

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

## **Board of Delegates**

### **Minutes of January 16, 2013 meeting**

**Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM by Chair, Brit Szymoniak.**

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

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni, Sr.
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Eagle River Valley	Thomas C. Freeman, Jr.
Fairview	Sharon Chamard
Government Hill	Brit Szymoniak
Huffman O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mid-Hillside	Lance Powell
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Gordon Glaser
Northeast	Carla McConnell
Old Seward/Ocean	Nancy Beardsley
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Spenard	Jason Bergerson
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason

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

Kathleen Plunkett	Anchorage School Board
Aaron Pascar	Nunaka Valley Community Patrol
Keith Ferris	Nunaka Valley Community Patrol
Jeff Hartley	Birchwood Community Patrol
Bill Wortman	Turnagain Community Council
Kristine Bunnell	Municipality of Anchorage
Maryellen Tuttell	DOWL/HKM
Rachel Steer	DOWL/HKM

**Quorum was met.**

## **Agenda**

Moved by Dick Tremaine and seconded by Kep Pierce to move agenda item H1 (Election of Vice Chair) to B, and add a new item H2 (Discussion of officers of the Executive Committee). The motion carried.

## **Election of Vice Chair of the FCC**

Moved by Nancy Beardsley and seconded by Gordon Glaser to nominate Dick Tremaine. There were no other nominations. Dick Tremaine was elected by a unanimous vote.

## **Election of Secretary of the FCC**

There were no nominations.

## **Minutes of the 10/17/12 FCC meeting**

Moved by Bob Churchill and seconded by Kep Pierce to accept the minutes from the October 17, 2012 Board of Delegates meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## **No one present from Mayor's Office.**

Cathy Gleason suggested that a specific invitation be made before each meeting.

## **No one present from the Anchorage Assembly.**

## **Anchorage School Board – Kathleen Plunkett**

Kathleen Plunkett spoke on behalf of the Anchorage School Board. The budget will be coming out later in January. It will be short because of labor and health care costs. She says any reductions will come from classes last; before then vacant positions will be eliminated. There may be layoffs. Mr. Glaser asked about the level of funding from the Legislature over the past few years. Ms. Plunkett replied that it has been flat, and this is unlikely to change even as the budget goes up. Jason Bergerson asked if the school board supports a move from the middle school to the junior high school model to save money on staffing, because this reduces the number of classes being taught and there is a cost-saving there. Ms. Plunkett answered that the safety of our students is important. Ms. Gleason asked if each school sets its own policy about carrying of concealed weapons or if it is district-wide. Ms. Plunkett said the policy is set by the

district. Ms. Gleason commented about funding levels and legislative grants for schools. She asked if we can afford to build large sports facilities — how will they be maintained? Has the school board and school district weighed in on this? Where will the money come from? Will there be revenue from concession sales? Christine Monette said we need to have a community-wide discussion about what sports facilities our schools need.

### **Presentations:**

- **Anchorage Remembrance Park**

Bob Halcro gave a presentation about the proposed development of a Remembrance Foundation park in downtown Anchorage. He showed a video detailing plans for a park with 13 stations and monuments depicting American ideals and values and key historical moments in American history. The proposed location is in downtown Anchorage on the slope between the train station and the parking lot used for the downtown market. He said organizers have been working on this for ten years, and the city, state, and country need this. He added that it can help children learn and will attract foreign tourists. He offered to come to any community council meeting, and asked councils to support the proposal and convey messages of this support so they can be put in packets. It is not yet fully funded but in the Downtown Community Council was very supportive of locating the park at a site below 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

- **University Lake Drive Extension Project**

Rachel Steer and Maryellen Tuttell gave a presentation about the proposed extension of University Lake Drive on the campus of Alaska Pacific University.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**FCC Chair Brit Szymoniak** said she is excited to be the new FCC chair. She said the last meeting was very contentious, and she wants meetings to be respectful. On the issue of firearms carried by people engaging in community patrol, she said they are waiting for legal advice on whether the FCC will be liable for damages, etc. as the patrol grants administrator.

Brit Szymoniak stressed the need for an FCC Secretary. Al Tamagni suggested that the FCC get a recorder to use at meetings and have a staff person make notes of the main things discussed. Brit said that even if we did this, we would still need a Secretary. She asked delegates to inventory and prioritize requests made of the Executive Board.

**Treasurer Kep Pierce** said there was no report, as she did not receive any information from the CPA. Al Tamagni said we also need a year-end report. There was discussion about patrol grants and fiscal policies. Al Tamagni said these grants were never approved by the Board of Delegates, so why are we acting as the pass-through for these grants? Jason Bergerson said that about seven or eight years ago, the board moved to accept these grants as pass-through for 2%. Al asked if there were old minutes in which to find this information. Brit Szymoniak said if we can't find this information, we can bring it up again if we want to serve as a pass-through for organizations that receive grants. distributed her monthly report. We are under budget (year-to-date).

### **Old Business:**

**FCC website committee** – The website has not been updated. A company has done the back-end programming, but the front-end—the user interface—has not been done yet. The committee needs volunteers to give input on the design. Ms. Pierce volunteered. Ms. Gleason said she had been on the committee before and had expected to see stuff to comment on. Mr. Tamagni asked if the FCC has a contract with the website company and if so, are they in compliance. Ms. Szymoniak said they are in compliance, and we haven't asked them for a product lately. There was a brief discussion about the role of FCC staff in updating of council websites.

**Community Patrol use of weapons** – A motion to take the issue off the table passed. Tom Freeman asked why weapons policies are not done on a council-by-council basis. Ms. Pierce said councils do decide. Mountain View allows their patrol to carry if members go through various training and procedures. She said the FCC just administers the grant funds, but doesn't set policy for councils and patrols. Mr. Tremaine added that he FCC is trying to figure out whether we are liable. Mr. Glaser said he wants to know more before deciding anything. He asked, Are we liable if we don't allow patrols to carry and something happens, or if we do allow them to carry and something happens? **Kep Pierce moved, seconded by Jason Bergerson, to table the issue until we have more information about FCC liability. The motion passed unanimously.**

Al Tamagni suggested consideration of passing the **patrol grants** over to APD. Jason Bergerson said this was looked at in the past. The Municipality asked APD to handle to grants, by APD declined because of concerns over liability. Gordon Glaser said we should find out what liability with community patrols is in general, such as if a there is a car crash.

**Discussion of officers of the Executive Committee** – Mr. Tremaine said that although he added this to the agenda, everything he wanted to say had already been covered in the Chairman's Report. Mr. Tamagni said we should meet with council

presidents. We serve them. The Board of Delegates is the body that oversees everything. The Executive Committee is a committee of the board. Ms. Szymoniak said she will consider that, and reminded people that delegates are supposed to function as a link between the FCC and their community council residents.

#### **New Business:**

- **Election of the Vice Chair position of the FCC to fill the position vacated when Jeff Mittman resigned and Brit Szymoniak was elevated to the FCC Chair position.**

Dick Tremaine was nominated to be Vice Chair of the FCC. Dick was elected by an unanimous vote of the FCC delegates.

- **Election of FCC Secretary**

There were no nominations to fill the empty FCC Secretary position.

#### **Council Sharing:**

**Rabbit Creek, Dick Tremaine** – many members are absorbed with testifying about Title 21. We feel it doesn't reflect public input and the wish of the community.

**Old Seward/Oceanview, Nancy Beardsley** – we found out we are losing our fire station. Our Assembly member attended a council meeting for the first time in 1.5 years. We are putting together a survey that the FCC will send out.

**Eagle River Valley, Tom Freeman** – we are also concerned about Title 21. A road development project is on our radar.

**Abbott Loop, Al Tamagni** – the council did a targeted mailing to areas close to the Raven's Roost property to seek input; there are questions about the conditional use permit for the property.

**Rogers Park, Bob Churchill** – the council president Janet Bidwell will be talking to the Assembly about Title 21. The Save Our Alleys Task Force is working well. It may result in significant funding for alley paving and utility grounding.

**Mountain View, Kep Pierce** – there has been a big turnover in the Executive Board. The new leaders are looking to make big changes and shake up the neighborhood.

**Bayshore/Klatt, Bob Laule** – we are focused on Title 21.

**North Star, Gordon Glaser** – no report.

**Mid-Hillside, Lance Powell** – we are also focused on Title 21. The principal of Service High School is coming to our next council meeting to talk about sound and lights. One member of the council is the president of HALO, and they are on record as being opposed to South Stadium.

**Huffman O'Malley, Christine Monette** – we have had some success at the Planning and Zoning Commission getting South Stadium delayed. We are fighting the extension of Elmore Drive. There have been big changes in the council's leadership and Steering Committee.

**Turnagain, Cathy Gleason** – we are focused on Title 21. The Assembly hearing has been continued to next Tuesday. The Airport Master Plan group is meeting regularly. There will be a Part 150 noise update study meeting in February. We are looking at a pedestrian walkway along Northern Lights. There is a lot going on at West High-Romig; the council didn't know about their request for funding ahead of time. There is a proposal for indoor tennis courts next to Dempsey. The conversion of the Long House motel is taking up a lot of time. We are trying to get the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to commit to a public hearing before funding the project. Verizon cell towers are going up. Cheryl Frasca was appointed to fill Harriet Drummond's seat on the Assembly. Lindsey Holmes has switched political parties. She has been asked to provide answers to questions about this shift.

**Northeast, Carla** – the council is obsessed with a Northeast Park Strip; we want it. We are concerned about Title 21.

**Fairview, Sharon Chamard** – seconded Bob Churchill's remarks about the Save Our Alleys Task Force; Iris Matthews from Rogers Park has done tremendous work with this group. The Merrill Field Master Plan is being developed. The Fairview Business Association did a study of businesses in the Fairview area.

**Spenard, Jason Bergerson** – the Long House is an issue of concern. The council is also looking into the issue of local businesses being advised by Alcohol Beverage Control to get a recreational license, even though they serve alcohol 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Government Hill, Brit Szymoniak** – at a recent meeting they held new elections for council officers; there was a great turnout. They are voting on a resolution on the alley refuse issue. A committee is looking at a tank farm proposal by Crowley. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, the naval warship USS Anchorage will be here for its commissioning. This will be first time a naval warship has been commissioned in Alaska.

**Guests' Comments:**

**David Nees** spoke about his idea for a change in the school board seat designation from city-wide to more local. He is attempting to get a proposition on the ballot. He presented another possible proposition for the ballot that would require the municipality to mail out ballots to all registered voters. His contact is [davidnees@gmail.com](mailto:davidnees@gmail.com).

**Alexander Monterrosa**, the president of the Scenic Foothills Community Council, introduced Mark Hill, their new delegate who will be replacing Linda Billmyer.

**The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Fairview Community Council