

UAAC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
September 4, 2013

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves. Eighteen people signed the meeting sign in sheet and attended part or all part of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes: The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the August 7 meeting. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to modify the Agenda to include a discussion of the Anchorage School District Bus Lot diesel emission problems. The Agenda was approved with this modification.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Andy Josephson- Andy reported on several items he has been involved in:

- Trip to explore energy systems at Chena Hot Springs, UAF Coal plant, and the Fort Knox gold mine.
- Soldotna Sport fish meeting discussing economic problems with dismal sport fishing season this last summer.
- Early Development Subcommittee dealing with the No Child Left Behind waiver and setting up a system to check on student competency.
- He attended the Bragaw Bypass meeting held at East High. He was troubled by the fact that it was a series of Kiosks and did not afford the opportunity to testify. Discussion of this with Andy also pointed out that there did not appear to be any coordination with the UAA Drive project reconstruction project.

2. Elvie Gray Jackson- Elvie reported on several items (full report found in Enclosure 1):

- AO 37 Labor petition was ruled legal by a judge and waiting for a decision on when to be put on the ballot.
- Rules Committee is considering changes in language for actions relating to rules and procedures for changes to proposed ordinances. Meeting will be held September 12 to discuss protocols.
- City is considering new financial system. Elvie expressed concern for the \$10-50 million implementation cost and that the city needs to define how the system will work before implementing the system and incurring such a high cost.
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3. Kathleen Plunket Anchorage School Board

- Teachers voted to approve new contract and School Board takes up next week
- School year started last week so need to be on the watch for kids on their way to and from school.
- There has been some interest in a Stadium for East High School. Other High Schools have stadiums and can host games. There is currently no money in the budget for Stadium improvements.

4. Ted Madsen for Max Gruenberg

- Max is attending a meeting for national committee for state legislatures under the Council of State Governments. He has brought back “prototype” legislation from previous meetings, such as the new born heart monitoring legislation that he recently proposed and got passed by our State legislature.
5. Bill Wielechowski- Bill provided information on these several topics:
- Checkmate Sidewalk. He attended a meeting and noted that MOA is requesting input.
 - Northern Extension. Bill noted there was no opportunity for group dialog. He has talked with Andy and Berta with the intent on setting up a town hall type meeting to get input on the Bypass.
 - Discussed the military sex abuse issue and the need to make a change from the current commanding officer review protocol.
 - He discussed the Pebble Prospect and how he feels this is not a good idea. Russ Kell suggested that a petition be developed to oppose the mine but it was pointed out that there already was one in circulation.

B. Community Council Reports

There were no community council reports for the meeting.

5. Business

A. UAA Event Traffic Management Plan- Bob Kneifel. Bob is a subcontractor working for UAA to develop a traffic management plan to deal with the new traffic complication due to the opening of the Sports Center in 2014. The planning effort deals with how to manage the new traffic pattern resulting from up to 5000 people attending events at the new Sports Center. The University intends to be proactive in providing plan development and try to get any issues out and address them before the plan is implemented. The plan calls for various levels of traffic management depending on how large an event is. The initial plan calls for providing 2200 parking spaces located in several locations as well as traffic flow control measures. For smaller events such a basketball and volleyball games the parking will be primarily at the new lot adjacent surrounding the Sports Center. For larger events, such a commencement and region wide sports tournaments, additional parking would be available on the 3rd and 4th levels of the Providence Hospital parking structure south west of the Sports Center. There would also be additional spaces available in evening in UAA lots north of Providence Drive. There has also been discussion with APU, the Native Health Consortium, and UAA Student Housing to address potential concerns about how to regulate illegal parking in their parking lots.

Bob also led discussion on how traffic would be controlled during events. The plan is to have directional signs and staff available to control the new traffic flow. The ticket that one obtains for the event may dictate where one can park. There could be a map of designated parking spots provided with the ticket or could be available through website. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic patterns and shuttle bus options would also be displayed in the traffic pattern analysis. The plan would also address special needs parking availability.

Discussion of the plan by the community council brought up the need to address the increase of traffic on Piper, Dale, 40th and other streets that are not designed to carry such heavy traffic. An example was that Dale does not have a sidewalk but is an access point for events planned for the Sports Center. Bob indicated that the planning team understands these concerns and would try to design to mitigate potential problems. He indicated that it may

require additional staffing or signage to adequately control traffic. Examples could be having traffic control staff directing traffic at “stuck points”, or putting up temporary barriers to provide safe pedestrian zones on a busy Dale Street. Another concern brought up was the potential conflict at Art events held at the UAA Arts building and the need to maintain that lot for such events.

B. UACC Elections – Jacob led a discussion that through our Charter the nominations for next year’s officers need to be done at this meeting which is two meetings before the elections are to be held. He requested nominations for candidates for next year’s officer positions. The following members nominated by the Council for positions and will be voted on at the November 2013 meeting:

President	Jacob Gondak
Vice President	Al Mispagh
Secretary	Steve Zemke
Member at Large	Paul Stang
Member at large	Russ Kell

A discussion for membership for University Area Council standing committees was held. Members volunteer for the committees and the Chairpersons for such committees will be nominated by the members of the committees. No elections are required.

C. Anchorage School Bus Emissions: The UACC members discussed the diesel fume emission problem created by the Anchorage District School bus lot at the corner of Elmore and Tudor Streets. It was noted that is an intense problem, particularly during cold winter days that set up temperature inversions which trap the emissions next to the ground, and create health concerns particularly for residents in the area north and west of the Tudor/Elmore intersection. A UACC subcommittee dealing with this matter had sent a letter to MOA discussing their need to address this problem. The MOA reply was that that the MOA had installed preheaters in the buses and fans within the bus lot to disperse the air flow. They felt these measures would be effective in dispersing the diesel fumes and so there was no need for further mitigation.

There was general agreement among UACC members that this was not a satisfactory reply and discussion ensued on what options the UACC should examine. Actions suggested are that the UACC should continue to monitor the situation, particularly to document whether MOA changes are effective in eliminating the problem as they claim. The UACC might pursue a CIP project proposal for next year to move the bus lot a more suitable site, with a potential land swap to provide for such a suitable site. Final suggestion was to encourage the MOA to pursue clean running buses to eliminate the diesel fume emission problem.

D. Northern Extension Discussion (informal topic)- It was discussed that the FCC is putting together a meeting with all the potential affective community councils to discuss the Northern Extension. Executive Director Mark Butler is considering putting together an ad hoc subcommittee to consider this complicated topic. Berta Gardner felt that since \$20,000,000 had been obligated for the project, there was little chance that it would not go forward. Since this seemed inevitable she advocated that that we need to try to assure that the project is done right. Bill Wielechowski felt that citizens could influence the outcomes and agreed that if it is to be done it needs to be done right and may require more money to mitigate all the potential negative consequences. Andy Jacobsen felt that there is a need for more public involvement

and that perhaps Dowl HKM should have a presentation at our upcoming meeting. Paul Stang suggested that we meet with Dowl HKM to discuss our views on how to mitigate impacts. There was also some discussion about the fact that some people are not ready to acquiesce to the building the road and we might continue to push for a moratorium on construction.

E. Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on October 2nd at 7 PM at the Baptist Church at Tudor and Wright.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 9:00PM.