

MIDTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING AND AGENDA

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 @ 12:00-1:30 Noon

ADDRESS 3000 C STREET Conference room

OPEN MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Sign in and call to Order. Kris Stoechner VicePresident

Kris Stoechner, Vice President called the meeting to order at Noon. Board members attending the meeting included: Bill Borchardt, Rosemary Borchardt, Kirk Hastain, Brian Swartzentruber, and Greg McDonald.

Approval of Minutes: IF AVAILABLE

Minutes from the previous meeting were not available for approval.

Approval of Agenda:

PRESENTORS:

1. Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

- a. The Department of Transportation & Public Facilities and DOWL have conducted the Noise Study Analysis for the Sterling Highway: 36th Avenue Interchange this summer. Data collection which had begun in late July 2022. They have selected noise measurement locations as part of our methodology required under the DOT&PF Noise Policy. If you have any questions about the noise study or the project generally, please contact DOWL public involvement at (907)562-2000 or visit our project website at <http://36thinterchange.com>

Sam Tyler, DOWL gave an update on the design plans and answered questions. He suggested that the project website has more information and attached is a fact sheet.

2. DOWL Engineers

- a. They will give an update on the repair of the sidewalks along Northern Lights between Minnesota and Seward Highway. The project has been fully funded to complete the repairs needed to improve accessibility and access along the corridor.

Morgan McCammon, DOWL introduced, David Gamez, Lounsbury who reported on the goals of the project:

- *Make the sidewalks on both sides of Northern Lights Blvd. ADA compliant.*
- *Widen the sidewalks to 5' to 6'.*
- *Work with private property owners to limit multiple entrances to their properties.*
- *Add bus stops where practical.*
- *Move light poles from the sidewalks that impede pedestrian traffic.*
- *Final design will be completed in 2023 and construction may begin in 2024 depending on funding.*

Attached is a Factsheet on the project and the PowerPoint presentation that was prepared for the MTCC meeting.

3. The Emergency Shelter Task Force Communications Subgroup

- a. They will give a presentation about the ongoing work to provide emergency shelter for persons experiencing homelessness for this upcoming winter. The Properties Evaluation Subgroup presented their short list of possible buildings with includes the location in our council area that is The Arctic Recreation Center at 4855 Arctic Blvd.

Felix Rivera and Darrel Hess reported on the status of the emergency shelter sites under consideration. Hess stated that for a site to be considered, it must provide for: 1. 24/7 operations. 2. Showers available. 3. Food service. They are currently considering: two private sites, Arctic Rec Center, 4855 Arctic Blvd. and the former GCI Call Center, 5152 Fairbanks St.; and two MOA sites, the former Golden Lion Inn, and the Dempsey Arena. The purchase of a hotel is also a possibility. The temporary sites are scheduled to be discussed at the 9/27/22 Assembly Meeting.

4. Amendment of Midtown City Council By-Laws

- a. The Midtown Board and officers would like to approve the number of board members from 6 to 9.
- b. The election for officers and board members will be held at the Oct 12th meeting.
- c. An email will be sent out soliciting candidates for the officers and board members before the October meeting.

It was noted that the MTCC Bylaws state in Article X: "There shall be an Executive Board of NINE (9) members. The Executive Board shall be comprised of its Officers and FIVE (5) members elected at large."

5. The Owner of a Liquor License which will be in the old Romano's building located on the corner of Fireweed and C St. He will provide a presentation of his plans and for the business.

Jason Motyka, northern hospitality group made the presentation. He explained that their group is part of the 49th State Brewing Company, who has purchased the former Romano's restaurant site. They plan to remodel the building and open an indoor/outdoor restaurant next summer, much like their operation in Denali Park. They purchased the former Tap Root liquor license and may open a package store, which would only sell products from their brewery. He confirmed they would not sell "shooters" or high alcohol content beverages. Jason is a member of the Downtown Community Council and plans to be active in the Midtown Community Council as well.

Reports:

Mayor's Office:

Portia Erickson, Director of Community Engagement reported on the following changes in the Mayor's Executive Staff: Adam Trombley, Chief of Staff; Alexis Johnson, Anchorage Health Department and Homeless Coordinator; Lance Wilber, Office of Economic and Community Development. She also reported that the MOA has openings on various boards and commissions, and that there is a job fair scheduled for 9/23/22.

When questioned about the mayor's appointment of Mario Bird as MOA attorney not being approved, Rivera responded there was an overall trust issue.

ASSEMBLY REPORTS: Rivera, Zaletel, & Constant. They will give an update on the assembly property tax changes.

Rivera noted that Zaletel and Constant were attending the Homelessness Taskforce meeting and he gave the following update:

- *A proposed decrease in residential property taxes and offsetting increase in commercial property taxes is under consideration.*
- *Assembly member Daniel Volland should be added to the MTCC Assembly Reports section.*
- *Assembly recommends an internal audit take place regarding the hiring of Joe Gerace.*
- *Public Safety – Mandating ADP officers to wear body cameras is an issue for the APD union.*
- *MOA Budget – The detailed budget is due 10/1/22.*
- *Homelessness – Emergency shelters are being forward funded for the Guest House purchase and others; funding of \$5 million for the Navigation Center off Elmore Rd. and utilizing ASD portables is postponed until 10/11/22.*

School Board Representative Dave Donley will give an update on the school budget. *A School Board Representative was not in attendance.*

State Senate Representatives: Elvie Gray Jackson will give a report on the results of the legislative session of the Senate. *A State Senate Representative was not in attendance.*

State House Representatives: Harriet Drummond: She will update on the legislative action of the House. *A State House Representative was not in attendance.*

Reports:

Capital Projects Committee Report if any: *No capital projects to report.*

Membership Committee Report: Updated Lists. Kirk Hastain & Al

Kirk reported that there will be a new membership process which will include those who work and/or live in the Midtown Community Council area.

Hearing Notices: Package Liquor & Marijuana Renewals? None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS: Open

Committee Report: On the proposed membership committee, Al Tamagni.

Other New Business: Recording of new minutes discussion.

A general discussion took place with the following items noted:

- *There is concern about the possibility of residential property taxes being lowered and commercial property taxes increased to off-set the reduction.*
- *The increase in the midtown homeless population, related property vandalism, and concern about those who do not want help. (The Mental Health Trust Authority has a Crisis Now model that may assist those who do not want help).*
- *It was agreed by all in attendance that having Zoom available for future meetings is a good idea.*
- *It was noted that the MOA fees associated with new residential and commercial developments add approximately 45% to the project cost and has forced development (and residents) to the Valley.*
- *Melinda Gant, who works with Mike Robbins at the ACDA reported that funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) has awarded a \$300,000 grant to develop a midtown Community Plan.*
- *Lindsey Hajduk, Director of Community Engagement, NeighborWorks Alaska announced that the Midtown Community Garden on the south side of W. Benson Blvd at Cheechako St has been well received by the neighborhood. She also noted she would like to be involved in MTCC Capital Projects.*

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM