

FCC MEETING of November 21, 2018
Report by RPCC Representative Bob Churchill

The meeting was called to order by Matt Burkholder, Chair, at approx. 6:00 p.m.

The agenda and minutes were approved with minor changes.

Chair's Report: Matt Burkholder. The report was brief and included the question whether the group wanted to meet in December. After discussion, it was decided we would address a December meeting after determining what business was completed tonight and what business would be pending for that meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Don Crafts. We are on track to end the year about even with our budget. This will include purchasing some office equipment, such as a second computer for office work. We are also considering replacing the carpet in the office. After researching prices the purchase of carpeting will be further discussed.

FCC Outreach: Al Milspaugh. Two sign up sheets were handed out for sign ups: One for listing community events that the FCC might become involved with to publicize the FCCs and Community Councils and the other for individuals who wanted to volunteer to participate in these types of events. Outreach activity since the last FCC meeting included attending a community council meeting.

Darrell Hess addressed some issues related to having public (including members of the press/television news, etc.) attending individual community council meetings. He said that all general membership meetings are normally open to the all members of the public. He referenced ordinance 2.40.35 A 2. He said that an exception could be when the community council board went into an executive session. These sessions are limited to specific matters (such as personnel issues). However if too many executive sessions are called to address issues then that could become a problem. He concluded that community councils are governed by their individual by-laws that should have been reviewed and approved by the Municipal assembly. He was asked if there is a specific notification time the meetings have to be publicized prior to the meeting and the answer was no. The community councils are not subject to the open meeting law requirements.

FCC Manager: Mark Butler. Mark stated this was a slow time of year for the FCC and he would be taking time off during December to visit family. He was asked about office hours and he responded there would be no fixed hours. However if a community council needed something they could call and leave a message and someone would respond.

Anchorage Fire Department: Chief Jodie Hettrick. Chief Hettrick informed us that there were many ways to fight fires. AFD was using promotion and education as two key elements in doing so. She shared that the holiday season (Thanksgiving through New Years) was the most dangerous time for home fires. Most often these occur from unattended cooking. She cautioned that, based on AFD experience, drinking alcohol and cooking can be a dangerous combination when not carefully attended to. She said that a common mistake in these cases is the person trying to put out the fire instead of calling 911 immediately. She also said that once you are out of the house, don't go back in for sentimental items or pets. This can be the cause of severe injuries or fatalities. She said that the best "social media" for teaching safety in the home was sitting down as a family and

School Board Report: Starr Marsett. She talked about the threats that have occurred at a number of schools here in Anchorage. She stated they are taking them very seriously; however, at this point they appear to have been vandalism. They are working on possible bond proposals, mostly to address maintenance and facility issues. The board voted to close Mount Spur and this will be effective next school year. The Board plans to meet with representatives of the legislature to communicate the needs our schools have for funding in the near future, including an enhanced school safety program. She was asked how the closure of Mt. Illiamna was working out. She said the first year was a little rough but it was working smoothly at this point for students, parents, and ASD. A number of councils brought up that they had not had visits from Anchorage School Board members. She responded that she knew this was a problem and hoped to have a better showing of these quarterly visits. She concluded that they are anxiously awaiting the vote on the contract with the teachers.

Assembly Report: Forest Dunbar. He reported that the assembly had passed the budget. He felt that processes went more smoothly because of the number of work sessions they had completed prior to voting on the budget. He informed us that the proposal to not fund the hook and ladder unit and the water truck had been reversed and they would be funded. Also funding had been approved for the ML&P sale on December 4th, and hope to complete it prior to the end of the calendar year. They are also discussing the addition of a 5% sales tax on retail sales of alcohol. The plan is to use the money generated to deal with issues related to alcohol use and homelessness. One advantage of it being a municipal tax is that the funds can be dedicated to specific uses. State funds can not. This will require a super majority vote of the assembly (8 votes) and approval by the voters. He concluded that property taxes, under this budget, will be flat.

Mayor's Office Report: No representative was present

discussing these issues. She also suggested that home safety items could be a good Holiday gift idea (smoke alarms, CO 2 alarms, etc.). She said that 69% of the calls AFD got were for medical-related issues. She added that, if you have a medical emergency, when possible stay on the phone because these people are often trained to help you with the emergency until the medics arrive. She concluded that, if a community council wants someone from AFD to speak, feel free to contact their local fire station or her office. She would be glad to attend community council meetings. An FCC member commented that it was important to both have safety plans and to practice them prior to an event occurring.

Municipal Planning Office: Tom Davis. He updated us on the Title 21 review process. He shared that he appreciated the high volume of contacts/comments from community councils. He hopes to have a second draft of the proposed changes by December 5th and then he will put out a second draft. There are continuing opportunities for public input through the web site. They are hoping to have the final session for public comment on January 14, 2019. He informed us that if you want your comments included in the summary of written responses you will need to have them in by January 2nd.

Next Door Web Program: Albert Whitehead. This involved a proposal that the FCC be able to input information directly into this program. There was a significant amount of discussion. A concern was expressed if this would allow communications from this program to go directly to those on the FCC/community council mail lists and the response was no. The idea was that any responses to information put on the Next Door would go to the FCC office for their action. Mark Butler was asked if he felt this would create a significant workload for the FCC office and he responded that he felt it would be manageable. Pursuing involvement in this was approved by the FCC.

Under old business, the subject of receiving items which require a response from community councils that would allow more time for response. One suggestion was that we communicate with the Mayor's office and ask that this concern be expressed in the Mayor's direct reports and throughout the Municipal organization. This was tabled to our next meeting with the idea that the subcommittee would meet and be ready to present their findings and suggestions to the FCC.

It was determined that we will not meet in December.

The meeting was concluded at 8:00 p.m.