

UACC MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 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 24 people present during portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Susan Share seconding, moved to approve the November 4, 2020 minutes. The minutes were approved by vote.11/0/1.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Al Milspaugh moved to approve to the agenda, with Susan Klein seconding. The agenda was passed by vote of 11/0/0.
- 4. Informational Reports**

A.Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- 1. State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ivy noted that the State House and Senate have yet to be organized. She also said that the Governor's budget is due to be received by December 15th. With full PFD payout the budget is projected to be \$2.4 B in deficit. With no PFD, the budget would still be \$300 M in the red. She also noted that her Health Care Cost Transparency bill will come into effect on December 20th. She also noted that the legislature is sending a bipartisan letter to US Congress urging the passage of a COVID-19 relief bill. Marguerite Iverson has questioned Ivy whether she can expect confidentiality of whether she voted within the absentee vote process. Ivy responded by saying that how she voted was confidential, but whether she voted was part of the public record.
- 2. State Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy indicated that the Democrat/Independent caucus did fairly well in the election. The Snyder/Pruitt election still needs to be decided before conversations about how the House will be organized can proceed. He said the legislative process will be challenging, especially if members of the legislative body become ill from COVID-19, which could result in a long recess or operating from remote locations.
- 3. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray Jackson's written report to UACC. See Attachment 2. Marguerite Iverson had a question about what is being done to deal with the sexual harassment of

State workers as reported by the Anchorage Daily News. Elvi indicated she is interested in following up on this.

4. **Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar-** Forrest discussed the Muni budget that will be before the Assembly at this November's meeting. He said it is a continuation of this year's budget with steady staffing and spending. The Alcohol Tax revenue will come in February 2021, and is projected to be dispersed to provide more Police and Fire Department funding, additional support to early childhood development child abuse prevention programs. Additional funds to homeless housing, substance abuse treatment and mental health first responders will also occur. He also mentioned the \$12 M of COVID-19 relief funds going to small businesses and food grant programs.
5. **Assembly Member Meg Zaletel-** Meg discussed the Mental Health Crisis first responder program that will be located in the Anchorage Fire Department. They will be there to help handle the over the estimated 7,000 calls a year that may require assistance. Initially the program will include a paramedic and a mental health clinician. Later a call center would be established to reduce the number of field visits that are required. Meg also said the COVID-19 has increased the number of homeless persons, with large numbers of unstable sheltered individuals (such as "couch surfers") occurring. She said there are at least 650-700 people needing shelter. The city in response has provided senior congregate facilities in Fairview, and has provided an additional \$1 M for rapid rehousing.
6. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson-** Pete said the city COVID-19 Emergency Order has been extended to January 15th and may be required for another month or two. He discussed the drawbacks of a special mayoral election. This election would be expensive, and would most likely require a runoff election, as there are currently nine candidates. There would then be the regular April election, which would probably also result in a runoff election, so there would be a total of 4 elections before the new mayor would be seated in June.
7. **Assembly Chair Felix Rivera-** Felix discussed the city's modified hunker down order. He indicated there needs to be good data on the reduction in the impact to hospital capacity and the number of cases before the order is lifted. One can go to the Muni's website and to the COVID-19 response page to see the latest numbers. He also mentioned the first COVID-19 vaccination's would be coming to Anchorage in late December and would be given to front line hospital workers and seniors living in congregate settings. He also discussed that the Muni has \$52 million in Cares Act

funding to go toward unemployment assistance and small business relief.

Felix also discussed mitigation efforts related to the Tudor Road pedestrian crossing situation. Felix has discussed the problem with the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission. Video camera footage has shown over 200 pedestrian crossings of Tudor in this area. He says the city needs to work with Elvi Gray-Jackson and Andy Josephson to develop a budget package to deal with the crossing problems on this State road. They are looking at options such as an elevated crossing structure, additional lighting, and a lighted crosswalk. Mary Lu Harle suggested that reducing the speed limit would be more effective and a less costly mitigation. Felix replied that it would be much easier to get additional project funding to mitigate as opposed to reducing the speed limit on this heavily traveled road. AMATS funding is the most probable funding source. Barbara Garner said that this has been a long time problem, and that permanently closing the intersection to Wright Street at Tudor could also help mitigate this problem.

Marguerite made comment about how the hunker down order would unfairly close down restaurants that were observing COVID-19 protocols. She felt that these restaurants were being safe and that these closures could bankrupt the businesses. Krista Scott had a question about how businesses could apply for the \$14 M CARES Act funding that was allocated toward the Hospitality and Tourism businesses. Felix indicated that the Muni would announce taking applications for additional funding this week.

8. **Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board-** Margo said that the school board is focusing on student re-entry from virtual leaning to regular class attendance. Virtual learning will continue to January 19th. The reentry will be via hybrid model, with small groups of learners in school in the morning and then virtual learning in the afternoon. The grades will come back in phases and this will be determined by the Superintendent. There will be a town hall meeting on December 9th from 6 to 7 PM to discuss this process.

Marguerite Iverson commented that she is extremely unhappy with the renaming of East High School for Bettye Davis and particularly with the process that was used. She suggested that the School Board rescind the renaming of East High, and start over again in their effort to honor the legacy of Bettye Davis.

9. **UAA Representative Ryan Bucholdt-** Ryan indicated that an interim Chancellor would be appointed next week. He said that the recruitment process is starting and will occur over the next several months, with the new Chancellor appointment taking from 3 to 6 months. He will present

the process for selection to the UACC when it is announced. He also said the UAA is working on how to respond to the additional \$7 M in budget reduction for this upcoming year.

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

1. **President's report-** Paul said that he has been trying to get the information on the Air Quality study to the Anchorage Tudor Bus Barn relocation project. He indicated he has yet been unable to get that information from the Muni.
 2. **Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair-** Steve reported that most of the work has been completed for phase 1 of the Folker Park. It was noted the paved trail has not been plowed and being used by local residents. It was also noted the handicapped traffic crossing signs that have been installed on Folker Street but are in the wrong place and facing the wrong direction. Al Milspaugh, Steve, and Barbara Garner will make contact with the traffic department to rectify this situation. Steve 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 planned for FY 2022.
 3. **Planning and Zoning Subcommittee, Krista Scott, Chair:-** Krista deferred her report to be discussed in Section 6. New Business, Item B. Muni Zone R-4A Amendments.
 4. **Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:-** Al noted that the change in season is a good time to check/change batteries in fire alarms and carbon monoxide monitors. He also said that checking batteries on electric doors is also needed as they are often a forgotten item.
- C. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported the FCC meets the third Wednesday of the month, from 6 to 8 PM. He said the FCC was given a presentation on transient Homeless Shelter efforts within the city.

5. New Business and Public Comment

A. UACC Elections-Joanie Nardini, UACC Board Member at Large

Joanie requested nominations for the UACC Executive Board Officers for the 2021 year. These Board officers include the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. Barbara Garner nominated the current three Executive Board members for reelection:

Paul Stang- President

Al Milspaugh- Vice President

Steve Zemke- Secretary/Treasurer

All three of these individuals accepted their nomination for these positions.

Al Milspaugh noted that one can still email or call Joanie Nardini before the next meeting if one wants to nominate additional individuals to any of these positions. Her email and phone number was included in the chat tab in Zoom.

B. Muni Zone 4-A Text Amendments- Collins Hodges, Senior Planner, Muni Long Range Planning Department and Krista Scott, UACC Exec Board

Collin indicated that this is an existing zoning that is not in much use. The zoning is for mixed use, (business and residential) and is primarily located in the Downtown, Fairview, Spenard, and UAA areas. The text amendments are in the early process and still have plenty of time for adjustments. Collin presented a map that showed the primary areas in UACC area. The areas currently identified are in the Piper and 40th area and in the Public Lands and Institution zoned plots near Northern Lights and Bragaw area.

There was concern from the community council that current implementation of the R3A and R4A zoning has been flawed, as only the business portions of these mixed use constructions have been completed and not the residential portion. Collin responded by saying that development loans are time sensitive and the commercial portion comes first. The projects would be built in phases first with commercial construction with a conditional permit for occupancy issued, then residential construction with final permit for occupancy. Al Milspaugh suggested “stacking” residential areas on top of the business floors be promoted for the permit approval process. Collin replied that stacking is not required and just the distribution between business and residential are stipulated in the permit.

Krista presented the University Area Community Council Comments on the R-4A Mixed-Use Text Amendment discussion draft. Krista stated one of the primary concerns about the text amendments was the loosening of the height requirement to achieve maximum height allowance of 90 feet, as this seems incompatible with the character of the UACC area. Collin replied that the proposed amendment do loosen the requirements for developments to reach 90 feet in some respects, however, they also add some protections that do not currently exist in the R-4A district. The new protections proposed under this amendment are 1) the lowering of the “base height” (or the maximum height of a building before conforming to height increase regulations) from 75 feet to 65 feet, and 2) adding step-back requirements for buildings that exceed the base height of 65 feet to reduce shadowing on adjacent street and sidewalks. He also indicated that plots with smaller setbacks would have to meet stricter design standards when close to streets.

Al Milspaugh suggested that the Muni look to a European model for mixed use stacking. Collin replied that he would like to know if there is an example of how to incentivize the builder to stack the construction.

After discussion, it was moved that the comments developed by Krista for Community Council approval should be forwarded on to the Muni, as written except for deletion of the second to the last bullet. The UACC voted to approve the motion to forward the comments by vote of **7 for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.**

C. Homeless Shelters in Muni Zone R-3: Draft Amendment and Decision Process

Paul referenced the Muni's Title 21 Zoning Changes for Homeless Shelters document, which will be discussed during our upcoming January 2021 meeting. He asked that UACC members examine the document and be prepared for discussion. Barbara Garner questioned if anyone knew what the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission had planned for their newly acquired property as it relates to potential Homeless Shelters. It was suggested that Pastor John LaMantia of the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission be invited to next meeting to discuss.

D. Public Comments/Open Dialog- Paul Stang again noted he had received 20 packages of 5 cotton masks from the FCC and would like to distribute them. Call him at 440-8852 if interested.

Paul brought up a request from Paul Berger for UACC support of a resolution against the Muni's hunker down order. Paul stated that he was in opposition to the UACC supporting this type of resolution. Marguerite Iverson said that such a resolution must be carefully tailored to define what would be allowed if it were to be considered. Pete Petersen felt that we don't have a good idea of just what level of activities promote the community spread of COVID-19 so should err on the side of caution. Mary Lu Hale said that one might look to New Zealand, which through strict hunker down protocols has been able to eliminate COVID-19 and been able to open up their economy. It was decided that the UACC would not support such a resolution at this time, but it was suggested that if one felt strongly about the issue they should write individually to the Assembly and Mayor.

Finally, Barbara Garner brought up that she felt the CIP list should be updated to include the permanent closure of the Wright Street and Tudor Road intersection. It was suggested that this could be a topic to be considered during the January meeting.

E. Adjournment: Al Milspaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Krista Scott seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous 10/0 vote around 8:30 pm.

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

Attachment 1- December 2, 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
Assembly Chair Felix Rivera	Visitor
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ryan Buccholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Representative Andy Josephson	Visitor
Barbara Bishop	Visitor
Tiffani McNeil	Visitor
Representative Meg Zaletel	Visitor
Assemblymen Forrest Dunbar	Visitor
Mary Lu Harle	Member
Susan Klein	Member
Representative Ivy Sponholz	Member
Susan Share	Member
Margo Bellamy	Visitor
Carl Jacobs	Member
Collin Hodges	Visitor
Besse Odom	Member

Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
December 2, 2020



The First Regular Session of the 32nd Legislature convenes on January 19th, 2021. Below, are my priorities.

- **Budget**

Developing a comprehensive and sustainable budget. For the current budget, ensuring that Education, Medicaid, and other services that affect our most vulnerable citizens are protected.

- **PFD**

Revising the PFD formula and constitutionally protecting it now and for future generations.

- **Holiday**

Currently, Juneteenth is recognized in State Statues. I will introduce a bill to designate Juneteenth (June 19th) as a paid State Holiday in unification with the 4th of July.

- **Police Reform**

I also have been working this summer, with Senator Begich, on a Police reform packet of bills that I call, *“Turning Pain into Progress” also known as TPIP.*

There are nine proposed bills that will deal with specific policies that have been proven, with data, to reduce police violence. It is essential that proper training and protocol is followed within the system to protect our citizens while in the line of duty.

- Thank you to our heroes, the caregivers, and healthcare workers who have tirelessly been working to care for our community during this terrible pandemic. Their dedication does not go unnoticed. They put their lives on the line each day to care for the sick. For that, I am forever grateful.
- Wishing you all a safe and healthy holiday. I hope the New Year brings peace and great health to you and your families.



“Always Representing Your Interests.”

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

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