

UACC MINUTES

December 5, 2018, Meeting

Opening and Welcome and Introductions - The meeting was called to order by the President Paul Stang at 7:05 pm. - There were 18 members and 5 visitors signed in. The President asked each individual to state their name and location or business.

1. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with a second by Barbara Garner, moved to approve the November 5, 2018 Minutes. The motion to approve the Minutes was passed by unanimous consent.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.

3. Informational Reports

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

1. **Assembly Chair Forrest Dunbar:** Forrest felt that events affecting Anchorage recently have been quite momentous. He said that the municipal budget was passed on November 20th. Notable was the emphasis on public safety through the new police station and especially more sworn officers. He also said the horticulture budget was also saved, particularly in response to the over 440 emails the assembly received in favor of saving the horticulture program. He also said the earthquake was on everyone's mind. He stated it was the biggest in Anchorage since the 1964 earthquake. He mentioned that an emergency declaration was in effect from Sunday thru Tuesday of this week. The Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) and the State are excepting earthquake damage funding grant requests through January 29th, 2019 at Ready.Alaska.Gov. Individual grants are available for up to \$17,450 through the State and an additional \$17,450 through FEMA, with the total not to exceed \$35,000. He finally reported that the \$1.01 billion ML&P sale to Chugach Electric had been approved unanimously by the Assembly. Funds accrued through the sale would be used to pay down the ML&P debt, shore up the Trust fund, and to pay down other high interest bonds. It will be 9 months to final deal closure.
2. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson:** Pete mentioned there will be an increase in AWWU bills in the near future, in response to funding needed to tend to the aging infrastructure. He reported that \$900K of federal pass through money is available for the extension of University Lake Drive.

This will extend to the APU soccer fields. Construction would be summer of 2019 or 2020. Finally he said that there will be free parking at the Easy Park Garage, as well as suspension of landfill dump fees through the end of the week in response to the earthquake.

- 3. State Senator Bill Wielechowski:** Bill said that he will be on the Finance Committee this session. He mentioned that the current budget is projected to be \$500 million in deficit, but this is based on \$75 a barrel oil. With current oil prices the actual deficit could be closer to 1.5 billion. He also said that projections indicate that a 1 to 2 billion yearly deficit estimate is projected for the coming decade. Also, Governor Dunleavy's full PFD payout pledge (the legislature would have to approve the funds) would cost approximately 4.9 billion. This would bring the current budget reserve down to 12 billion. The future deficits would quickly exhaust this reserve.
- 4. State Representative Andy Josephson:** Andy stated that he missed last meeting due to election activities. He said that it appears that there will be a fully unified (Republican) government and appears to be quite conservative. He talked about advantages and disadvantages of being part of a majority coalition. He said a major task ahead for him is to purge the boxes of paper documents he has that are collecting in his office. Al Milspaugh asked whether the State Archives could take them instead. Andy said that most of these documents are reports and policy statements from the executive branch and as such are duplicate copies and would clog up the Archives.
- 5. Jacob Tatum for State Senator Berta Gardner:** Jacob indicated that Elvi Grey Jackson won the election for Berta Gardner's District seat. He said that he and Berta will be available until the next session starts. He will transition to Elvi Gray Jackson's team on January 15th. He said that Elvi will be on Labor/Commerce and the Community and Regional Affairs Committees.
- 6. School Board Chair Starr Marsett:** Starr said that the schools are working hard to get students back in session after the earthquake. The Anchorage School District (ASD) is looking at 170 schools and over 4000 classrooms to assess whether the schools are safe for returning students by the December 10 target date. There will be an update on December 7. Currently there are 55 schools in green (ready to return condition), 52 in yellow (need some repair before students may return, and 2 red (major structural problems and will not open for the remainder of the year). Eagle River Elementary and Gruening are the 2 "red" schools. There will be a teachers/volunteer meeting tomorrow, December 6, and volunteers must fill out a waiver of liability form if they are to be allowed back into the school

property. Starr reported on some other non-earthquake items that items include rescheduling the School Board meeting from December 3 to December 10. Also, Starr anticipates that the ASD budget will be cut, in anticipation to lower State funding. Also the ASD teachers are voting on the current contract offer and the Board should know the results by Thursday. Other items she mentioned were that the Board voted to close Mount Spurr Elementary on JBER, the proficiency scores in reading and math are improving, and the ASD received a Federal grant that deals with improving student mental health.

B. Reports from UACC Committees/AdHoc Chair Persons

1. **Parks and Recreation–Barbara Garner:** Barbara said that the Municipality will be cutting spruce bark beetle infected trees, and those in the Right of Way, within Folker Park, on Saturday and Monday., She indicated that there are considerable health problems occurring within the park, with lots of human feces scattered throughout the Park.
2. **Safety:** Al asked if every felt the big one last Friday? He hoped that all remembered his past tips of DROP, COVER, and HOLD. The following additional Nixle tips are provided:
 - a) Keep generators away from doors
 - b) Keep fire extinguishers on hand
 - c) Check gas lines
 - d) Shelter in place
 - e) Check on friends and family
 - f) Keep phone lines open, use texts if possible
 - g) Stay off the roads
 - h) Obey traffic laws, follow officers commands and move for emergency responders
 - i) Inspect home for damage
 - j) Don't try to move heavy debris alone
 - k) Wear protective clothing during clean-up efforts

C. Report from the FCC Representative: Al Milspaugh reported on the following FCC activities.

1. ASD Board President Star Marsett stated that three students have been arrested and will probably be charged federally for terrorism. Since then there has been an additional student arrested.
2. AFD Chief Jodie Hettick emphasized that among other holiday practices to “cook with Caution: If you do have a small fire and have any doubts it, JUST GET OUT, and call 911.
3. MOA Long Range Planning Supervisor Tom Davis provided the following milestones for the Compatible Infill Housing (R-2 Zones) Project

- a) Release Public Hearing Draft-November 29 to December 3
- b) Work Session with P&Z Commission-December 10
- c) Evening Open House at 4700 Elmore Road-December 11
- d) Tentative date of a Public Hearing at the P&Z Commission-January 14th

Next Door advocate Albert Whitehead would like to add FCC notifications to the Next Door program and would like out view on doing so. That would mean the community councils would be notified via both the FCC and Next Door Program. The goal is to get information out to more residents. The membership overwhelmingly voted NO. They do not want to receive duplicate documentation.

D.Muni-Case No.2018-0113 – Relocation of Operations/Maintenance facility for Muni School buses-Paul Stang

Paul summarized the November 19, 2018 UACC comments to the Muni on the site selection for the relocation of school bus parking. He said the Muni had selected site 27 and had ignored the comments the UACC had provided. He said the Muni had completely ignored the UACC's request to provide and air quality study before proceeding to the selection process. The report for the sites did not even include mention of potential air quality problems with any of the sites, and in particular site 27. Paul described the actual process of warming up school buses on cold morning at the current site and how it impacts the air quality of the UACC neighborhood, and the subsequent health problems that are associated with the high concentration of diesel fumes. UACC comments detail that the same problems would be associated with relocation of buses at site 27 were ignored by the Municipality. Paul suggested that people attend the December 10 meeting to demand that at a minimum an air quality study be completed before the selection of a final site is completed. In lieu of a completed study the UACC should advocate selection of site 18 if the Muni can't find another option. Barbara Garner reiterated the problems the UACC neighborhood has experience since the location of the buses at the current in 1993. She said she and other neighbors have suffered for 25 years and with section of site 27, will suffer for decades more. There was discussion about whether the ASD must provide bus service and might rely on the people mover bus program instead. Starr Marsett indicated that ASD must provide bus service to all students who need it. She also said that ASD is not in a financial position to convert the bus fleet to electric buses, which would cost approximately \$50,000,000 at \$350,000 per bus. Also, these buses also have not been fully verified as being compatible with our climate. Since Paul will be out of State the second week of December it was decided that Barbara

Garner will represent the UACC at the December 10 meeting, and will present the November 19 letter into record, as well as provide other substantive comments.

5. Old Business

A. Winterberry School Fencing- Al Milspaugh

Al mentioned that the fence along the bike trail on the south side of Northern Lights adjacent to the Bryn Mawr Condominiums is about half down and presents safety and aesthetic concerns. Al said that he has been in contact with Criterion Corporation, the owner of the property, and they have agreed to take down the fence. Al also noted that the vegetation clearing in the area is associated with the ML&P easement operations.

6. New Business and Public Comment

A. Address by New UAA Chancellor- Dr. Cathy Sandeen.

Dr. Sanden says she has been on the UAA Campus since September 15th. She comes from the University of Wisconsin system, and had been there for the previous 4 years. She said previous to that she had been part of the University of California system. There, she said that she experienced the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, so knows what a large earthquake is like. She indicated that the UAA weathered the earthquake relatively well and that the Campus reopened on December 5. She said that she wants UAA to be a good neighbor. She has confidence that Ryan Buchholdt will be a good spokesperson for UAA, and that she regularly conferences with Ryan and will come to the UACC meetings when Ryan and the UACC feels there is a need. After Cathy spoke Al Milspaugh iterated that every UAA resident student is a member of UACC and they can go to the FCC website to sign up to receive UACC notifications or like us on Facebook to get more information about upcoming UACC activities. .

B. Rezoning Issue: Campbell Airstrip Road and 34th Ave. Re-zone on R2A lot into eight R2M lots with access via 34th Ave, plus variance not to intersect with Campbell Airstrip Road-Paul Stang

Paul introduced that a couple of issues are pertinent to the requested re-zoning. The first is that access is via 34th Avenue, and not Campbell Airstrip Road. This is due to the steep topography adjacent to the property along Campbell Airstrip Road and this precludes construction of an intersection as it would have a dangerous steep road gradient. The second issue is the rezone of the lot from one R2A lot to eight R2M lots. There was considerable dis-

cussion on this issue. It was brought up that all the adjacent lots within the area that had similar subdivisions were still R2A and not R2M. There was general consensus that the UACC could support the subdivision of the one lot into seven or eight lots, but the zoning should remain R2A. Also, there was no objection to providing access to the subdivision via 34th Avenue.

C. Call for Nominations for the 1/2/19 Elections of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer- Paul Stang

Paul asked whether there were any nominations for these three positions on the council. No one from the floor volunteered new candidates. Marguerite Iverson nominated the current Board to the positions they occupy, i.e. Paul Stang for President, Al Milspaugh for Vice President, and Steve Zemke for Secretary/Treasurer. These persons were asked if they would accept the nomination. They all indicated they would. These nominees will stand for election at the 1/2/19 UACC meeting along with any floor nominations.

D. Public Comments- None

- 7. Adjournment:** President Stang indicated that the next meeting was scheduled the day after New Year's Day (1/2/19). He posed the question whether the meeting should be delayed to 1/9/19. A vote was taken, with seven votes to keep the date at 1/2/19 and three votes for 1/9/19. As such the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 2, 2019. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:40 pm.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President