

UACC MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2019

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order by the President Paul Stang at 7:03 pm. - There were 25 persons present at the start of the meeting with 19 members and 3 visitors signed in. The President asked each individual to state their name and location or business.
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with a second by Starr Marsett, moved to approve the February 6, 2019 Minutes as written. 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 Krista Scott, moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- a. **Assembly Member Pete Petersen-:** Pete mentioned the April 2 municipal election will be a vote by mail with ballots being mailed out on March 12th. Ballots can be mailed in, or deposited into one to the citywide secure ballot boxes. He said that the assembly passed the 12 year tax abatement for certain residential development in the Central (downtown) Business District. He also said the long debated rezoning of 77 acres in the upper DeArmon area has happened. The Assembly also voted to approve moving the bus barn to east of the police station.

Assembly Member Forest Dunbar-: Forest described the potential effect of the Governor's budget proposal on the municipality. He indicated that the impact would be significant on the muni but not as impacting as that to the Anchorage School District and the University of Alaska Anchorage. Muni impacts would be a loss of \$2.3 million in oil property tax, and \$6 million in direct municipal assistance to EMS and Fire operations. Mary Lu Harle asked about what source of revenue could be found to meet these potential budget cuts. Forest said that the new alcohol tax proposal could help but would require some new directives to be effective. There is the possibility of a new seasonal sales tax, but numbers need to be crunched to evaluate its possibilities, and couldn't go to voters' before 2020. Forest also said that current taxes bring in significant revenue with \$20 M bed tax, \$4M marijuana tax, and \$24 M tobacco being most significant beyond property tax.

- b. **Assembly Member Dick Traini-:** Dick said that yet again he is being termed out. He indicated that he voted against the downtown tax break,

and felt that it should be applied city wide or not at all. He discussed the potential ordinance to prohibit the smoking or vaping of tobacco or marijuana, within 20 feet municipal parks. He reported that a permit for a marijuana shop at the Bingo Parlor on Tudor has been received.

President Paul Stang thanked Dick Traini for his years' of service to the UACC and presented Dick with a "Thank you for Service" card by council members. Al Milspaugh asked if Dick would be present for next meeting, (yes), a Certificate of Appreciation from the council was presented. Joanie Nardini provided snacks for UACC members in honor of Dick's Service.

- c. **State Representatives Andy Josephson-** Andy started by congratulating Dick Traini on his years of service. On Legislative business Andy said that it took 30 days to organize. He hoped the coalition will create better policy and prevent draconian budget cuts. He said that he is now on the House Finance and Legislative Affairs Committees. He hopes to work to restore some of the funding that is potentially slashed from the Governor's budget proposal. On matters of budget Andy said that if Permanent Fund was \$1,600 that there will be low budget cuts and a full PFD will mean big budget cuts. He also said there is no appetite for new State taxes or increases in oil taxes in the legislature. If the PFD were set at \$500, the percent of market value funding would pay for full State functions. He also *said some action is needed as the State savings are below \$2 B and most **is of** this is needed to provide cash flow for State business. One bright spot is that the State school budget has been forward funded to 2020, though the \$20 M cut proposed by the governor might still be impacting. Al Milspaugh wanted to know whether the current State budget chaos might affect the States bond rating. Andy said that the State needs a stable fiscal plan to help this from happening.
- d. **Megan Holland for State Representative Ivy Spohnholz-** She said Ivy is preparing for the House Social Services Committee hearing to be held at 4 pm tomorrow. One of the major topics will be the Governors API privatization proposal. Ivy will also host a coffee to be held at Immanuel Presbyterian Church on the corner of Boniface and Oakes on Saturday from 10-1130 am.
- e. **Senator Elvi Grey Jackson-** was not able to attend the meeting but had her two page report read into the council record.
- f. **School Board President Starr Marsett-** Starr indicated the ASD Board is quite concerned over the State budget proposals. She indicated that the passage of a budget by June 1 budget puts a lot of stress on the ability of the ASD to put together their budget and it impacts the contract negotiations that are currently ongoing with staff. If there is no State budget by May 15th,

ASD would assume the Governor's budget is in affect *and this would basically result in pink slips to all non-tenured teachers. This would be up to 1,200 pink slips. Even if some funding is restored, Starr predicts many teachers would abandon the school district with all the uncertainty. Starr said there will be town halls meetings to discuss the State budget, and people need to go there to advocate for ASD schools. People also need to call legislators to advocate for public education. Starr also described the upcoming bond proposals, with \$59 M capital projects, which is mainly for roof replacements. There is also a \$4 M to help move the Eagle River Elementary and Gruening Middle Schools replacements forward.

B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons

a. Safety-Al Milspaugh- Al had some safety tips on being vigilant to your surroundings:

Community: Citizen's phone call to police led to the arrest of a burglar, Joshua Harford

At 6:22 PM on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, a citizen called Police Dispatch to report they heard glass breaking at the business next door. The citizen looked through the garage doors of that business and saw someone crawling in through a broken window. Officers responded to 106 E Dowling Road and could see a male inside placing items into a truck (the vehicle was already parked inside the garage prior to the suspect's arrival). Officers gave commands to the suspect who complied and was taken into custody without incident.

41-year-old Joshua W. Harford was remanded at the Anchorage Jail on an existing felony probation violation warrant. He was further charged with Burglary II, Criminal Trespass I, and Criminal Mischief III.

The point here is to always be vigilant of your surroundings and report suspicious going-on to APD.

C. Report from the FCC Representative: Al Milspaugh, UACC FCC Representative, reported on last month's FCC meeting. He said the FCC topics were:

1. Voting, the MOA has added additional voting drop boxes this year.
2. The Greater Anchorage Inc., in conjunction with the MOA and the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, intends to designate 4th Ave from C Street to E Street as the Anchorage Mushing District in recognition of the mushers and dogs in the Open World Championship Sled Dog Race and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

3. If you want to donate and be recognized go to FurRody.net/mushing-district for additional details.
4. The Anchorage Draft Climate Plan is now available and is posted on Muni.org/ClimateActionPlan comments . Comments will be accepted through 31 March.
5. The Mayor has authorized the FCC to provide information via Nextdoor with stipulations. The FCC can only post community councils (CC) meeting notification unless a CC advises otherwise. Nextdoor members can obtain documentation via their CC notification system.

5. Old Business- None

6. New Business and Public Comment

A.Muni Alcohol Tax on Ballot- Nancy Burke, Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator, Mayor's Officer

This would be a 5 % retail tax which would generate approximately \$11 to \$15 M annually. These would be dedicated funds toward behavioral health. Could be used at API, Clitheroe Treatment Center, youth opportunities, or expand downtown ambassador and community/trail watch programs. Contrary to a State sales tax the funds can be designated on a municipal level. The tax will need a simple majority vote to pass,

Nancy also discussed the homeless abatement program. She described the 2018 Summer Season Anchored Home program statistics. She indicated improvement in 4 areas including the a decrease in summer adult homeless counts, increase in citizen engagement, an increase in the number of homeless camps abated, and the tons of trash cleaned up in our public spaces.

There was discussion on the potential expansion of the Clitheroe Treatment Center. Currently it has very limited space, up to 42 spaces. They are looking at an expansion to up to 500 spaces. Karen Strash Purtzer indicated that the Housing first concept works. Pete Petersen indicated that there are currently \$300 million in citywide alcohol sales and these do create significant alcohol related homeless problems. Dick Traini discussed the idea of expanding bar hours as a negotiation tool to get the alcohol industry to support the tax. Finally there was a discussion of creating a UACC Resolution supporting the passing alcohol tax. Al Milspaugh indicated that there is another community council resolution that could be used as a template for such resolution. It was agreed that this would be taken up at the end of the new business.

B. Ted Stevens Airport Runway Construction and Noise Impacts- Jim Szczesniak-Airport Manager

Jim described the impact of the International Airport on Anchorage. He said that the airport has over a \$1 billion payroll and accounts for 1 in 10 jobs in Alaska. He described the growth of the airport, at 4 % annually. He said there are new airlines coming to Anchorage and provide even more service to Anchorage passengers. He also said there will be new concessions coming to the airport this year.

The 15 ANC North South Runway is needed to improve airport efficiency and safety by replacing the aging runway. The runways were last resurfaced over 15 years ago. Jim said the Airport Runway Renewal Project is 20 % complete. The 80% remainder of the runway resurfacing, widening, and electrical improvement will occur this year from April to October. There is a small possibility that the project might not be completed this construction season, but if it isn't there is a chance that require another short construction period up to a couple of weeks. Unfortunately, the flight pattern during construction will be similar to last year with flight takeoff over Anchorage. Noise during takeoff is the major conflict that impacts our community council area. Jim indicated that one meditative measure is to alter the climbing pattern for the jet aircraft. This will be for the jet to rapidly climb to 800 feet, than reduce the climbing attitude (hence noise) till 3000 feet, than resume on a more rapid climb. Jim said that his was tried later in last year's construction season and it seemed to reduce the nose impact. There was discussion of noise reduction tips from the FAA, but these were found to be discusses on long term fixes and not applicable to the current situation. Jim suggested that might come down to trying earplugs, white noise to mask the sound and patience.

C. Folker Park Update- Keren Strash Purtzer Volunteer Coordinator, Providence Horizon House

Karen introduced Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Parks and Recreation, who will describe the current status of the park improvements. Maeve said that there are big changes, primarily due to budget constraints. As a result the two trails were merged into one. As such the park users will still get the benefits of the fitness path, while still maintaining the other features of the park improvements. The connections to Folker Street and 42nd Avenue will now be by gravel paths. Also, the existing paved path along 42nd Avenue will be retained. Water line repair along 42nd Avenue will need to be completed before the connector is completed. There was a work session to come up with the new design. The new paths will be soft surface and if the existing soil under

the right of way is good then the cost of construction will be relatively low, as this material can be used for surface material for the mulch over gravel soft surface pathways. If it is mostly organics cost for path construction could be higher. The bid for the construction will be one bid, but will be on separate bid items, so award might reflect something less than full construction if the low overall bid exceeds existing funds. The spring breakup will determine the timing of the project this year. The project construction will result in the park being closed this summer.

The Reflexology and Labyrinth area will be competed at a later date. In regards to the Reflexology area, there will be a Reflexology Conference in Anchorage in September and this will provide an opportunity to complete the design. Also, the labyrinth area will be phased in and it will provide prime opportunities for volunteers. Karen talked about how important the upgrades to Folker Park will be to Providence Horizon House Residents and to all seniors near this neighborhood park. She also said that in particular the intergenerational equipment will be a great asset to the Park.

Mary Lu Harle asked whether there would be paved access for Horizon House residents. Maeve indicated that this access would be provided at the paved path near the intersection of Folker and 42nd. Paul Stang asked whether Barbara Garner, our Parks Sub Committee chair who was not able to be here due to being out of State at present, was on board with the new changes to the park plan. Both Maeve and Karen said that she was at the work session that came up with the current plan and approved of the changes that came out of this session. Leslie Tuovinen asked whether the forget me not path will use native Alaska forget me not flowers. Maeve indicated that the path had been planted with the native species and would continue to be so. Susan Klein had concern over the intensity of the LED lights affecting the neighbors adjacent to the park. Maeve said that the light poles are planned to be relatively short, and the actual light caps will focus lights downward so should not impact the adjacent homes. Finally, Karen Workman commented that the park plan needs to be coordinated with the planning that is being done for the 42nd Avenue reconstruction.

D. Upcoming Muni Elections and Bonds Relevant to UACC Area- Christi Meyn, Volunteer

Christi introduced the Proposition 2, and 5 Area Bond package. She provided a handout listing all the bond proposals. Within the package two roads and drainage bond projects are contained within our UACC boundaries. These are the \$2,000,000 Image Drive/Reflection Drive road reconstruction,

and the \$2,500,000 Tudor Centre Drive /Diplomacy Drive area road resurfacing.

E. Resolution 2019-03 UACC Resolution in Support of Alcohol Tax- Al Milspaugh

Al introduced/read the UACC Resolution in support of the municipal alcohol tax. Leslie Tuovinen, with Mary Lu Hale seconding, moved to approve the motion. The motion was approved by UACC members with 13 voting for and one against the motion.

6. Public Comments- None

7. Adjournment: Mary Lu Hale, with Leslie Tuovinen seconding, moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:00 pm. Our next UACC meeting will be held on April 3, 2019.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President