

# **UACC MEETING MINUTES**

**May 6, 2020**

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:00 pm. Susan Klein acted as host for the Zoom meeting. Al Milspaugh announced that the meeting will be live streamed and recorded. These will be available via Zoom and Facebook apps, and as such no privacy should be expected. Paul said that the normal introductions would be suspended. There were 27 people present during portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Mary Lu Harle Harle second, moved to approve the March 4, 2020 minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Al Milspaugh, with Susan Klein seconding, moved to approve the agenda. The agenda passed by unanimous consent.

## **4. Informational Reports**

### **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**

- a. State Senator Bill Wielechowski-** Bill indicated the big issue before the State legislature is whether to reconvene to deal with the \$1.2 B in COVID 19 relief funds received by the state. He feels that the legislature needs to do this so that the funds can be released, since if they do not do this the Governors unilateral distribution of funds could be unconstitutional and distribution could be held up by lawsuits. He indicated a second bill taken up would deal with preventing evictions from housing and price gouging is also a legislative priority that needs to be addressed.
- b. State Senator Elvi Gray Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray Jackson's written report to UACC. See Attachment 2.
- c. State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ivy reported the following: 1) Tele health has been demonstrated as being essential during this pandemic and she working to expand; 2) the legislature is considering to approve HB 301/SB 241 which deals with protecting renters and homeowner from eviction during this crisis; 3) the current unemployment rate is 22 % and rising and Federal stimulus funds are essential to help this situation; 4) and this year's budget is flat but the Governor voted hundreds of millions of funds under the assumption that CARES funds would cover the costs, but many are not allowed under the acceptable uses of such funds. Al Milspaugh noted that Ivy would be hosting a "Facebook coffee" this Saturday. Mary Lu Harle noted that SB 241 allows for vote by mail in all

Alaska Districts. Ivy indicated that interested persons should write the Lt. Governor for support of this bill. Paul Stang asked how the legislature is planning to respond to the Governors operating budget fund vetoes. Ivy indicated that the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of votes needed to override the vetoes so that probably won't happen. There was also discussion about the need for accountability for the CARES \$1.2 B funds when they are dispersed.

- d. State House Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy reported the following: 1) he is working on the update of workers compensation rates for permanent loss of function resulting from on the job injuries; 2) the SB 241 would include stipulations that first responder/medical personal COVID 19 infection related medical costs would be covered under workman compensation; 3) he is working on legislation that would prohibit the Governor /Administration to use outside legal advice for in state work; and 4) he is continuing working on the Anti-Hate Crime reform Act. Al Milspaugh had a question about whether workman's compensation should apply to medical assistants and nurses aids. Andy indicated that applied to all medical providers.
- e. Assembly Member Meg Zaletel:-** Meg said that this Thursday she and Felix Rivera would be hosting a Facebook meeting dealing with COVID 19 issues. Meg said there will be an Assembly meeting this Tuesday dealing with first quarter budget revision. Mill rates going up due to lack of State school bond reimbursement. She said there is a \$300 K pilot project dealing with how to expand housing first concept to 150 individuals. Meg mentioned there is a May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on homelessness to discuss housing first, summer homeless camp cleanup, and how to spend Alcohol tax strategically.
- f. Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar:-** Forrest reported the Muni received \$12 M in CARES funds. Funds dispersed as \$10 M for COVID 19 response, \$1 M for rent relief, and \$1 M in micro grants of \$10 K or less for small businesses. Krista Scott had question about process for the grants. Forrest said there is Cook Inlet Lending application on the Muni website. Forrest also talked about the land swap proposed for Tozier Tract. The Dog mushers would get a parcel south of MLK Drive, where the Tour of Anchorage trail crosses under. The Tour Trail would receive permanent right of way, and the parcel would be open to other public uses beyond just dog mushing.
- g. Assembly Member Pete Peterson:-** Pete reported on the April vote by mail turnout. Said it was a record turnout with 71,000 votes cast, which is 40% higher than the three year average. Pete noted in response to COVID 19 concerns that the business and residential property tax due dates will be

moved from April 20-May 20 and July 15-August 15 respectively. He also said that the Assembly strongly recommends people wear masks, but a resolution requiring businesses to require masks failed by vote of 5 to 6.

**h. Assembly Chair Felix Rivera:-** Felix reported the following items. The Assembly is working to develop a public transparent process for the recently passed Alcohol Tax with 3 town halls with the first on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be work sessions to develop the process for budget allocation in September/October. He said the Assembly will be hosting work sessions to explore how COVID 19 impacted the Muni and how CARES funds could be spent in the most effective manner. He indicated that CARES funds cannot be used to just “backfill” Muni shortfalls. April bonds that were passed that impact the UACC are \$200 for parking lot and trail reroute construction in the University Lake Park; funds for the Folker Park lighting and reflexology path; and 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue water main design (with construction date TBD) funds. Felix said there is a \$156 M in CARES act relief funds proposed to help Muni cover the cost for loss of other taxes, such as bed tax. For other Muni COVID 19 responses one can go to the Muni website for information. This website received nationwide accolades. Another matter discussed was that the mobility challenged crossing sign for 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Folker Street is being worked on at the Muni and will be available this summer. Finally, free dump passes will come out with the property tax bills, and a pass will be available by calling or going online at the Muni.

**i. UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt-** Ryan said the University is working on a contingency plan to deal with COVID 19. There will be a virtual graduation for the students and will not be called commencement. The school of nursing is planning to hold a “drive through” graduation. Access to the campus is restricted, but is not fully closed as research and laboratory work is still ongoing. He said the summer session will be by virtual delivery. This fall’s will be a combination of face to face for small class sizes and virtual for large lectures. UAA is in planning for a potential second wave of COVID 19. In relation to COVID 19 response on campus, the AK Center has been modified to act as a potential non-emergency COVID 19 Care site. The University may do a tabletop exercise to look at scenarios in using this facility. Of interest, he noted one faculty member is studying Corona virus in bats. On the financial side, Ryan said the University has to deal with a \$25 M cut in this year’s budget as well as an additional \$20 in 2021. They have the reductions planned out for next year but not down the line. UAA has received \$5.5 M in CARES funding. Half would go to student and half to institutional functions. Al Milspaugh had a

question about whether UAA would host a ceremony for students in the Alaska Middle College Schools program. Ryan indicated that would be up to the high schools to host such an event.

**B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons**

- a. **Safety Committee and FCC Representative-Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported there was no Safety or FCC additional information this.

**5. New Business and Public Comment**

**A. Parks/University Lake Drive Updates:- Steve Callaghan, UACC Parks**

Steve reported that planning for about 1500 feet road construction will completed this summer. This will include planning for 600-700 of the existing road and 700-800 feet of new construction from the roundabout to the soccer field. Construction would start in 2021. Steve also noted there will be second phase to the project. In addition to the Parks developments reported by the assembly members Steve said that there will be landscaping and shrub planting work this summer in Folker Park. Barbara Garner noted that the traditional planting of the Folker Park annual plant bed will occur in early June. Plants will be picked up by the Rescue Mission personnel on May 22, hardened off at that site, and then planted by Barbara and others in June. She said to contact the Parks Department to become involved. She also indicated that dead spruce trees had been removed, though it appears there are others that will need to be removed in the future. She indicated that the trails are clean now and is excited to see they are beginning to be used by neighborhood residents. Hannah Davis reported on the planning for the Castle Heights Park landscaping efforts. Pickup of annual plants from the Muni greenhouse for planting in the flower beds will occur Thursday before Memorial Day. Planting traditional occurs after Memorial Day. She needs 6 to 8 people to help plant. If interested in volunteering call or email Hannah at 337-2964, or davis2@alaska.net. Susan Share noted that there are “Do Not Enter” sign at Goose Lake Park. She wondered whether the Parks were still closed and if so how are the closures enforced. Assembly members indicated that the park closures have just been reopened and the closure signs and yellow tape have been taken down.

**B. Tudor Town Center/Bus Barn Air Quality Study- Paul Stang, UACC President**

Paul noted that there is \$3 M in site prep needed to move toward development, so nothing is going to happen soon. Paul also noted that the Air Quality Study report is on hold, though the data has been collected and will be finalized when resources are available

**C. UACC Takishla Park Comments:-Paul Stang, UACC President:-**

Paul indicated that the UACC had been sent a request for comments about planned Takishla Park improvements. UACC indicated that there was no need to provide comment on this at this time.

**D. UACC comments on Rescue Mission developments:- Paul Stang**

The planned developments at the Rescue Mission have been previously discussed and approved by the UACC. At this time the UACC unanimously decided there would be no need to provide further comment.

**6. Other Business and Public Comment**

Kate Wedemeyer and Steve Zemke noted that Alaska Solar Ventures would be installing solar panels on their home at 3708 Checkmate Drive this week. This is part of the Solarize Anchorage project for the University and Tudor areas. Come by and take a look.

**7. Adjournment:** Before adjournment, Paul Stang asked the UACC whether they wished to hold a June meeting. After discussion Paul proposed for vote that there would be a meeting held June 3. It was decided there would be a meeting by vote of 5 for, 2 against, with 4 abstentions. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

*Signed*

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

## **Attachment 1**

UACC May 6, 2020 meeting participants

Al Milspaugh  
Paul Stang  
Susan Klein  
Barbara Garner  
Mary Lu Harle  
Steve Zemke  
Kate Wedemeyer  
Keith Bauguess – Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Representative Ivy Spohnholz  
Representative Andy Josephson  
Ryan Buckholdt – UAA Rep  
Joey Sweet  
Hannah Davis  
Assembly member Meg Zaletel  
Assembly member Pete Petersen  
Assembly member Forrest Dunbar  
Assembly member Felix Rivera  
Jacob Tatum  
Susan Share  
Steve Callaghan  
Brenda McClaughlin  
Krista Scott  
Dela  
Zach Walker  
Barbara Bishop

## Attachment 2

University Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report  
March 4, 2020

Dear friends and neighbors,

I hope you and your family are doing well. I know it has been a stressful road in moving ahead to recovery from this pandemic, and I know that everyone is staying safe and doing their part in slowing the spread of Covid-19. I shared quite a bit of news with you in last month community council notes concerning the Covid-19 Emergency Legislation Plan, Expansion of Unemployment Benefits, and the Federal Stimulus Plan. This month I want to share with you some of the latest happenings in our great State of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage.

### Pioneer Homes Bill – HB96

On Wednesday, April 29th, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed into law this Bill which lowers rates and limits future increases.

The Governor also signed [Senate Bill 120](#) which grants Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and Physician’s Assistants (PAs) the authority to prescribe psychotropic medication, without consent, to patients in court-ordered inpatient care during an acute behavioral health crisis.

As an alternative to arrest, the bill also authorizes police officers to take individuals to crisis stabilization centers.

### CARES Act

The Legislative Budget and Audit Committee voted [to authorize \\$125 million in federal funding](#) from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Follow-up action is expected soon to get additional Federal funds out to Alaskans and organizations that need help, but the first wave of money will go toward a variety of programs adversely impacted by COVID-19.

### Food Bank of Alaska

The Food Bank of Alaska shared the following operational updates that may be a helpful resource:

They are seeing an average of a 75% increase in need and only six of their approximately 125 partners throughout the State have suspended their operations. They are instituting temporary agreements with new partners throughout the State to help get food out to the community.

- The supply chain is running smoothly but lead times from their vendors have grown to as much as one per month. Their current vendors are running short on many staple commodities, so they are looking for alternatives for food sourcing.
- They continue to run seven volunteer shifts each week to put together boxes of Federal commodity food. They have secured additional needed warehouse space at the old Sam's Club at Tikhatnu Shopping Center and are now receiving support from the National Guard.
- FBA's SNAP Outreach Team continues to be very busy - they have seen a 42% increase in assistance comparing March 2019 to March 2020. They have also brought on additional temporary staff to help with the call volume.
  1. Those in need of food assistance can always call 2-1-1 for information on getting help.
  2. Those in need of SNAP Application Assistance can contact the SNAP Outreach team by calling (907) 222-3119, texting "SNAP" to (907) 891-8913, or emailing [snap@foodbankofalaska.org](mailto:snap@foodbankofalaska.org).
  3. For information on Food Distribution please reference the resources below:

Anchorage and Mat-Su Areas:

4. [Food Bank of Alaska Website](#)
  1. [Updates on SNAP and COVID-19 & SNAP Application Assistance](#)
  2. [Anchorage Mobile Food Pantries](#)
  3. [Anchorage Food Pantry and Hot Meals Schedule](#)
  4. [Mat-Su Food Pantry and Hot Meals Schedule](#)
  5. [Info on School Meal distribution across the state](#)
  6. [Emergency Food Distribution \(TEFAP\) \(NEW!\)](#)

### Travel Restrictions

Governor Dunleavy extended the health mandate governing international and interstate travel until May 19th.

- All visitors to Alaska are required to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.



- Travelers are required to sign a [form](#) with their contact information and the address where they will self-quarantine.
- Violators are subject to a \$25,000 fine or jail time.

Alaska Airlines is requiring all travelers to wear face masks starting May 11th.

- The company is requiring employees to wear masks starting Monday, May 4th.
- Includes pilots, flight attendants, and customer service agents.