

# **UACC MEETING MINUTES**

**November 4, 2020**

- 1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:03 pm. Al Milspaugh 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 36 people present during portions of the meeting (Attachment 1). President Paul Stang took a moment to recognize the passing of former mayor Jack Roderick.
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Marguerite Iverson seconding, moved to approve the October 7, 2020 minutes. Marguerite Iverson moved that the minutes be amended at Page 2 line 61 to include the statement that “Marguerite Iverson voiced her opposition to the renaming of the East High School.” The minutes were approved by unanimous vote 11/0.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight’s agenda. Krista Scott moved to approve to the agenda, with Al Milspaugh second. The agenda was passed by unanimous vote of 11/0.
- 4. Informational Reports**
  - A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
    - A.** Assembly members were not able to be present due to a concurrently scheduled Assembly meeting.
    - 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 discussed the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment and the problem of aging State software complicating getting benefits out to people. She said that many votes still needed to be counted from yesterday’s elections and will be several days before the absentee ballots will be tallied, so any result is still very preliminary. Paul Stang asked whether vote for President will be called before the Alaska vote is certified. Ivy responded that she thought so.
    - D. Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board-** Margo said that there’s a lot going on at the school board focusing on student re-entry from virtual leaning to regular class attendance. Margo said that the ASD plan to hold in person classes for regular Kindergarten to grade 2, and Special needs Kindergarten to grade 6 starting November 16<sup>th</sup> pending COVID-19 protocols. Middle and High School would not start before the New Year. Marguerite Iverson commented there have been several opinion letters in the Anchorage Daily News expressing opposition to the renaming of East High. She also indicated that the process that the School

Board used to solicit public opinion on the renaming process was shamefully inadequate. She suggested that the School Board rescind the renaming of East High, and continue the process to find another school to honor the legacy of Bettye Davis..

**E. UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt-** Ryan indicated that the spring registration is down due to COVID-19 and other demographics. He said the Board of Regents will be meeting to discuss how UA system will deal with the FY 22 \$20 million budget reduction, with UAA portion being \$7.2 million, This is the year 2 of a three year budget reduction plan. He also reported that Chancellor Kathy Sundeen will be leaving the University on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, to take the Chancellor position at California State East Bay College. She is leaving to return to be closer to family. Ryan indicated she will be missed, having helped the University cope with considerable challenges UAA faced during her tenure, such as the impacts to students, faculty, and campus from the 2018 Earthquake impacts, the Budget crisis, and COVID-19 pandemic. He indicated that the recruitment process is starting and will occur over the next several weeks. Paul Stang asked whether Ryan is planning to apply, and Ryan politely demurred though expressed thanks for the question.

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

- a. Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair-** Steve reported that most of the work has been completed for phase 1 of the Folker Park. Some work on railing for the pathway, the reflexology path, and a bit of paving is still needed to be completed, most likely next year due to winter conditions. He indicated that the University Lake Park improvements, specially the relocation of the parking lot and trail on the southwest corner will be completed next year. He also said that the extension of University Lake Drive to the APU soccer field is on hold until ROW work is completed. Susan Share made comment that the lake surface at Goose Lake Park is frozen and that there have been lots of ice skaters out enjoying the surface.
- b. Planning and Zoning Subcommittee, Krista Scott, Chair:-**Krista discussed the request from the Heritage Land Bank for comment on their 5 year plan. She indicated the only parcel in the UACC area is a small parcel across from Walgreens at the Southeast corner of Tudor and Lake Otis. This calls for remediation efforts needed resulting from previous business, such as dry cleaners and a gas station that were located there. The only other parcel is a utility corridor along Northern Lights. Paul Stang noted that if anyone has interest in providing comments, provide it to UACC Board before the October 25<sup>th</sup> comment due date. There will be a public hearing on the plan on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Safety Committee-Al Milsbaugh:-** Al noted that cold winter weather is upon us. He noted recently he saw a person changing a tire with inadequate winter

weather apparel and how this could have been dangerous if it had been required in a more remote area under more adverse conditions. Al made note that one should equip their vehicle with adequate winter gear and they should wear appropriate winter apparel.

**C. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported the FCC meets the third Wednesday of the month, from 6 to 8 PM. It's open to all, currently virtually via Zoom.

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

### **A. UACC Elections-Joanie Nardini, UACC Board**

Joanie reported that the nominations for the UACC Board Officers will held during the upcoming December meeting. These include the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. These will be voted on during the January meeting. She also indicated that nominations for other Executive Board Positions; the two at large representatives, the FCC delegate, and the chair positions for the three current standing committees (Safety, Parks and Recreation, and Planning and Zoning) will occur during the January meeting. These will be voted on during the February meeting. One can go to the UACC Bylaws for more details at:

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/viewfolder?id=8259>

### **B. Muni Parks Update:- Stephan Rafuse, Superintendent Muni Parks**

Stephan started by saying that Steve Callaghan did a good job of describing what is happening in our local parks. He noted that on the Folker Park “punch list” is seeding of exposed areas this fall. Also, in conjunction with 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue upgrade water will be made available to the park. Crosswalks construction is also being planned in conjunction with the upgrade. For the University Lake Park, he noted again that the Parking lot and trail relocation will occur next summer due to the late start they got this year due to COVID-19 impacts. Also next summer would be starting shoreline restoration work. He also noted that the Parks Department received a USDA grant for mitigation work related to the spruce bark beetle (SBB) infestation. He indicated that Parks crews would be working on the south and east side of ULP to remove SBB impacted trees. He also said a primary area for this work would be along the Campbell Creek trail, where trail and facility damage potential is high due to SBB. Generally, the Anchorage greenbelts would be priority for SBB remediation, and Steve requested that if one had information about concentration of SBB infestation that one can report this information to him.

Marguerite Iverson noted that people think that University Lake Park is a Dog Park and that all trails and all areas are considered off leash. Stephen noted that Way finding signage and location maps are being developed to provide in-

formation which trails are off leash and which are on leash. Al Milspaugh noted that the problem may continue to persist as the Parks Department has no authority to enforce the regulations on closed trails.

Steve Callaghan noted that the phase 2 work for Folker Park is not funded and questioned what can the UACC do get it funded. Stephan said that the UACC needs to tell the Parks Department that it is a high priority. It needs to be put on the Capital Improvement list as a high priority, so as to get it on Muni bond proposal. They could also develop other potential funding sources, such as Rasmussen grants, as Barbara Garner previously did, to be able to leverage other funds. Krista Scott made note that SBB is still occurring at the Folker Park. Steve C and Stephan R noted that they are aware of this situation and a few trees do still need to be removed via previously mentioned USDA program.

#### **C. UAA Master Plan-Chris McConnell, UACC Director, Facilities Planning and Construction**

Chris started by saying that the Master Plan is on a 7 year cycle. The last plan was completed in 2013 and hence in need of an update. The Plan would apply to the Anchorage Campus as well as other associated facilities, grounds and landscaping. The goal is to make sure the Capital plans align with the University mission. The plan will build on the 2013 plan. The Plan will have to look beyond the COVID-19 impacts but will need to reflect budget realities going forward. Chris said that they are early in the process. They have a request for proposals for writing the plan out, and will kick off the process next month. Over the next several months they plan to be back before the UACC as they met various milestones. Ryan Buccholdt noted that the UAA Campus has grown over the last several years and they want the plan to be able to reduce potential impacts to adjacent neighborhoods. They also want the Campus to be part of the community and be used by the members of UACC. The plan is slated for completion by July 2021.

#### **D. Muni R-4A Multifamily Residential Mixed-Use Zoning Test Amendment-Tom Dais, Muni Planning Department**

Tom Davis was not able to attend due to a mix up in information on timing of the meeting. Krista Scott was able to provide information for discussion of this item. She indicated that it amend the conditions under Title 21 for the R4A zoning under the 2040 Master Plan. Comments are due to the Muni by December 11<sup>th</sup>. She said that higher density R4A is a mixed use zoning that combines commercial and residential construction. She indicated the amendment attempts to update and simplify the design standards, such as height restrictions. She also said the amendments attempts to provide for more commercial space flexibility, as provides for more commercial space occupancy, going from 10% to 30%. Krista also described that few R4A parcels are found within our area, primarily a parcel in the vicinity of 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave and Piper Street, and a little around Goose lake

Park, south of Northern Lights Blvd. Paul Stang noted that he UACC has been an advocate of the mixed use concept of live-work-play and this R4a zoning could meet these concerns. The noted problem is that developers are potentially using the zoning to build business facilities but do not follow through with the residential portion. Al Milspaugh noted that the mixed use concept is prevalent throughout much of the world. He also said he has definitions for R3A and R4A zoning if one needs them. After some discussion it was decided that the UACC Executive Board would draft up some comments this month that will be presented to the UACC during the December meeting for discussion and approval, and then forwarded on to the Muni to meet the December 11<sup>th</sup> comment due date.

#### **E. COVID-19 Emergency Declaration, Paul Stang**

Paul started by describing the seriousness of the situation here in Anchorage with the great increase in number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. He indicated that the Acting Mayor and Assembly are dealing with this situation through an Emergency Declaration and subsequent Emergency Orders. These orders are about to expire. They have indicated that people have been hesitant to come before the Assembly to testify due to COVID-19 concerns. Paul indicated that the Assembly would like to receive input from Community Councils through either a Resolution or letter of support for continuation of the Emergency Declaration (E.D.) and appropriate Emergency Order (E.O.). Paul indicated he felt that a Resolution would carry more weight. To this point Paul provided a draft resolution for the UACC to consider.

Marguerite Iverson noted that she supports mandating the wearing of masks in public and business spaces and cited an example of how she felt endangered by cook/wait staff not wearing masks when she was out dining. Scott Stansbury noted that he (as a safety expert with 35 years of experience dealing with respiratory devices while working for OSHA) does not consider masks effective in reducing spread of the COVID-19 virus. He noted the virus is much smaller than the pore space in normal cloth or paper masks normally in use. He also felt that this requirement might put businesses at risk for liability if they required them and they were subsequently determined to be ineffective. He offered to write a paper to why masks are not effective for the Council to consider and provide that next week. Ryan Buccholdt noted that UAA professors have already written whitepapers on why masks can be effective and supports the resolution. Joanie Nardini spoke in favor of the resolution.

Paul noted that the statistics cited in the resolution are for Alaska as a whole, but Anchorage statistics mirror these and he would make the changes reflected Anchorage only statistics if the resolution is passed. Mark Fink noted that the resolution has good intent but does not provide enough specificity to add weight to the Assembly and Mayor's decisions. Paul Stang opinionated that the Emer-

gency Directive just provides the intent to write more specific Emergency Orders and this requires judgment. Ryan Buccholdt suggested an amendment to the Resolution as follows: **Whereas the emergency declaration provides the ability to issue emergency orders with the force of law to control Covid-19.**

There was further discussion about whether masks should be included in emergency orders. As mentioned Scott Stansbury offered to put together statistics that show whether masks are effective in filtered particles as small as the COVID-19 virus. This was declined due to time constraints. Kate Wedemeyer brought up the point that most Covid virus are carried in aerosol droplets, thus are much larger and mask have been show to capture these particles, thus reducing potential viral loading. Ivy Sponholz said that she was in a meeting with Dr. Anne Zink and local epidemiologists who indicated that wearing masks will be a key strategy in preventing the spread of COVOID-19. Economists at the same meeting indicated that people wearing masks may help people feel safe, and thus more likely to engage in activities that will help maintain our local economy. Ivy also said that the orders help get the onus off small business owners to enforce mask wearing.

Krista Scott moved to adopt the Resolution, as amended with Ryan Buccholdt's amendment. Susan Share seconded the motion. There was no further discussion on the amended motion. The Resolution was approved by vote of **10 votes for: 2 voters against; with 0 abstentions.**

**F. Public Comments/Open Dialog-** Paul Stang noted he had information material for Anchorage Disaster Relief funding meeting second agenda. He also had information on the Green Grocers marijuana store. Finally he said that he had received 20 packages of 5 each cotton masks from the FCC and would like to distribute them. Call him at 440-8852 if interested. Al Milspaugh noted also that one can get a hold of Mark or Susan Klein at the FCC office to obtain a package.

**G.Adjournment:** Susan Share moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Zemke seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 8:30 pm.

*Signed*

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

## Attachment 1- October 7, 2020 Attendance Log

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Member Vice President
Steve Zemke	Member Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Stang	Member President
Steve Callaghan	Member P&R Chair
Joanie Nardini	Member Member at Large
Krista Scott	Member P&Z Chair
Stephan Rafuse	Visitor
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ryan Buccholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Mark Fink	Member
Keith Bauguess	Visitor
Christopher McConnell	Visitor
Lyn Fink	Member
Marguerite Iverson	Visitor
Scott Stansbury	Member
Kim Mahoney	Visitor
Representative Ivy Sponholz	Member
Susan Share	Member
Margo Bellamy	Visitor

**Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes**  
**University Area Community Council**  
**November 4, 2020**

**Unemployment**

- We have received many emails from constituents wondering when the additional \$300 unemployment boost would happen. These funds are desperately needed by those out of work, who count on this money for food and rent. As of Friday, October 30th, the State Labor Department said the delay is due to the outdated hardware and software systems. They are working on putting systems in to correct the problem and will get the payments out as soon as possible.

**Juneau and COVID-19**

- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, a Legislative Council meeting was held, and the Council approved a new COVID-19 Screening Process for use within the Capitol during the next session which begins on January 19th.
- Daily screenings are required for legislators, legislative staff, and credentialed media personnel prior to entering the Capitol. The Capitol is otherwise closed to the public.

**Governor Dunleavy's emergency COVID-19 declaration is set to expire November 15, 2020.**

- The Governor has been sent several letters from the Alaska Municipal League and other agencies requesting that he call a special session for the Legislature to extend the Executive order. We need 40 legislators to call a special session. Health care providers may lose key flexibilities afforded by "blanket waivers" from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and key provisions from SB 241. Telemedicine will also be significantly impaired if the extension does not happen prior to November 15th. The Legislature holds

the exclusive power to extend the disaster and it is anticipated that there will be a special session in the near future.

**The Governor's budget is due by December 15, 2020.**

I am hopeful that the cuts made will not be to Medicare, education or to resources that are vital for our State's most vulnerable.

**If you are not receiving my monthly newsletter, and interested, please let me know.**

**Interim: 907-269-0174**

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