

UACC MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2021

- 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. Al noted he will be moderating to prevent people from “bombing” the meeting. 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 Marguerite Iverson seconding, moved to approve the December 2, 2021 minutes. The minutes were approved by vote.14/0/0.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight’s agenda. Susan Klein moved to approve to the agenda, with Al Milspaugh seconding. The agenda was passed by vote of 11/0/0.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- 1. 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 whether the State’s re-examining the older rape kits is a good use of States resources. She said that the State has spent over 1 million in previous investigations but this has resulted in only one conviction. Elvi responded that she feels the program is important and should continue and hopes that it will result in more than one conviction in the future.
- 2. State Senator Bill Wielechowski:-** Said that he will be returning to Juneau next week. He indicated that the House and Senate are currently unorganized, and said that has never gone on so long. He said that he has several pre-filed legislation bills. Of note is the re-institution of the state checkbook. This will allow constituents to see how State is spending money. Al Milspaugh had question about how bipartisanship could be stimulated in Juneau. Are junior members more likely to join a coalition to be able to exert some influence? Bill indicated that during his first 6 years in the Senate he was part of a 9 Democrat 5 Republican caucus that worked quite well. He was hopeful that something of that nature could be formed for both the Senate and House. Marguerite Iverson has a question about what the \$3.9 M of State money for Public information on COVID-19 was

to accomplish. She felt the current TV public service announcements were offering neither new nor useful information. Bill responded by saying the contract that produces this content was a unilateral decision by the Governor that was awarded to political cronies.

3. **Ted Madsen for State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ted indicated that Ivy is currently involved in trying to get the House organized. He also said that a particular item on Ivy's focus will be looking at the Governor's proposal to divide the State Department of Health and Social Services into the two separate departments. One for Health and one for Family and Community Services.
4. **Assembly Chair Felix Rivera-** Felix noted that on January 26th there will be a session to look at roads, parks, and facilities upgrades that will be included for the April election. He felt that there will be no significant new ordinances up for approval, unless one on APD body cams comes into development. The newest Assembly newsletter will discuss the Anchorage Strategic goals developed by the Assembly. He also mentioned that the current COVID-19 emergency order only extends through next week, and whether it is to be extended will be a topic of much discussion at the next Assembly meeting. Marguerite Iverson noted that restaurants seems to be adhering to safety protocols quite well and urged that the indoor capacity needs to be relaxed from the current 25% to 50%.
5. **Assembly Member Meg Zaletel-** Meg discussed the Tudor Road/Wright Street pedestrian crossing problem. She indicated that AMATS is doing a deep dive on looking at various options to address the issue. She has a PowerPoint presentation that was used at this meeting and will forward it on to the UACC. She mentioned the interim solutions that have been implemented: better lighting, reduction in number of vehicles using Tudor per day, and providing a center median to provide refuge for pedestrians crossing the four lanes. She discussed the ongoing proposals such as designating the stretch as a safety zone which doubles traffic infraction fines; land use changes that would try to segregate commercial enterprises to the south and residential to the north; more or larger center medians; a crosswalk with a light signal; and a pedestrian bridge. She indicated that Tudor Road needs a complete redesign, but this will be a 15 year process so these interim proposals will need to be considered in the meantime. The proposals will be looked at during the AMATS February meeting, so Meg will be soliciting response from UACC, as well as Campbell Park and Tudor Community Councils. Pete Peterson indicated that results from this meeting would be brought back before the Community Councils. Al Milspaugh questioned whether the Muni has looked at the Highway to

Highway proposals that were proposed in years past to reduce the traffic on Tudor. Pete indicated that the Hillside forest bypass has not been studied further. The reconstruction of New Seward Highway (Gambell/Ingram) where it passes through Fairview will take decades to study, design and implement. The 36th and New Seward intersection reconstruction, which is ongoing, will be the first part of this effort. Mary Lu Harle felt that reducing the speed on Tudor from 45 mph to 35 or 30 mph in the problem section would be more effective and much more cost efficient. Barbara Garner mentioned that the speed limit of 50 mph on Tudor east of the Elmore intersection creates a residual problem of people not reducing their high speed as they continue west on Tudor toward the Wright Street area. The idea of reducing the speed limit seems to be a considered a non-viable option..

6. **State Representative Andy Josephson**:-Andy indicated that he had introduced 9 pre-filed bills on topics dealing with labor law; fiscal policy; and natural resources. He felt the reorganization of the House is still at loggerheads with no clear path forward. Marguerite Iverson noted that reporters are allowed in the Capitol but the public are currently excluded. Elvi Gray-Jackson noted that reporters are not allowed in the Chambers. Kate Wedemeyer inquired whether the legislators could meet remotely to increase safety and provide transparency to public if the meetings could be streamed. Andy Josephson noted that under the uniform rules all Committee and Floor votes need to be conducted in the Capitol, though Special sessions may be held remotely. The legislature can change the uniform rules but this requires a vote. Also, Andy felt that remote meetings would be quite inefficient as much of the legislative process is facilitated by face to face meetings with other legislator's.
7. **Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar**- Forrest discussed the draft ordinance that establishes a Government to Government relationship between the Native Village of Eklutna (NVE) and the Municipality of Anchorage. He indicated that this is a unique situation with a sovereign government within a city boundary. There will be a work session to establish the agreement protocols and then the agreement will come before the Assembly for approval. Steve Callaghan had a question whether the NVE was involved in the lawsuit over sales of natural gas at the Anchorage Landfill. Answered that they were not involved, as it involved the Doyon Limited Native Regional Corporation not NVE.
8. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson**- Pete said the city has purchased the Golden Lion Inn on New Seward and 36th. The purchase price of \$9.3 M is

funded through generated funds from the sale of MLP to Chugach Electric. This was part of the sale settlement, which provided for \$15 M to be used for substance abuse recovery programs. The Golden Lion will provide a 75 to 100 person rehab facility. Pete felt this is a very valuable and needed facility for the city. On separate note he also indicated there would be a 2 % increase in the AWWU cost of water and sewer service.

9. Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board- Margo said that the school board met last night and decided to provide in school learning for Kindergarten to second grade students and special needs students to grade 6 starting January 19th. She said there will also be small groups of Middle School and High School students that could meet in person. There will be COVID-19 testing for all staff before the 1/19 start. ASD is also providing a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. They are planning to administer over 2,000 vaccinations. Al Milspaugh wondered if there was a line at the ASD Vaccine event. Margo replied that there was a minimal line, and there were both scheduled and walk in vaccine appointments being administered.

10. UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt- Ryan indicated that Bruce Schultz has been appointed interim Chancellor. The UAA Spring semester will start next week and will be virtual. The enrollment is down, as students don't prefer the virtual delivery. The University is grappling with funding, with the reduction in funds from the previously negotiated budget reductions, as well as reductions in funding from the reduced income from tuition and other fees. Ryan indicated that the University is getting CARES Act funding but it is insufficient to offset the amount of the reductions. They are putting together a supplemental budget request to meet these shortfalls. Al Milspaugh note that UAA Lab classes had been canceled which creates problems for students particularly in the science and engineering fields. Ryan responded that Muni COVID restrictions negatively impacted the face to face courses.

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

1. **Planning and Zoning Subcommittee, Krista Scott, Chair:-** Krista deferred her report to the items discussed under new business.
 2. **Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair-** Steve reported that trails at Folker Park will not be plowed or set for the winter season.
- A. **Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:- In his safety tips briefing** Al noted that for safety considerations one should have an emergency phrase to safely contact family and friends.

c. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:- Al Milspaugh reported the FCC did

not meet last month

6. Old Business- Anchorage Bus Barn- Paul Stang

Paul noted that the ASD study report that was conducted in March 2020 did not address many of the issues that the UACC had brought up. The primary issue was the carbon monoxide concentrations to unhealthy levels that result from early morning warm ups of buses on colder, less than 20 degrees, inversion days. The carbon monoxide drifts to the west and north on these cold mornings and the report failed to address this concern. He had drafted a letter that would go to the ASD, Mayor, and Assembly members corning these issues. Paul requested that people email him if they had comments to this letter. Felix Rivera said that he would meet with the ASD officials in charge this week to discuss our concerns.

6. New Business and Public Comment

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

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

Paul Stang- President

Al Milspaugh- Vice President

Steve Zemke- Secretary/Treasurer

She also asked if there were any other UACC members too be nominated to any of these three positions. There were no other nominees brought forward. So nominations were closed and elections were held for each of the three positions. Results of these elections were as follows:

- 1. Paul Stang was elected to position of 2021 UACC President by vote of 12 for/0 against/0 abstentions.**
- 2. Al Milspaugh was elected to position of 2021 UACC Vice President by vote of 13 for/0 against/0 abstentions.**
- 3. Steve Zemke was elected to position of 2021 UACC Secretary/Treasurer by vote of 12 for/0 against/0 abstentions.**

Joanie next called for nominations to the two Executive Board Member at Large Member seats and the FCC Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Currently Joanie serves as one Member at Large seat with the other seat vacant. Al Milspaugh serves as the FCC Delegate with Joanie Nardini as the FCC Alternate Delegate. No other nominations were heard at this time. Paul Stang noted that nominations can be accepted up to the election time at next meeting.

B. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Alaska Pacific University to transfer property to Chugach Electric-LaQuita Chmielowski, Sr. Landf Use Planning Manager

LaQuinta indicated that the action would transfer the ownership of the parcel from Alaska Pacific University to Chugach Electric. There would also be a variance for the road ROW that accesses the property from Northern Lights Blvd. The transfer will require a long plat because of the a ROW variance needed. The plat will be submitted by January 18th and will go before the Planning and Zoning Board by April 7.

Marguerite Iverson inquired whether the transfer would impact the nearby paved bike trail. LaQuinta noted that the process just entails transfer of ownership with no physical changes to the electrical substation or the ROW access road. Al Milspaugh had question about whether the unpaved road is currently subject to erosion, which could impact nearby wetlands. Since the ROW is nearly level and public vehicular access is not allowed she is not aware of any erosion on the ROW. Steve Callaghan had similar question about why the road is not be paved to meet state maintenance standards. LaQuinta indicated that State DOT is involved and currently there is no plan to require any improvement of the current access road. The ROW is on the section line and provides public non-vehicular access. The presentation is provided to meet the public notification of for the platting proposal, which was required because of the transfer of the substation to Chugach Electric from the Anchorage Municipal Light and Power sale.

C. Title 21 Zoning Changes for Homeless Shelters- Muni Planning Staff-Presenter Francis McLaughlin and Elizabeth Appleby-Muni Planning Division

Francis referenced that homeless shelters are currently allowed only within Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) zones in the city. There currently is a significant lack of available space, with only 270 client capacity at Brother Francis and 70 clients at the Gospel Rescue Mission. Most of the available areas for future development for homeless facilities in PLI zones are not close to public transportation or services. The proposed zoning changes would allow shelters to be built within Commercial (B3) zones within ¼ mile of transportation corridors and services and need to be a minimum of at least 500 feet apart from other homeless facilities. She explained the nine conditional use approval criteria that would be used before a permit would be issued. These can be found under Anchorage Municipal Code 21.03.080D. Process for permit approval would be for the proposer to provide a pre-application to Muni, then Community meetings would be held, then an application to the Muni

would happen, then Agency and Department Review occurs before it then goes to the Planning and Zoning Board for Approval. The Municipality is currently taking comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be sent to:

francis.mclaughlin@anchorageak.gov.

Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on this Amended Title 21 on March 1st. Paul Stang questioned what was needed from the UACC. Francis replied that our response can be as formal as a resolution or could be just an email of general support. He also inquired what areas in UACC might be candidates under this amended language. Possible areas where development might occur are around the Native Health Campus Area, the Diplomacy drive area; area around the intersection of Northern Lights and Boniface, and sites along Tudor Road. They also indicated that there are commercial areas throughout the community that meet the standards. There was comment about zoning changes to B3 are conditionally compatible, but not forward thinking to address the issues about the actual sites. Krista Scott felt that the conditional use standards need to address the need to reduce the amount of unregulated pedestrian traffic around the sites. Steve Callaghan asked whether they have heard feedback from the downtown community area since they have the most current services. Francis replied that they have had several meetings already.

D. Title 17 provisions: re Animals in Public Places-Tamiah Liebersbach, Administration Manager, Muni Public Health Department.

Tamiah said the amendment to the Title 17 provisions would require dogs to be on leash in public areas, such as sidewalks, streets, parks, public playgrounds, sports fields, parking areas, trails and any other area that is not designated off leash. She indicated that these rules apply with the exception at the dog is engaged in an activity that precludes it from being on leash. She gave an example of playing catch with a ball at a park or playground. These exception would not apply to sidewalks, streets, or multi-use trails. These restrictions do not apply in off leash areas established by the Muni, but here the animal still needs to be under voice control. She indicated that this is the second round of the proposed revision. There will be a public hearing held by the Animal Control Advisory Board on January 28th.

During public comment Marguerite Iverson voiced that she supported the added requirements to Title 17, as dogs are currently putting children at risk on walking trails adjacent to the APU and other public areas. Al Milspaugh felt the changes were good and commended their hard work in drafting them. Paul Stang asked whether this means that dogs had to be on leash all the time

in parks. Tamiah replied that dogs need to be on leash in the park unless they are actively engaged in an activity that precludes them from being on leash, e.g. playing catch with a ball. If dog is in park causing problem then owner could be cited. They must be on leash at all times on streets, sidewalks, and trails.

Paul Stang wondered how to make this real and that the Animal Control Office need to do periodic patrols and give actual tickets so people understand the consequence for violating the ordinance. Tamiah said although they do some of that, the priority for their limited staff is things like dog bites cases and in investigating animal neglect. Paul had specific question about why dogs were allowed in Goose Lake Park when signs there says no animals allowed. He wondered why there was no enforcement there, as many dogs are brought daily to Goose Lake. Tamiah replied in the Goose Lake instance the restriction is under Title 21 so that it is a Parks and Recreation enforcement issue and not a Title 17 issue so Animal Control Officers do not have authority to issue citations. Beyond Goose Lake, there were questions about how many tickets have been issued for dogs being off leash. Tamiah replied that she does not have data on hand but there have been lots of tickets issued. Generally formal warnings are issued rather than actual tickets. Al Milspaugh noted that if UACC members that have negative interactions with dogs they need to contact the animal control office so they know the level of problem.

Finally Mitzi Anderson noted that if ordinance amending Title 17 with the tighter regulations is passed, the animal Control Department will hold a public relations campaign that will hopefully lead to better compliance.

E. Public Comments/Open Dialog-

None

F. Adjournment: Krista Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. Al Milspaugh seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

Paul R Stang

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

Attachment 1- December 2, 2020 Attendance Log

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Stang	President
Steve Callaghan	P&R Chair
Joanie Nardini	Member at Large
Krista Scott	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
Senator Bill Wielechowski	Visitor
Barbara Garner	Member
Elizabeth Appleby	Member
Assemblywoman Meg Zaletel	Visitor
Assemblyman Forrest Dunbar	Visitor
Mary Lu Harle	Member
Susan Klein	Member
LaQuinta Chimiowski	Visitor
Assemblyman Pete Peterson	Visitor
Margo Bellamy	Visitor
Ted Madsen	Visitor
Mark Fink	Member
Besse Odom	Member
Mitzi Anderson	Visitor
Tamiah Liebersbach	Visitor

**Attachment 2- Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
January 6, 2021**

Governor Dunleavy released his FY2022 Budget plan on Friday, December 11, 2020.

The FY22 budget was developed in cooperation with all state agencies and reflects a total reduction of \$294.6 million (UGF), achieved by efficiencies, modernizations, and better delivery of government services.

- The Governor plans to overdraw the Alaska Permanent Fund earnings by more than two times the amount allowed by current state law. He plans to do this to pay for state government and two PFD payouts, totaling nearly \$5,000

The Governor has funded these specific areas:

- Funding the rest of the 2020 PFD - \$1,916 per eligible Alaskan
- \$4 million to address the sexual assault case backlog
- \$26 million to fisheries, wildlife, and resource projects
- \$350 million to go toward infrastructure projects across the state
- Prioritizes Alaskans by increasing funding for public safety by \$13.5 million
- Funds the Alaska Psychiatric Institute to operate at full capacity
- Restores school construction financing to FY20 level

Funding was reduced for the following:

- \$35 million Medicaid
 - \$21 million Public education
 - \$13 million on highways, aviation, and transportation facilities
 - \$20 million to University of Alaska
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COVID-19: Relief Legislation

Congressional and White House negotiators have reached a deal on a \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package.

- \$300-per-week federal boost to state unemployment insurance for 11 weeks.
- \$600 stimulus checks for Americans earning less than \$75,000. (*\$166 billion*)
- A renewed Paycheck Protection Program.
- Extending eviction moratoriums for renters for an unspecified amount of time.

COVID-19: Vaccine

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended that states prioritize Americans over the age of 75 and essential frontline workers for the COVID-19 vaccine.

- Essential frontline workers include grocery store employees and teachers.

The FDA has approved another COVID-19 vaccine for use in the U.S.

- The vaccine was developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health.
- The data suggests that the Moderna vaccine is 94% effective.
- 5.9 million doses are being shipped to locations across the country.
- The vaccine requires 2 doses spaced several weeks apart.

Doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine are being shipped to all 50 states.

- On Dec. 11, the FDA approved an emergency use authorization for the vaccine.
- 2.9 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been delivered.
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Analysis by the FDA shows the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be 94.8% effective.

New clinical data suggest the AstraZeneca-University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine is 70% effective.

