

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Board of Delegates

Minutes of March 20, 2013 meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair, Brit Szymoniak.

Delegates who had been certified by their individual community council presidents since the last meeting were officially seated by the Chair.

A quorum was present. The Chair asked for any objections to the minutes for January or February FCC meetings. No objectives, corrections or amendments were offered and the minutes were approved by the Chair.

FCC Delegates in attendance:

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni, Sr.
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Eagle River Valley	Thomas C. Freeman, Jr.
Fairview	SJ Klein
Government Hill	Kyle Stevens
Huffman O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Andre Camara
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Ocean	Nancy Beardsley
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Scenic Foothills	Mark Hill
University Area	David Williams

Others in attendance included:

Brit Szymoniak	FCC Chair
Maeve Nevins	MOA Parks and Rec
Clare Ross	MOA Library

Agenda approved.

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

Anchorage School Board – Kathleen Plunkett.

Kathleen Plunkett provided a written report which was read by the Community Councils Manager Mark Butler.

Presentations:

Coastal Trail Rehabilitation Project -- Maeve Nevens, Municipal Park Planner

Maeve stated that she was available for presentations to individual community councils and could be contacted at her office, 343-4135. The trails are in need of repair and that there had been little done to them since the 1970's. The latest effort included a trail watch group who were used to do a survey to determine what areas were in most need of repairs and restoration. Since that time they have acquired approximately 2.25 million dollars in funding to do upgrades and repairs. There has also been several allocations in the amount of \$27,000 and one for \$90,000 from operating funds. There will be closures to the trail from this Spring until the Early Fall. Information will be posted and distributed widely.

Citizen Initiative to Trim Trees in a Scenic Foothills Park – Mark Hill

The second presentation was made by Mark Hill, from the Scenic Foothills Community Council, regarding the MOA Forested Public Lands Solution. He is available for presentation at individual community councils and can be contacted at 360-0019. He worked with clearing and maintenance in city lands used for parks. He focused his presentation on the land past Carrs Grocery Store at the end of Northern Lights and Muldoon. There is approximately 67 acres which had a significant amount of trees that had been killed due to spruce bark beetles as well as other potential fire hazard materials. This had created a fire danger as well as inhibited travel through this area. The current project began in 2003 when they started working on a proposal to clean up the area. They had received funding from several government sources. However as funding became more difficult they began looking at resources that didn't rely on funding from government sources and focused primarily on volunteer efforts. Initially the regulatory agencies expressed concerns about potential problems and liabilities by using volunteers. However they were able to resolve the majority of these by having all volunteers sign waivers. They were successful in using adult volunteers, community action groups, and youth groups. During the project they had approximately 100 volunteers who donated approximately 800 hours. Some of the benefits included making the area safer for travel, reducing the fire danger from brush and trees, and eliminating illegal homeless camps. They worked with APD regarding the camps. The lessons they learned included: Rely on the community/volunteers rather than funding, creating opportunities for youth groups, learning to work together as neighbors, and volunteer resources tend to be underutilized.

Loussac Library Expansion options -- Clair Ross, Library Development Director She is available for presentations to individual community councils and can be contacted at 343-2983. She discussed the master plan for the library renovations. These are currently focusing on the new ground level entrance and the elimination of the stairwell as the primary entrance. This should improve access and allow for accommodation of individuals with limited mobility. They are planning to have the circulation desk on the first floor. They hope to start the project in 2014.

Standing Committee Reports:

Chair Brit Szymoniak stated that our MOA contract for 2013 has not yet been signed. It was approved by the Assembly in late February but needs to be signed and sent to the Clerk's Office before the funding will be received.

The Chair established a nominating committee for FCC officers for the upcoming election in May. The committee included: Gordon Glaser (Northstar), Kyle Stevens (Government Hill) and Bob Reupke (Northeast). The committee will present the proposed officers at the FCC meeting in April and there will be an opportunity for other nominations.

The Chair stated that we should encourage our community councils to continue to be involved in activities within our community council areas. Examples included Abbott Loop's funding of projects and the Scenic Foothills project discussed above.

Treasurer Kep Pierce stated that the FCC finances were in good shape and that the financial reports had been e-mailed to the individual delegates for the past several months late on the afternoon of the meeting. We have borrowed funds from the FCC Corporate Account to use for operations until the current grant from the Municipality comes through. Several delegates stated they had not received the reports, however they may have been received after the delegates had left for the meeting. Mark Butler stated he would work with delegates who did not receive the reports or were unable to access them.

Councils Center Manager Mark Butler stated that the Muni wanted individual community councils to priority capital projects. According to the Muni about 1/3 of the community councils submitted their priority lists last year. He also stated these priority lists were also used by other funding sources. Several community councils stated their funding priorities were not used or were changed. Cathy Gleason stated that she did not know when she received an e-mail from the FCC office what the distribution of that

e-mail was and asked if that information could be provided. The Manager responded that any council could contact him and request that information if they needed it. He then asked if we had received the survey for the Muni that UAA was conducting on behalf of the Muni. Numerous people had. Apparently there were problems with it and it was going to be resent in the near future with a new link.

He reported on the updates to the website. He stated the “back half” of the site should be completed within a few weeks and the front half of the site should be completed with the next two months. The Chair asked if there had been any progress on the storage of individual community council records that had been submitted to the FCC office. The Manager stated that no meeting of the committee had been held or contact made with UAA.

There were no Old Business items discussed.

Council Sharing:

- **Huffman/O’Malley** – Prevented a move of the fire station. O’Malley Road upgrades. Verizon cell tower.
- **Turnagain** – Westside candidates forum. Cell towers. West High football stadium. Indoor tennis courts. Long House hotel. Coastal Trail rehabilitation.
- **Old Seward/Oceanview** – Survey of local parks and roads. LED lighting. VFW Posts ABC hearing. “Steaming heap”!
- **Abbott Loop** – Not much. Service High improvements. Verizon. Parks work. More Legislative grants coming.
- **Mountain View** – Clean-up
- **University Area** - Curling club move to Goose Lake? UAA parking garage. East High stadium.
- **North Star** – Title 21 (shadowing concerns), Spenard Road funding and design, Westchester Lagoon disc golf master plan
- **Northeast** – Fired two board members. April elections. Sam’s Club move to Tikhatnu Commons (liquor license concerns).

- **Government Hill** – Knik Arm Crossing. Tank farms. Alaska Railroad. Gas pipeline options.

Public Comments: None.

Meeting Adjourned before 8 p.m.