

Minutes of Midtown Community Council Meeting

October 9, 2019

3000 C STREET, 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The October meeting was called to order at 12:05pm and the September minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports of Local Law Enforcement: There were no officers present.

Reports of State Officials: Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson happily announced HB 126, which established November as Alaska Native Heritage Month was signed by Governor Dunleavy; the Senator also gave an update to the vacancy appointments to the Alaska State Legislature and the University of Alaska's single-accreditation model discussions.

Sarah Evans, new Legislative Aid to Representative Drummond, was also present.

Reports of Local Officials: Assembly Member Meg Zaletal was present. She and Assembly Member Felix Rivera have started a monthly newsletter to send out to constituents. There have been changes to the fire code inspection and testing fees and there is another work session scheduled. Yesterday's assembly meeting voted in favor the six 2-member districts and on-site marijuana consumption both going to the April 2020 ballot.

Assembly Member Felix Rivera also spoke to the Council and gave an update on the Port of Anchorage project; the port consultants (a local firm) made recommendations for a new cost-savings project. Mr. Rivera also spoke upon the ML&P sale and the Municipal Ombudsman.

Reports of Councils: The Executive Board met and decided to amend the by-laws to add a board member.

Presentations: CRW gave an update on the 48th Avenue Y Cordova Street reconstruction. The Council voiced concern on retaining walls installed on street corners (the project design includes one retaining wall). CRW also confirmed that flyers were sent and notices were mailed out to adjacent landowners and businesses. A representative from Solstice also confirmed a door-to-door campaign. CRW also confirmed there has not been a cost-benefit analysis, and Vice-President Davidge will draft a resolution addressing this. A new MTCC member voiced frustrations on this point, saying there has not been adequate notice to landowners and business members (she owns a business in the project boundaries). She admits the public involvement campaign has gotten better, but as an example, this meeting was not advertised. Her main concern is adding sidewalks to the industrial part of the project is unsafe. CRW responded that this project is still in the planning process, and has not received funding for design/construction. The council suggests members attend the November 4 project meeting, and will email MTCC members notice to attend, and the Executive Committee will take any necessary action prior to the meeting.

DOWL Engineers presented on the Midtown Congestion Relief Plan (New Seward Highway at 36th Avenue, Benson Boulevard, Northern Lights Boulevard, and Fireweed).

Hearing Notices:

Old Business: Vice-President Ric Davidge said 5 other councils are considering the MTCC's report that was passed last meeting.

New Business: The Council held elections for officers. Because no new nominations were added at this meeting, the nominees were automatically elected as per the Council's by-laws. The new officers are as follows:

- President: Al Tamagni
- Vice-President: Ric Davidge
- Secretary: Albert Circosta
- Treasurer: Anton Villacorta
- Board Members: Brian Swartzenruber, Kirk Hastain, Chris Dabbs, Reino Bellio.

Public Comment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:49pm.