

UACC MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2019

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:01 pm. - There were 34 persons present at the start of the meeting with 18 members and 13 visitors signed in. The President asked each individual to state their name and location or business.
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh moved to approve the May 1, 2019, as written with a second by Barbara Garner. The Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. He said that he would like to add a presentation by retired Police Chaplain Pastor Victor Marbury on the Anchorage Community Police Relations Task Force. Al Milspaugh with second by Steve Zemke moved to approve tonight's agenda with President Paul Stang's modification. The agenda, as amended, was passed by unanimous consent.
- 4. Informational Reports**
 - A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
 - a. State Representative Ivy Spohnholz-:** Ivy discussed the events that took place during the two special legislative sessions. She said the end result of the Governor's line item vetoes of the 2020 budget will have severe economic impacts. Using ISER figures of 1,200 jobs reduction for every \$100 million budget reduction, the overall impact would be 5,700 jobs. She indicated that with a vote three quarters of the legislature needed to overturn the Governors vetoes; these impacts will likely create challenges into the future for the economy of Alaska. These cuts will also impact mental health services and could exacerbate homelessness.
 - b. State Representative Andy Josephson-:** Andy said that for the first 30 days of the legislative session there was not a majority coalition formed. A budget was passed but the Governor used a line item veto totaling \$444 million. The legislature then restored \$340 million of the Governors cuts. The Governor subsequently used his veto to reinstate cuts of \$255 million. The legislature has until January 18th to override any of Governor Dunleavy's vetoes. Andy made the point that small budget items matter, with an example of how the \$3 million cut in Public Broadcasting will impact the public good. He also explained how some of the cuts, such as the \$6 million in dental health programs will lose over \$18 million in Federal matching funds.
 - c. State Senator Bill Wielechowski-:** Bill told of the death of State Senator

Chris Birch. He said that Laddie Shaw had been nominated as his replacement. He talked about how the legislature agrees to most things, maybe 90 percent of the time, but there are differences on the big items. He mentioned Medicare, Oil Taxes, the PFD are the major ones. Bill again explained that the amount of oil tax credits, up to \$1.2 B, being a major factor in State budget deficits. He pointed out that oil companies earn \$26 a barrel profit in Alaska compared to the \$13 a barrel profit worldwide.

Bill then had the Executive Board come up to accept a Commendation from the Alaska Thirty-First State Legislature “for their tireless advocacy for the University area neighborhoods in Anchorage”. Ivy Sponholz mentioned that the UACC was very diplomatic and smooth running. She also highlighted the accomplishments at Folker Park and particularly with the installation of the intergenerational equipment. Andy Josephson mentioned how the Community Councils charter and the town hall meetings are important and how resolutions such as those passed by UACC do matter. Al Milspaugh, speaking for the UACC Executive Board, said that the award is for all the members so the University Area Community Council, not just those Executive Board members standing up receiving the award.

- d. **Assembly Member Meg Zaletel-** Meg Zaletel talked about the town hall meeting on the future of the University Alaska held with with faculty, staff, and students. President Johnson talked there about the potential consolidation of the three Universities. There was public discussion about this possible outcome. She also mentioned that the Municipal wide plastic bag restriction would be implemented on September 15th. She also said that the cell phone restriction within school zones would be implemented this school session. No cell phone use is allowed within school zones from 6 am to 9 pm, except for hands free methods. She also said that first responders to this year’s wildfire emergencies would be recognized at the next Assembly meeting. Other items mentioned were public hearing on site marijuana consumption, a \$400 K to Brother Francis Shelter as a stop gap measure, and there was \$42 million in State funds for the first phase of the cement terminal at the Port of Alaska.
- e. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson-:** Pete introduced several topics. First was that stores will provide paper bags in lieu of plastic, with stores charging 10 cents per bag up to 50 cents. Second was that the ordinance that limits cell phone use in school zones still allows 911 emergency calls. Pete talked about the ordinance requiring persons to be 21 to purchase tobacco, with Pete offering an amendment to allow underage employees to sell the tobacco products. Al Milspaugh suggested that the ordinance

should also include the need for persons to be 21 to purchase vaping products due to health issues involved. Pete also mentioned that the recycling center would no longer take plastic bags.

- f. **Jacob Tatum for State Senator Elvi Grey Jackson-** Jacob noted that the Senator is available even when out of session. He emphasized the need to understand and support health care budgets and how reduction of these can exacerbate the problem of hopelessness. He also said that the reduction of UA budgets could greatly impact the community. Al Milspaugh made an observation that the Legislative Information Office is now open.
 - g. **Ryan Buchholdt UAA Representative.** Ryan thanked the legislature for getting the Governors \$136 million budget cut amended to “only” \$25 million. He said that the potential \$136 million budget reduction just 6 weeks before the start of the semester was causing significant stress to students and faculty, and many were thinking of abandoning the University. He noted the number of new students is down 14% compared to last year’s class. He mentioned that the Board of Regents would be taking public testimony on September 9th from 12 to 6 pm on the future of the University system. On September 12-13th the Board of Regents would look at future options for the University system. Ryan closed by saying the university is trying to improve its relations with the adjacent communities. Al Milspaugh mentioned the Alaska Middle College program where high school juniors and seniors can take college credits.
 - h. **Pastor Victor Marbury Retired Police Chaplain-** Pastor Victor introduced the Anchorage Community Police Relations Task Force and its function. He handed out a pamphlet that discussed the history, mandate and membership of the task force. He mentioned that meetings of the task force are held at 12 pm on the second Friday of every month at the Fairview Recreation Center.
- B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons**
- a. **Parks-Barbara Garner-:** Barbara reported on several upcoming park events. A public hearing on the Russian Jack Master Plan is to be held on September 28 from 12 to 3 pm. She indicated that University Lake Park improvements would include a study of the parking lot on the southwest section of the park during 2019 with construction occurring in 2020, along with the lighting and way finding improvements. Barbara also reported on happenings at Folker Park. She indicated that homeless individuals are camping out in the NE part of the park. She also said that she has seen people smoking cigars and cigarettes in the park which is a potential disaster with the amount of dead and dying spruce in the park. Barbara indicated that the walking pathway has been paved and the

intergenerational exercise equipment is in place. Al Milspaugh noted that the Anchorage Fire Department Fire Wise Program, will provide grants of up to \$500 for removal of spruce bark beetle affected trees. One can go to the AFD website for the application.

- b. Safety-Al Milspaugh:-** Al talked about the need to have an emergency evacuation plan. It needs to be visible. Also need to brief the family members and visitors about the plan and how to implement it is also important.
- c. UACC FCC Representative: Al Milspaugh.** Al stated the FCC has not met during the summer. Al requested that documents needed to be archived be brought to him at next month's meeting.

5. Old Business- None

6. New Business and Public Comment

A.Folker Park Improvements Construction-Update- Maeve Nevins -Latvar-, Senior Park Planner.

Maeve said the Folker Park construction is under way. The Reflexology path is coming along, though is a two year project. On every Monday they are collecting rocks and artifacts from the community that may be incorporated into the path. She said that on September 7th from 9 am to 12 pm will be a community volunteer work session to help clean up vegetation in the park. Maeve indicated that people are already using the intergenerational equipment. LED lights for the pathway will be placed in the next couple of weeks. Maeve said the paved pathways are done as Barbara indicated but still need to be touched up. She also was excited about the big adult swing that was being constructed. Maeve addressed the spruce bark beetle killed tree situation by saying the park arborist will be looking at the situation and other parks and address in a case by case situation. There were questions about additional funding to complete more of the plan, but Maeve indicated that there is no more money coming down for park improvements. A specific example is that this means that the phase II extension of the playground will not be completed, so there will be no equipment available for bigger kids other than that big swing.

Doug McKinnon had several specific comments. First he thanked Barbara Garner and Maeve Nevins-Latvar for getting the Folker Park improvements done. He also noted that there are scofflaw activities occurring, with smoking in hazard areas and gunfire being the most egregious. He also noted that dog feces are present most everywhere. He thinks the vegetative clearing is a good idea and may help the situation. He also thinks that a curfew needs to be enforced in the park. He also requested that the UACC recommend in-

cluding \$70 to \$100 K needed to complete the projects in the Municipal Capital Improvement List. Al Milspaugh recommended that Doug call and report the scofflaw activities each and every time they occur.

B. Federal Job Opportunities with the 2020 Census, Sue Hecks Census Recruiter-:

Sue said the goal of the census is to count every person. It's important to establishing legislative districts, school districts funding, and federal reimbursement to the States. For information she passed out pamphlet on the census as well as her business card. She said that the census needs to hire many people to complete this task. The Census will start at January 21st at Tooksook Bay, the first community in the US to be surveyed. The census will proceed to urban Alaska by mid-March. Much of the census will be done on line. There will be a canvas done in April to determine who has responded on line and then use this information to determine how many door to door census takers will be required. Currently there are about 16 part time employees identified of an estimated 30 that will be needed in the UACC area.

Sue described the application process for these temporary positions. These can be rather flexible work time frames. Work can be up to 40 hours a week with most being in July. There can also be opportunity for travel if one wishes. The positions are part time temporary positions that pay from \$28 top \$31 and hour. One needs to be at least 18 years old, and provide a SSN, email address, bank account number, and selective service number if applicable. One can go to 2020census.gov/jobs to apply. There are two parts, one work regular census workers and the second for supervisory positions.

Paul Stang asked whether the citizenship question will be included in the 2020 Census. Sue indicated that it is not on the questionnaire and one can go on line to view the questions that are on the form. She indicated they are pretty much the same ones from the 2010 Census. Al Milspaugh asked whether the Census workers are to be considered as sub-contractors and not subject to worker compensation. Sue indicated they are Federal Temporary workers and as such would be covered under Federal worker compensation rules. She said the workers would be provided training, and/or a laptop and tablet needed to get the work done. Hannah Davis had a question about a mail flyer that appeared to have come from the Census Bureau, and whether she should open it up and respond. Sue said that these are probably valid and the Census Bureau does many other surveys that answer questions other than how many people art in the country.

C. Southcentral Foundation's project at 4330 Elmore Rd (Ernie Turner site)- Van (Wan) Le, AICP Manager R&M Consultants-:

Van introduced the concept of their project and said they will come back when they have more detailed plans. She said the existing facility sits on a current mix of B3 and PLI zoned property. The proposal would be to expand to and combine the three lots and zone them all to B3 as per the Anchorage 2020 Plan. The expansion would be from 15 beds to a 26 bed facility with other related medical offices. The detox center would be a 24 hour facility. They can't build to the property line and so would require a second access/egress needed for safety purposes, probably to UAA property to the north. The current facility would remain while the new facility is being constructed. Before the Consultants come back they will provide a mailer describing a more detailed design/construction description.

Barbara Garner had a question about whether felons were currently being held at the facility. Van said that people with a felony DUI conviction could be part of the clients. The center is currently a municipal medical detox center and would retain that designation. Pete Peterson wanted to know where funding for construction would come from. Van said that the funds are from the Southcentral Foundation and though some Federal funding might be available. Paul Stang had a question about whether the new design might need access to Tudor Road, which would be a safety hazard. Van assured him that no access is allowed to Tudor Road, and the current access would be moved north on Elmore Road for safety purposes. There was also discussion about how many parking spots would be needed for the property. Van indicated that some 180 to 260 parking spots would be required under municipal code. This seemed excessive and there was some discussion about the need to revise the muni code that requires that amount of parking, and should only require the actual amount that is actually needed. Also, Van said that the facility would include the lower detox facility occupying only the lower floor, with the two upper floors being dedicated for other uses.

D. Public Comments-

1. Barbara Garner brought up the fact that the 42 Avenue construction improvements were not on the CIP list. She felt that they needed to be on the list if they were ever to be funded. She also made comment that the air quality study needed to be completed before any work on moving the Tudor Road/Elmore Road school bus parking to the new location. She felt that any action prior to completion of the air quality study was preemptive.
2. Great Northern Cannabis Retail Store- 2600 East Tudor Road. Paul Stang said that there is a request for UACC comments by September 27th. There will be a public hearing on permit application on October 27th. There was discussion on how close the facility would be the Rescue Mission and

whether it might not meet municipal code requirements for this distance. Paul stated that the municipal contact for the permit application is 343-7935.

3. David Morgan, with the Rodgers Park Community Council, discussed a resolution for requesting funding (replacement of lost funding due to the government shutdown) that would identify sources of fecal coliform contamination within Chester Creek. It was indicated that David should provide the resolutions prior to next meeting for discussion and action at the October meeting.

4. Barbara Garner brought up the need for a Special Needs Intersection Crossing at Folker St & E 42nd Ave for safety purposes. She noted that she has personally witnessed several occasions when persons with special needs such as those using walkers or wheelchairs have nearly been hit by autos while they were crossing Folker Street to get to Folker Park. After considerable discussion it was decided the UACC Executive Board would write a resolution that addressed the need for a special needs safety crossing on Folker Street and deliver it to the municipal for action. Barbara Garner with a second by Joanie Nardini moved that the UACC Executive Board write said resolution and send it off the Municipality. The motion passed with by unanimous consent.

Adjournment: Al Milspaugh, with Steve Zemke 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 October 2, 2019

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President