

Minutes of the Federation of Community Councils Board Meeting October 21, 2009

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) council delegates and guests met together for the October 2009 meeting of the FCC. Chairman Dick Tremaine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken from the sign-in sheet -- 16 delegates were in attendance, meaning a quorum was in place.

Members in attendance:

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni
Basher	Dirk Sisson
Bear Valley	Laurie Holland
Eagle River Valley	Thomas C Freeman
Fairview	Paul Benson
Huffman-O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Russian Jack	Pat Butler
Sand Lake	Talbot Chang
Scenic Foothills	Lance Pruitt
South Fork	Sara Pullen
Spenard	Matt Burkholder
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason

Others in attendance included:

Mark Butler, FCC Manager
Jeff Friedman, Anchorage School Board

Agenda

Presented for approval. Churchill moved and Tamagni seconded. No changes were made and they were passed unanimously.

Guest speakers

Jeff Friedman, Anchorage School Board (ASD).

He presented a list of community ASD meeting dates and links for more information:

Monday, Nov. 16th at Mears Middle School

Thursday, Nov. 19th at Girdwood School

Monday, Nov. 30th at Gruening Middle School

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd at Wendler Middle School

-- All forums are scheduled for 7-9 p.m. --

- The School Board and ASD want comments including comments about individual teachers and administrators.
- Zangle, the new tracking system, is still working though the newness of it is causing a bit of confusion. The system greatly reduces data entry thereby saving many hours of employee time.
- The entire ASD budget for 2009/10 is available to the public on the internet. The 2010/11 budget will not be uploaded until late January.
- Persons wishing to comment on the 2010/11 budget should frame their comments based on the current, 2009/10 budget.
- There are about 800 more students than expected attending district schools this year

Finance Committee – Written Treasurer’s report was reviewed.

- Much of the non-salary funds are related to mailing.
- Accounting controls have become necessary due to past lapses. The use of accountants is not leading to delays in payment.
- Tamagni noted that having consistent, professional financial statements is a plus when we are considered for grants.

Old Business

NUSA (Neighborhoods, USA)

- Bergerson is attending the NUSA executive committee meeting in Little Rock and will have more information when he returns.
- It was suggested that in light of current economic conditions we should examine economic and visitation trends with ACVB.

Highway to Highway (H2H) project presentation by John McPherson of HDR (www.highway2highway.com)

- The project began about one year ago in July 2008.
- There have been four rounds of public meetings to date.
- The process is beginning with a purpose and need analysis.

- Most of the traffic seems to be to and from downtown and mid-town. There is also significant traffic to and from the port and U-Med district.
- Origination/destination (OD) studies show that the worst conditions are during peak “to and from” work times.
- DOT had previously calculated accidents in the Glenn/Seward corridor at about 750 accidents per year with losses of about \$22 million/year.
- DOT has calculated the cost of delay and congestion at about \$40 million per year.
- The Draft Purpose and Need Chapter is available for public review.
- The Federal Transit Authority has been brought onboard to help analyze various rail and bus modes.
- Multiple corridors are being considered and they will be evaluated through a screening process.
- The screening process document is available for public review.
- The range of alternatives is available for public review.
- The H2H team is seeking comments focused on how to make the alternatives better and why or why not the alternatives will solve the problems.
- There are about 60,000 trips per day north on the Seward and about 50,000 per day south on the Glenn.
- The H2H is an outgrowth of the AMATS Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- The LRTP is a component of the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan. One aspect is to maintain air quality. CO is an issue in Anchorage due to idling vehicles in the winter.
- The H2H team will narrow the range of alternatives this winter based on analysis and public input.
- The H2H plan has a 25 to 30 year time horizon. Therefore, the KABATA (Knik Arm Bridge) is being taken into consideration.
- Neighborhood connectivity impacts have been added to the analysis.
- Residents are encouraged to make comments on-line or to visit the H2H offices on 15th Avenue (between Ingra and Gambell)
- Next steps: Include continued screening of the alternative. In early 2010 there will be public meetings to discuss the alternatives that are recommended to remain in the plan or any other alternatives that have come up during the last round of public input.
- The goal is to complete the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and obtain a “Record of Decision” that will be used to specify the route and the conditions for eventually constructing the project.

New Business

Status of 2010 FCC Budget

- We have been told that our budget is in the Municipal Managers department under the Mayor’s proposed budget and we will have to compete for greatly diminished funding.

- It was suggested that we prepare a table of historic funding to show how we have saved money over time. Tamagni remembers that in 1976 the CCs were funded at about \$200,000 per year.
- The manager will document the number of people being sent snail mail each month, approximate number of emails, and population (most recent reported) for the community councils.
- The Assembly budget timeline should be sent to each council.
- We need to prepare talking points concerning the importance of the FCC.
- Preparation of a list of state legislators by council would also be useful.

Council Sharing

South Fork is worried about the closure of their fire station.

Turnagain is very involved in the Westside District Plan.

Basher is active in the Chugach State Park planning processes.

Russian Jack is focusing on the “Boniface” alternative on the Highway to Highway project as well as highway safety improvement planning.

Mountain View is looking into street art and the community center that is under construction next to the new school.

Rogers Park got a big crowd out to hear a presentation about the Highway to Highway options that would bring the freeway through their neighborhood. Noise abatement fencing along Northern Lights Boulevard.

North Star is following the construction of a new road with a parallel multi-use trail down Romig Hill from Hillcrest to West 19th Avenue.

Anchorage Public Safety Advisory Commission will be holding a public forum on Wednesday December the proposed “safety hour” ordinance that would allow patrons in bars to continue consuming (but not purchase) drinks for up to an hour after existing closing hours.

Rabbit Creek is closely following the Hillside District Plan and proposed land developments in the area.

Sand Lake is involved in the Strawberry Road and Sand Lake intersection. The Sand Lake Elementary School renovation with the Japanese immersion program. The usage of the gravel pits are still a critical issue for those who live in the area. There is a “well-water” coalition that is highly concerned about the “exposed aquifer” in the pit and the damage is may be causing to those who have water wells.

Scenic Foothills is concerned about an increase in violence in the area (including the girl who was murdered while attending a party). Flooding is also a concern in two areas, including the Lee Baker development.

Bear Valley had problems this last summer with partying along with 4 wheelers and 4x4 trucks destroying land. Storck Park is being renovated. Chugach Parks planning processes. Section 36 master plan.

Spenard is involved in the Midtown and Westside district plans. Concerned about the “safety hour” ordinance as currently written. A lot of work being done on safety issues in Spenard. Involved in discussions about a plan to convert the Chelsea Inn to low income housing.

Huffman O’Malley is following the Hillside district plan. Issues with city water and sewer coming into the area. Issues about the roundabouts proposed for Huffman Road.

Northeast is concerned about the impact of the “bypass” option of the Highway to Highway project. Edwards Street.

Airport Heights had the “walkway to nowhere” removed in their area.

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.