

# **Federation of Community Councils, Inc.**

## **Board of Delegates**

### **Minutes of February 20, 2013 meeting**

**Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair, Brit Szymoniak.** President Brit Szymoniak called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. She stated that according to the by-laws (Article IV 2 (b)) each delegate to the FCC must have provided notification from their community council president to the FCC of the individual designated to represent his or her council. Until that was accomplished, the delegate was not properly seated and could not vote on items brought to a vote by the FCC. She stated that this could be done either in writing or verbally by the delegate's community council president. She also stated that if those present were not properly seated they would not be able to vote on issues at this meeting. She then took roll call to determine if we had a quorum.

#### **FCC Delegates in attendance:**

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni, Sr.
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Eagle River Valley	Thomas C. Freeman, Jr.
Fairview	Heidi Heinrich
Government Hill	Brit Szymoniak
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Gordon Glaser
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Ocean	Nancy Beardsley
Portage Valley	Joanne Blackburn
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Scenic Foothills	Mark Hill
Turnagain	Bill Wortman
University Area	Joanie Nardini

#### **Others in attendance included:**

Kathleen Plunkett Anchorage School Board  
Eugene Halberman

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was made and seconded. During discussion, Kep Pierce made a motion to delete the Merrill Field Report as the individuals who were supposed to do the report were not at the meeting and to add a presentation by a delegation from UAA. The motion was approved and the agenda was amended. Al Tamagni made a motion to add mailing lists for the individual community councils under old business. The motion was seconded and approved and then item was added to the agenda.

The main motion to approve the agenda was made and approved. The President informed the delegates that the minutes for the previous meeting were not available for review and approval but would be put on the agenda for the March meeting.

**Quorum was met.**

**Minutes of the 10/17/12 FCC meeting were approved without objection.**

**No one present from Mayor's Office or from the Assembly.**

**Anchorage School Board – Kathleen Plunkett.**

Kathleen Plunkett made a report on behalf of the Anchorage School Board and the Anchorage School District (ASD). She was assisted in her presentation by Chad Stiteler, the Corporate Financial Officer for ASD. Her presentation was the Financial Plan Review which she provided copies and covered the highlights. She stated that the objective of both the ASB & ASD were to maximize the number of positions providing direct service to the classroom by keeping the student teacher ratio low. This was a guiding principal when they were working on meeting the projected 25 million dollar budget shortfall. In working towards meeting that objective ASD has saved approximately 4 million dollars by taking advantage of attrition. One of the primary concerns for the school district was to improve both attendance and graduation rates. They are also working on implementing the areas of improvement suggested as a result of the audit conducted by the Council of Greater City Schools last year. One of the action items taken based on the audit was a reduction in some support areas where we appeared to be more heavily staffed than other comparable school systems. The final meeting on the ASD budget is scheduled this week and will probably be passed on go onto the assembly for their action. The presentation was followed by a question and answer period. In response to a question regarding school facility security, Ms. Plunkett

stated they were talking about items which could enhance security but had not reached any final decisions. In response to a question about school vouchers, Ms. Plunkett stated this was an item that needed careful review to see what impact it would have, however since it would require a constitution amendment it was not being given a priority for review now.

### **Presentations:**

- **Annual MOA Survey of Community Councils**

A group from UAA made a presentation regarding a survey they were going to be sending to the officers of the individual community councils. The plan is to send the survey out next week. This survey has been mailed hard copy in the past to the community council presidents, however the response has been limited, for example one year only 11 responses were received. This year they are going to send it out by e-mail to all community council officers. The feeling is that by increasing the number of respondents and ease of doing it electronically, it should improve the response rate. The responses will be kept confidential and the results compiled by an independent firm.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

- The **President** stated that the Municipal Grant had been completed by the city and the only remaining step was to have the assembly approve the grant. She anticipated this would be completed next week. She also requested that the delegates e-mail to her any action items which were pending for the FCC. A number of items were brought up, but the request was to e-mail them so they could be dealt with more effectively administratively.
- Kep Pierce gave the **Treasurer** report. We did not have any financial reports for the last three months (December through February) however she anticipated that we would be receiving them tomorrow. After a discussion on e-mailing them versus hard copy, the decision was that the financial reports in the future would be e-mailed to the delegates. A question was asked if the FCC had checked "bounced" in the past month. There had been a number of checks bounced due to a failure transfer funds between accounts. However the funds had been transferred and we had sufficient funds in the proper accounts at this time. A question was asked regarding the status of the year end reports. The response was that the office manager had not submitted the information to the accounting firm necessary for them to produce those reports. This was confirmed by the

office manager. The Treasurer reported that the financial audits conducted at the direction on the municipality had confirmed that the systems that were in place to handle FCC funds were very good. She thanked Al Tamagni for setting those systems in place and getting them implemented during his term as Treasurer.

- Mark Butler had previously distributed his **Councils Center Manager** report via e-mail. He announced that Title 21 of the Municipal Code was being finalized and this Friday there would be a working session of the Assembly regarding the Municipal budget. He also brought up the possibility of moving documents which had been submitted by individual community councils to the FCC office for storage to UAA. After discussion, it was determined that no contact had been made with UAA so it isn't know if they are still doing this, what the parameters are if they are, or if we could use this service. The President asked for a formed a committee to review the process for archiving documents from both the FCC and individual community councils. This will be an item for discussion at the next FCC meeting. Another suggestion was that the delegates discuss this with their own community councils for their input as to how this might be done and what role the councils would play in the process. Mark reported that the "back end" of the new web site was completed and the contractor is now working on the "front end". No date for testing or completion was given. The Manager's report also requested assistance regarding updating "The Anchorage Handbook" however it wasn't discussed at the meeting. This is a project that the Municipal Ombudsman's office is working with the FCC to complete.

A general discussion was initiated by Mark Butler regarding purchasing devices that could be used in connection with cell phones so they could function as a speaker phone. He stated that he had a request from the president of the Rogers Park Community Council for a speaker phone attachment to a "smart phone". He suggested that we consider buying 3 or 4 for used by individual councils. If the usage supported it, additional devices could be purchased. No action was taken but there was a general positive reaction from the delegates to pursuing it.

**There were no Old Business items discussed.**

## **New Business:**

- **Election of FCC Secretary**

The president stated that the FCC needed a secretary and urged the delegates to put their best effort forth in getting the position filled. Al Tamagni offered to share the position with Bob Churchill if the delegates would approve. A nomination was made to accept both Al Tamagni and Bob Churchill as co secretaries for the FCC and seconded. The delegates voted to approve the motion.

- **Records Committee**

Mark, Joanne Blackburn (PVCC) and Gordon Glaser (NSCC) were appointed to the committee.

- **Creation of Resident versus Non-resident emailing lists**

Al Tamagni brought up a request to designate on our mailing lists members of the individual community council versus non members for purposes of surveys or other actions which the response of members only were being measured. This survey data has been used effectively to gage the priorities for individual councils. Abbott Loop has used this effectively to acquire and allocate funding for projects and improvements in their area. Al stated that he had checked with the contractor and this was possible to code the individual entries to do this. Mark stated that he also had checked with Constant Contact and that we had to set up a second Resident's list for each council. That was doable, but time consuming and each President would have to determine which person on their list was a resident. A concern was expressed regarding the workload that would put on the Center Manager to update the mailing lists. After a significant amount of discussion, it was agreed that this would be explored and discussed at another meeting as to workload required to achieve this. It was also suggested that delegates ask their councils if they would be able and willing to participate in making the coding changes for the lists for their councils. Mark was tasked to talk to Constant Contact about the "coding" of lists versus setting up second council mailing lists.

## **Council Sharing Issues:**

- **Rabbit Creek – Title 21**

- **Old Seward/Oceanview** – New attractive newsletter, council wide survey, memorial to Bob Robertson on March 30<sup>th</sup>
- **Eagle River Valley**
- **Abbott Loop**
- **Bayshore/Klatt**
- **Mountain View** – Possible Karluk Manor move to Mountain View. No input from the community before a public announcement was made.
- **Portage Valley** – Lack of meetings. Seward Highway improvements. Chugach National Forest 15 year plan. Question about land ownership. Title 21. Pro or anti trapping. Alaska railroad blocking fire response to a burning building.

**North Star** – Title 21 impacts (including shading of neighborhoods by tall commercial buildings. Disc golf plan letter of support. Spenard Road safety improvements design and funding. West High stadium improvements.

- **Fairview** – Access Alaska. Gambell sidewalks unsafe. Burying power lines. Impacts of Karluk Manor on community.
- **Turnagain** – Verizon cell phone towers with the latest proposal at the Lutheran church on West Northern Lights. Indoor tennis facility proposed by the Alaska Tennis Association. Sale of the Armory by the MOA. West side candidates forum on Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Northeast** – Fire Station Six art work. CIP list. Sam's Club is moving to the Tikatnu Commons.
- **University Area** – No officers. Had an unofficial meeting to encourage people to participate in the council. UAA Engineering Building to be built in the parking lot of the UAA Bookstore. New parking structure proposed as well. Proposed extension of Bragaw south into the UAA/APU campuses. Not supported by the councils in the area.
- **Government Hill** – Neighborhood Plan. New officers.
- **Rogers Park** – Alley committee. UAA Thursdays Noon to 1 PM Native Issues.

**Public Comments:**

- **Eugene Halberman** – Spoke about his concerns over the management of the last Municipal Election and the unwillingness of the Community Council presidents to forward his information to their members.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8 p.m.**