was impressed with how ASD was holding the line on the budget, while keeping programs alive.

UACC COMMITTEE/ADHOC REPORTS and FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS (FCC) REPORT:

- 1. FCC:** Al Milspaugh gave an update on the FCC meeting;
 - Outreach for FCC-get young people involved by going out to high schools
 - Code for America-handout for a job and resume service website
 - Ride Share Vans- how to utilize this service
 - H.A.R.T of Anchorage Resolution on Homelessness
 - MOA Geographical Information resources are available on the Muni website
- 2. Safety:** Al Milspaugh safety message was to not walk on local lakes ice as they may not be completely frozen as yet. You can go to the Parks hotline to get the latest information or report a problem at 343-4554. He also mentioned that freezing rain is in the forecast so be careful when driving.
- 3. Parks & Recreation:** Barbara was not available for reporting. Paul Stang mentioned that there is still a great need for matching funds for the \$12,500 Rasmuson Challenge grant. Some ideas brought forward would be to solicit local businesses such as Providence Hospital, Providence Horizon House, Tudor Road Bingo, ANHTC, and the South Central foundation. Forrest Dunbar mentioned that the Northeast Anchorage Community Council developed a letter that was successfully used for soliciting funds for the Muldoon-Chanshtnu Park and might be useful as a template for our effort. He also indicated that the Anchorage Park has passed and he can help coordinate our effort with the budget.
- 4. Ordinance around Title 21-Commercial Use of Marijuana (Case 2018-009).** Paul Stang introduced a draft ordinance that had come from the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said they want public comment back by December 15th and the case will be heard before the P&Z Commission on January 9th. Paul wanted to know if the UACC wanted to make comment or pass a resolution on this draft ordinance. General feeling that the CC's do a good job on addressing potential permits within their areas, so no comment is warranted at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution on Establishment of a new Stream Setback Ordinance - Paul Stang

Paul Stang described the resolution that in support of the stream setback ordinance. The draft ordinance was distributed at last meeting and again at this one. Paul mentioned that the ordinance seemed to have a pretty wide

consensus in that it provides adequate protection for streams while not being overly restrictive. He mentioned that in an informal survey it had support from development oriented individuals such as Tim Potter, while a couple of environmental conservation organization representatives felt that it was an reasonable compromise. He also mentioned that Planning and Zoning Commission moved the date they are holding hearings till February, so is not vital to take action on the resolution at this meeting. Mary Lu Harle expressed concern about taking action on the resolution until the UACC members know what is in it. Several other members were in agreement. Steve Zemke, with Al Milspaugh second, moved to pass the resolution at this meeting, since the ordinance had been previously circulated at Novembers UACC meeting. Mary Lu Harle moved to Table the motion to allow for UACC members to look more fully at the complex ordinance. Jacob Gondek seconded this motion. The motion to table was approved 9 votes for, 2 votes against, and 1 abstention.

2. Nomination for 2018 UACC Officers

Paul Stang indicated that indicated that 2018 President/Vice President/Secretary seats were open for nomination. All three current officers indicated that they willing to serve another term if nominated. All three were nominated for their offices they currently hold. No other nominations were received from the floor. Paul stated that voting for the executive board offices would be held in January. Nominations for the two executive board member at large seats and permanent committee chair seats will be held during the January meeting. Elections for these seats will be completed during the February meeting. There was a question about the time commitment involved. The president estimated 5 to 10 hours a week, the vice president estimated 10 hours per week in conjunction with Safety and FCC committee work, and the Secretary estimated 1 to 1 1/2 days per month.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Alaska Common Ground on Solutions for Alaska's high health care costs-Mary Lu Harle

Mary Lu indicated the next panel dealing with the Alaska medical costs will be held next Wednesday, December 13th at the 49th State Brewing Company. Seven panelists, with doctor, industry and other topical experts, will provide information on why current costs appear so high. The session is free, though a \$10 donation is suggested. There will be two more sessions, the first on Jan 10th with the second date TBA, that deal with solutions to the high costs of medical care.

2. President Paul Stang expressed his sincere thanks for the work Susan Klein has provided in support of the UACC for the last 1 ½ years while working at the FCC.

ADJOURMENT: The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 3, 2018. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 pm.

Paul Stang, UACC President
Attachment- Tabled Resolution - Stream Setback

Attachment 1

**UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC)
RESOLUTION 2017-05**

**A Resolution Supporting the Passage of the MOA Watershed Department's
Stream Setbacks Ordinance**

WHEREAS the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; **and**

WHEREAS Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of lands within their boundaries; **and**

WHEREAS Anchorage's current setbacks far fall below the national standards of effective setback widths for protecting stream habitats and reducing flood plain **and** storm event impacts; **and**

WHEREAS increased setbacks widths have been shown to protect private property from flooding and icing and potentially reduce flood hazard insurance premiums; **and**

WHEREAS adequate stream setbacks reduce costs to our municipality by providing cheap natural filtration for storm water runoff and contamination from our creeks; **and**

WHEREAS stream setbacks are an important element to our urban trail systems and encourage healthy lifestyles for Anchorage residents.

NOW THEREFORE the UACC hereby resolves: The UACC supports the passage of the Watershed Department's stream setbacks ordinance because of the importance of protecting our properties and creeks.

Resolution Vote: For _ Against: _ Abstain: _

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council this day of MM/DD/YYYY.

Paul R Stang, President UACC