

UACC MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2019

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order by the President Paul Stang at 7:02 pm. - There were 14 members and 8 visitors signed in. The President asked each individual to state their name and location or business.
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Ryan Buchholdt, UAA, recommended 2 edits. One was on page 4 line 21, Loma Linda earthquake should read Loma Prieta earthquake, and his name on line 24 should be spelled Buchholdt. Milspaugh, with a second by Marguerite Iverson, moved to approve the December 5, 2018 Minutes as amended. The motion to approve these Minutes was passed by unanimous consent.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Al Milspaugh, with a second by Susan Klein, moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.
- 4. Informational Reports**

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- a. **Representative Ivy Spohnholz-** She said the State legislature session will start January 15th. She indicated the organization is still in the air, with a 19/20 split currently existing with one seat still before the State Supreme court for adjudication. The Lieutenant Governor will preside if no coalition is reached. Governor Dunleavy's budget is due to the legislature by February 15th. She felt that painful budget cuts will be proposed, particularly in light of the Governors pledge to fund the full PFD amount. Ivy mentioned that the health care transparency bill implementation is on hold until regulations can be written for enforcement. Barbara Garner had a question about whether disclosure of pharmacy prescription costs would be covered under regulations. Ivy indicated they are not as there are just too many to be covered. Paula Stan asked what the State should do about Governor Dunleavy's proposal to "pay back" the amount of the PFD that was taken over the last 3 years to cover budget deficits. Ivy said she does not support this as it would be a 4.3 billion hit that could endanger future PFD's.
- b. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson-** Pete indicated the budget passed for 2019 will need to be amended due to the earthquake damages to infrastructure. These will need to be either bond or out of pocket costs. He said there will be the 5% alcohol tax up for vote in April's ballot. He said that Gretchen Wehmhoff was appointed to fill Amy Demboskis's vacated assembly seat. She indicated she will not run for the seat in April. Pete reported that the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) and the State earthquake damage funding grant requests are due by January 29th, 2019 to Ready.Alaska.Gov. More information can be obtained at 855-455-7131.
- c. **Assembly Vice-Chair Felix Rivera:** Felix reported on the Assembly reorganization with Eric Croft being the new chair and Felix Rivera being the Vice Chair. Felix said that Anchorage Homeless Plan first quarter report will be given on Wednesday, 1/9 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Wilda Marston Theater. This is a continuation of the robust public input process and look toward what to do in 2019. It was noted that there will be an Alaska Common Ground forum in March and April on housing shortages in Alaska, part of which would focus on affordable housing.
- d. **Assembly Member Forest Dunbar:** Forrest reported on earthquake damage activities. He said that 2% of the budget is set aside for emergency funds. He said the Muni is planning to spend \$8 million out of that fund. He said that additional house inspectors will be needed to cover that backlog of needs, with 115 homes currently still needing inspection. He noted that if homes exhibited severe structural damage, the \$37,500 in State and Federal money

would not go far. He also commented on the 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.

- e. **Megan Holland for State Representative Andy Josephson:** Megan said that Andy is in Hawaii taking a break before heading to Juneau. He will be on the Workman Compensation working group, with emphasis on getting compensation rates adjusted for inflation, and the death benefits amounts, which were established 20 to 60 years ago, updated. She also said that Andy currently does not have an office at the Anchorage Legislative Office until April due to the remodeling at the Wells Fargo building.

B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons

- a. **Parks and Recreation-Barbara Garner-** Barbara said that the Municipality will be cutting spruce bark beetle infected trees in Folker Park on December 3rd. She indicated they will start clearing the trees in the row of way for the paved trails this spring.

- b. **Safety-Al Milspaugh-** Al had some safety tips for when traveling:

- a) Have a plan and listen up during your safety briefings.
- b) Walk through your lodging shortly after your arrival to note emergency exists.
- c) Establish an emergency family relocation place in case you are separated.
- d) Know the emergency number for the country you are visiting.
- e) Register your trip with the US State Department at [Step.State.Gov/Step](#).
- f) All members should carry a copy of your passport and contacts,. Including you lodging. (DO NOT CARRY YOUR ORIGINAL PASSPORT!)
- g) Copy important documents to your phone; i.e. insurance, passport, current family pictures, medications.
- h) Carry only one credit card and a limited amount of dollars you carry and secure it within your clothing. Be discrete when removing it.
- i) Put everything you want to take home in the lodging safe. Some people are not as honest as you are.
- j) Be smart, safe, and enjoy your trip.

C. Report from the FCC Representative: Al Milspaugh reported on the following FCC meeting was canceled for December due to lack of interest during the holidays.

5. Old Business-Muni-Case No.2018-0113 – Relocation of Operations/Maintenance facility for Muni School buses-Status Update- Barbara Garner

Barbara Garner testified for the UACC at the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) on December 10th, 2018. Barbara said that she also gave an interview to Channel 11 on the air quality problems associated with the current Bus Barn location, as well as the potential similar air pollution that would occur at proposed site 27. She said that the muni response to the problem was to eventually phase in new technology diesel buses, though no thorough explanation was given as to how these would significantly reduce the diesel fume problem during times of temperature inversion (still stagnant air at temperatures of less than 20⁰F). The P&Z used 9 criteria for selection of site 27 as the preferred site. Unfortunately none of these criteria addressed air quality and associated health issues. Paul Stang noted that the pollution from buses would still be present with the move to Site 27. He also noted that Scenic Park Community Council recommended that Site 27 be selected so as to not affect their area. He

also indicated that the Assembly will make the final decision, but probably wouldn't use air quality as a selection criterion as it wasn't included in the original 9 criteria. Forrest Dunbar indicated that the new diesel buses would be more efficient and indeed would cause less air quality problems. He also noted that there are really only 2 options, either move to the new site on Elmore, or stay in the current location which will eliminate the opportunity for a grocery store (a high UACC priority) to be located there. The Health Department would also not be able to relocate there from their downtown location. He also mentioned that there is an ongoing AMATS study for electric buses, but it is in relation to the People Mover bus operations and not Anchorage School District buses. Finally, Barbara Garner mentioned that there have been air quality sensors deployed in the area since the early 2000's, but is unsure where and if the old data is available to guide the Assembly in making their decisions.

6. New Business and Public Comment

A. Election of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer- Joanie Nardini

President Paul Stang gave the chair over to Joanie Nardini for purposes of election 2019 Executive Board Officers. Joanie called for additional nominations from the UACC for these Board Officer positions, other than the three members who were nominated for these positions during our December 5, 2018 meeting. No other nominations were put forth. *Mary Lu Harle, with Barbara Garner seconding, moved that nominees Paul Stang for President, Al Milspaugh for Vice President, and Steve Zemke for Secretary/Treasurer be elected for the 2019 term. Barbara Garner seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.*

B. Nominations for Executive Board Members-Paul Stang

Paul introduced that two Member at Large positions as well as a second Alternate FCC member are needed for the 2019 UACC Executive Board. Susan Klein, with Barbara Garner seconding, nominated Joanie Nardini for one of this year's member at large positions. Joanie Nardini agreed to the nomination. *UACC voted unanimously to elect Joanie to one of the Member at Large positions.* Al Milspaugh, with Susan Share seconding, nominated Christa Scott for the other Member at Large position. Christa agreed to the nomination. *UACC voted unanimously to elect Christa to the second Member at Large position.* Paul called for nominees to the second alternate FCC position. No nominees were put forth.

C. Anchorage Waterways Council's (AWC)Mission Benefits UACC Members- Cherie Norton, AWC

Cherie said the AWC's is a non profit organization whose mission is to prevent further degradation and to try to improve conditions within Anchorage's water courses. She noted that currently every waterway within the Anchorage Basin has some form of impairment. Mostly it's from fecal coliform. One of the primary causes is fecal matter from Anchorage's many dogs. The "Scoop the Poop" days at University Lake, Conner's Bog, and South Anchorage Sports Park attempt to address the situation, but don't significantly alter the situation. The AWC is trying to educate dog owners in more effective ways to deal with the pollution. Another problem is potentially elevated water temperatures from heating and cooling associated with commercial uses such as at the hospital. Cherie had a handout available at the back table for tips for keeping Anchorage's creeks clean.

Cherie explained the water quality monitoring program that has been in effect since 1998. It's a volunteer operation that primarily focuses on Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform. The AWC currently has a water quality database available for Little Campbell Creek, and has a new EPA grant to include Rabbit Creek, Ship Creek, Campbell Creek, and others into the data-

base. Cherie also mentioned that this May, AWC will coordinate the 34th annual Creek Cleanup. She appreciates the many volunteers who participate in this effort.

Mary Lu Harle mentioned that she is a member of the AWC and encouraged others to join the council, to help foster the good work. Al Milspaugh had a question about whether pollution is causing deformation of amphibians in the area as it does in the lower 48 States. Cherie replied that she isn't aware of such occurrences in Anchorage, but here has been documented fish kills.

There was discussion on how to control fecal coliform levels. General comments were that the requirement to pick up dog waste needs to be enforced. Cherie used the example of Cuddy Park, where vegetative buffers, signage, and education efforts about not feeding waterfowl had helped bring fecal coliform levels from 18,000 to 12 fecal coliform colonies per milliliter of water. Cherie mentioned there is a study on the best management practices to be implemented at "doggy" facilities. Christa Scott had a question about who would monitor whether the BMP's are being adhered to and if the BMP's are effective.

D. 1). Compatible scale Infill Housing (R-2 Zones) Project Update and 2) Heritage Land Bank 2019 Work Program & 2020-2024 5 Year Management Plan-45day Public Review- see attachments for details

Paul Stang presented the attachment that describes these two projects. Of note is the P&Z hearing on the Infill Housing to be held on January 14, 2019, and the Heritage Land Bank Work Program hearing to be held on February 14, 2019.

6. Public Comments

Susan Klein asked that the UACC reconsider their vote about adding FCC notifications to the Next Door program. The UACC voted no at their December 5th, 2018 meeting. The members felt they did not want to duplicate documentation. Susan feels that adding FCC notifications to Next Door might increase participation in Community Councils which would be a good thing. The decision was to bring it up again at next meeting for reconsideration.

There was discussion about providing pedestrian access to new residential developments to provide better neighborhood connectivity. There was question about whether the Whispering Hills subdivision would adhere to this policy. The gathered information should be presented to the P&Z hearing dealing with this subdivision.

Adjournment: Al Milspaugh, with Mary Lu Harle second, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:51 pm. Our next UACC meeting will be held on February 6, 2019.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President