

## FCC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 17, 2021

Reported by Jim Wright

FCC meetings continue to be via zoom during Covid-19.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

Al Milspaugh, FCC Outreach coordinator, announced the meeting rules and that the meeting is recorded, so that there is no expectation of privacy. He noted that he has been assisting a number of councils with Zoom. He has handouts with guidance and can provide a training schedule. He will require a co-host or new host for each community council, and is willing to assist to train our council's designee.

Mark Butler, FCC Manager, reported that:

1. Any newsletter documents need to get to FCC in a timely manner. In the past he asked for ten days advance notice.
2. The Municipal Election is Tuesday, April 6. Elections include the Mayor's position, four positions on the Anchorage School Board, an Assembly member recall vote in midtown, and numerous proposed bonds. He encourages the community councils to allow candidates to introduce themselves, and noted that some councils are having candidate forums via zoom.
3. He is working from the FCC office, and his assistant Susan is working from home. To visit the FCC office, please call Mark at 240-3868.
4. Most councils continue to meet via Zoom. Just two are doing both in person and Zoom. He recommends having one person host while another runs the meeting.

FCC AMATS representative Bob French reported that there will be a Citizens Advisory Meeting on March 5 to address the plan for nonmotorized vehicles.

There was no report from the FCC Homeless Committee this month.

### **Presentations.**

There was no report from the Mayor's office.

Felix Rivera presented for the Assembly.

Assembly members Weddleton, LaFrance, and Zalatel are sponsoring a series of ordinances that would remove executive orders (EOs) and move them instead to Anchorage Orders approved by the Assembly.

Rent and Utility Assistance is available from Federal recovery funds and being processed by the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

A number of bond proposals are on the April ballot. They include packages for road and drainage needs, trails, public safety, and the library. The police IT upgrade, including body cameras and supporting technology will be on the ballot as a special tax levy.

There are four ways to observe Anchorage Assembly meetings: 1) in person; 2) watch on GCI Channel 9; 3) Listen on the radio (the UAA channel); or 4) stream on-line.

Margo Bellamy reported for the Anchorage School Board:

K-2 students are back in class,<sup>1</sup> along with special education students and small middle and high school groups, and so far this has been good. Covid has closed some classrooms but not whole schools. Sports programs have resumed while wearing masks.

In-person outdoor graduation ceremonies are expected at the end of the school year.

After Spring Break, all students will be back in the classroom.

ASD has sponsored a vaccination clinic in the lobby of its administration building at Northern Lights and Boniface. School nurses, IT staff, and administrators worked together on this and it's been a success.

Kim Kovol presented for the Office of the Governor.

Governor Dunleavy restored the AHFC budget to its previous level.

There has been controversy over the sunseting Emergency Order. The Governor's office position is that he is without power to extend the Emergency Order while the Legislature is in session. Accordingly, the Legislature must act to authorize a renewed Emergency Order.

Distribution of vaccine shots is not expected to be affected by the end of the Governor's Emergency Order.

Presentations:

1. **Training of FCC and Community Council Officers.** Margaret King presented a needs assessment report. She recommends the FCC set up a Training Committee to establish goals for training council officers and members. Such a committee was approved, with Matt Burkholder as chair. Members include Bob French, Tod Butler, Cathy Gleason, and Silvia Villamedes.

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<sup>1</sup> Teaching staff returned to the schools with the new year. K-2 returned to the classroom on January 19. As of February 8, K-6 were in the classroom.

2. **Rezoning Dedicated Municipal Parks.** Municipal Planner Ryan Yelle explained that the Municipality is starting to rezone such parks to the “PR” or Parks and Recreation zoning classification. This process was triggered by adoption of the new Title 21 and 2040 Land Use Plan. Non-dedicated parks may also be considered for designation. The Planning Department is starting with 20 parks in Midtown and the Central area. Community council comments are due by April 12 at the Planning Department. The issue will then go to Planning & Zoning on May 3, before being submitted to the Assembly. He did not say which parks are at issue, but we can gather that information by contacting the department.
3. **Candidate Forums and Other Opportunities for Candidates to Speak.** Mark Butler announced that there will be on-line forums for candidates for Mayor and for the Anchorage School Board. He encourages our participation.

Mary Jo Torgeson, Municipal Librarian, advocated for Proposition 2 on the upcoming ballot, which includes money for Municipal-owned senior centers and the library.

The last part of every FCC meeting is a discussion of what each council is focused on. For Rogers Park, I indicated that we are presently focused on obtaining input into the plan for operating the planned facility at the old Golden Lion motel building.

Best wishes,

Jim Wright, RPCC representative to the FCC