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UACC MEETING MINUTES

June 3, 2020

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- 3 **1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by
4 President Paul Stang at 7:00 pm. Al Milspaugh acted as host for the Zoom meeting. Al
5 Milspaugh announced that the meeting will be live streamed and recorded. These will be
6 available via Zoom and Facebook apps, and as such no privacy should be expected. Paul
7 said that the normal introductions would be suspended. There were 24 people present during
8 portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 9 **2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Susan Klein, with Al Milspaugh seconding, moved to
10 approve the May 6, 2020 minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- 11 **3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Marguerite Iverson
12 moved to approve to the agenda, with Susan Klein second. The agenda was passed by
13 unanimous consent.
- 14 **4. Informational Reports**
- 15 **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
- 16 **a. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray Jackson's written report to
17 UACC. See Attachment 2.
- 18 **b. State Senator Bill Wielechowski-** Bill discussed issues related to a Legislative special
19 session related to Federal CARES act funds. He also described actions of a Therapeutic
20 Court task force.
- 21 **c. State House Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy reported matters dealing with the
22 State response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the legislature should respond to
23 the Governor's proposed spending of State funds received through the Coronavirus Aid,
24 Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.
- 25 **d. State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ivy discussed the potential State constitutional
26 crisis if Legislature does not take action on how CARES Act funds should be allocated.
27 She also discussed how Governor did not accept Federal funds that would help with the
28 upcoming elections. Marguerite Iverson questioned about whether Ivy supported a
29 State-wide mail in voting proposal. Ivy said she supported this and that Anchorage has
30 shown that mail in voting works. She also pointed out that the election could be a
31 hybrid system. She indicated that this has become a partisan issue and Lt Governor
32 Kevin Meyer has failed to provide any leadership on this
- 33 **e. Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar:-** Forrest reported the Muni Assembly has passed a
34 resolution to grant Mayor emergency powers to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic until
35 July 31st. Also reported on special session to deal with the Federal \$150 million CARES
36 funding the municipality received to deal with Covid. He also described an ordinance
37 that would allow persons to opt out of the real property database, to enhance the privacy
38 of survivors dealing domestic abuse.
- 39 **f. Assembly Member Meg Zaletel:-** Meg said that in Anchorage on June 4th would be a
40 day to reflection racial inequity and police violence. A resolution considered by the
41 Assembly would also require the Muni to appoint ombudsmen to document how they are
42 addressing the racial inequities in the community. She also discussed how the Alcohol
43 tax funds would potentially be spent to deal with the homeless issue. She said to look at
44 the Anchorage homeless plan for the direction the Muni is heeding. She also indicated

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45 that Homeless Shelters could be included in sites that have B3 zoning.
46 **g. Assembly Chair Felix Rivera:-** Felix reported the following items. He iterated that the
47 emergency declaration needed to be extended, or all efforts to deal with COVID-19
48 would have been “turned off” this Friday. He said to look at the Assembly homepage to
49 see what priorities the how the Alcohol tax would be spent on. He also said the
50 Assembly would meet to discuss priorities for CARES Act funding. He indicated that
51 the “George Floyd” protests were a good learning experience and looks forward to
52 dialog with community members, particularly the Alaska Native community, on how to
53 deal with truth, racial healing, and transformation toward racial equity.

54 **h. UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt-** He said the University has established a 5
55 phase framework to deal with the greatly reduced budgets in the future. He indicated
56 the University is in the 2nd phase and they are fleshing out what can occur under this
57 phase. He said the summer session will be by virtual delivery. This fall’s sessions will
58 be a combination of face to face for small class sizes, labs, and clinics, and will be
59 virtual for large lectures. He also indicated that Academic programs may also focus on
60 how to tailor programs to provide certification programs needed for specific industries.

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

62 **a. Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair:-** Steve reported he had no
63 updates from the previous meeting report. Barbara Garner reported that the flowers
64 have been planted in Folker Park. She also indicated the lights are being worked on and
65 should be finished up the soon. She also said there is still considerable illegal activity
66 occurring, particularly along the east fence area

67 **b. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported that he is host for the
68 Zoom meeting, and would like for everyone to identify themselves by first and last
69 name and whether they are a UACC member of guest.

70 **c. Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:-** Al discussed the city fire wise program. Example
71 of fire wise recommendations would be not to stack firewood next to one’s home. He
72 also indicated that there is a Forester on contract from the city, and he can help provide
73 information on how to manage vegetation around ones property to better provide for a
74 fire safe environment.

75 **5. New Business and Public Comment**

76 **A. COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing-Regina Pierce, Nurse, City of Anchorage**

77 Regina introduced herself. She indicated that she was a school nurse, but now is
78 employed by the Muni to primarily do Contact tracing. She first discussed the testing that
79 is occurring within the city. She indicated that if one felt ill, they should contact their
80 doctor so as to order a test. She indicated that there were primarily two types of tests. The
81 first is a blood draw test that looks for COVID-19 antibodies. The second type is a
82 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) nasal swab test. She felt the PCR test was more accurate
83 and timely. She indicated that the antibody test might be good for a year, but it is
84 problematic since the Covid virus appears to be evolving and may mean older antibody
85 tests are less valid.

86 She discussed where one could receive a test. The hospital labs are only doing tests
87 directly related to hospital admissions. Drive through testing will be available for free
88 after June 10th at Providence site at 3600 Lake Otis Blvd. The Alaska Native Health
89 Consortium is also providing a drive through test facility at their health campus for those

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90 who quality. There are is also a drive through testing site in Eagle River. One may also
91 contract with private lab for testing, and this may be one's health insurance.
92 Regina also described the Muni's contact tracing program. It was noted that there is a
93 "rapid test" site in Wasilla, though Regina noted that these tests give a high percentage of
94 false positives.

95 In discussing contract tracing she noted that test results should be back in 2 to 5 days. If
96 one is positive a contact tracer will call. They will try to establish who the individual has
97 been in contact with in the last 14 days and work to get them tested. The person who
98 tested positive will need to quarantine for at least 14 days. After 14 days the person is
99 considered no longer infective, though they still may test positive for the virus.

100 Krista Scott had question about the Anchorage's ability to do more contract tracing, if
101 plans to open the city back up to greater economic activity such as bringing in tourists
102 from out of state. She felt that there would be a need to hire more contract tracers. Paul
103 Stang also questioned how the city is to respond to the State protocol requiring out of state
104 people to be tested before they come here.

105 **B. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Priorities- Paul Stang, UACC**

106 Paul discussed the UACC Executive Council rank order of the top twelve projects on
107 the CIP list. Paul discussed the 42nd Avenue upgrade, the Folker Street upgrade, the Dale
108 Street pedestrian Improvements, and the UAA Drive pedestrian undercrossing. He then
109 just read through the remaining ones. Paul also commented that with the current State and
110 Municipal budget shortfalls, the probability of projects being funded is particularly none
111 existent. Mary Lu Harle had question about why the University Lake Park project was
112 ranked as number 7. Barbara Garner felt the Folker Street upgrade needed to go from
113 Tudor to 40th. This was agreed to by the UACC members. With this change (Folker St
114 upgrade from Tudor to 40th) Al Milspaugh, with Barbara Garner second, moved to approve
115 the 2021 Capital Improvement Project Priorities as amended. UACC members approved
116 the motion 11/0.

117 **C. Image Dr./Reflection Dr. Project Construction Update, Paul Stang UACC**

118 Paul discussed the status of the project. Susan Klein asked whether the Muni had talked
119 with people in the neighborhood had been directly contacted. They had.

120 **6. Other Business and Public Comment**

121 Susan Share noted that a lot of people are using Goose Lake Park and there is currently
122 no lifeguard on duty, or is the swimming area roped off. She also noted there is a day
123 camp is also using the facility for boating activities. Susan Klein noted that Trailside
124 Recovery Camp will also be using the park for activities. With Municipal COVID-19
125 restrictions, there was question about the safety of these activities. Steve Callaghan, with
126 help from Meg Zeletal would try to get some answers to these questions.

127 **7. Adjournment:** Before adjournment, Al Milspaugh noted there will not be a July and August
128 meeting, nor a July picnic. The next meeting will most likely be September. The meeting was
129 adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

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Paul R. Stang, UACC President
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134 Attachment 1- June 3, 2020 Attendance Log

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Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	UACC Vice President
Steve Zemke	UACC Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Stang	UACC President
Steve Callaghan	UACC Parks and Rec Subcommittee Chair
Krista Scott	UACC Planning Subcommittee Chair
Joanie Nardini	UACC Executive Board Member at Large
Jacob Tatum	Visitor
Ryan Buccholdt	UACC Member
Mary Lu Harle	UACC Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	UACC Visitor
Barbara Garner	UACC Member
Keith Bauguess	UACC Visitor
Bill Wielechowski	UACC Member
Regina Pierce	UACC Visitor
Felix Rivera	UACC Visitor
Andy Josephson	UACC Member
Meg Zaletel	UACC Visitor
Emily Weiser	UACC Visitor
Ivy Sponholz	UACC Visitor
Forrest Dunbar	UACC Visitor
Marguerite Iverson	UACC Member
Susan Share	UACC Member
Hannah Davis	UACC Member
Susan Klein	UACC Member

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141 **Attachment 2- Elvi Gray-Jackson UACC June report**

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Dear friends and neighbors,
I hope you and your family are doing well. It is that time of the year where everything is in full bloom and as we approach summer, later this month, we all are anxious to be out and enjoying the fresh air. I am hopeful that everyone is still taking the necessary precautions in keeping the spread of COVID to a vast minimum. It is still very important to continue social distancing and wearing your protective face coverings. I wanted to share a few things with you of what is taking place in our great State of Alaska.

- **On May 22, 2020, Phase Three of the Reopen Alaska Responsibly Plan went into effect, allowing all businesses to open at 100 percent capacity.**
- **A pilot program in Anchorage has been started to help small businesses and nonprofit organizations.**
- **Grants can be used for expenses, including rent or mortgage, payroll, taxes or paying vendors.**
- **Eligible businesses must have seven or fewer employees and a gross revenue of less than \$1 million.**
- **The Municipality of Anchorage has partnered with Cook Inlet Lending Center to run the program.**

Small businesses in Alaska can begin applying for grants through the [AK Cares Grant Program.](#)

- **Applications can be filed online through the Credit Union 1 [website.](#)**
- **The program has been capitalized with \$290 million in CARES Act funding set aside for the State of Alaska.**

People Mover buses returned to service on June 1.

- **Bus capacity will be limited with partitions between bus drivers and the public.**
- **Bus drivers will be routinely screened.**
- **Cloth face masks are recommended.**

Spruce beetles are emerging across much of Southcentral Alaska.

- **The beetles normally emerge when temperatures reach 60 degrees.**
- **The summer flight period continues into July.**
- **Southcentral Alaska has experienced a spruce beetle outbreak since 2016.**
- **Over 1.1 million acres of forest impacted.**
- **Property owners are encouraged to take steps to reduce infestation of green spruce trees.**
- **Information available at [www.alaskasprucebeetle.org.](http://www.alaskasprucebeetle.org)**

The Legislature still has work to do. The Capital budget needs to be approved, and we need to address the June 30th deadline on moratoriums for renters and landlords. I anticipate a special session in the near future.