

**UAAC Minutes**  
**University Area Community Council (UACC)**  
**November 6, 2013**

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves. Twenty-seven 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 October 2 meeting. Minutes were amended to reflect changes by adding notes received from Barbara Garner. With these corrections the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to modify the Agenda to add a briefing about the Checkmate Drive Streetlights as item D under Tab 5 Business. The Agenda was approved with this modification.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Max Gruenberg reported on several items
  - The legislative information office is in the reconstruction phase, with expected finish on 2014
    - Phone lines will remain the same
  - Major task in upcoming month will be to get ready for the 2014 legislative session
2. Andy Josephson- Andy reported on several items he has been involved in:
  - Andy also discussed the LIO office reconstruction and mentioned the major issue with the present building is the lack of potable (brown) water
  - He will be temporarily located east of the courthouse in the “old” Alaska Club site.
  - He anticipates that SB 64 will call for a revamping of the criminal code to try to lessen the incarceration level for non-egregious crimes. The State’s newly constructed Goose Creek prison is at full capacity and there needs to be a way to reduce prison populations and costs
  - He visited the Lake Otis and Wendler schools to show support for schools and look at what’s working and what may not
    - SB21 reduced the overall budget and \$2 B of the budget will be needed from the constitutional budget reserve and could have significant impact on future funding of schools
    - There has been no increase in the student base funding (since 2010) and this has further created challenges for the Anchorage School District
3. Berta Gardner- reported on several items
  - People are making their cases for 2014 project funding to their elected representatives
  - She is on the education budget committee working on funding issues

- Working with the DUI Therapeutic Court which works with people within an 18 month program in lieu of jail for new life development strategies. This provides a way for people to become productive members of society and may prove a pathway to jobs and housing, while lessening the burden on prison overcrowding.
4. Elvi Gray-Jackson - Elvi reported on several items which can be found in her report found within Enclosure 1.
5. Dick Traini reported on several items
- Reported on the status of AO 37. He reported that he felt there is a conflict of interest in the Municipal Attorney's Office as they represent both the Assembly and the Mayor
  - Working on the taxi cab ordinance. It is currently 67 pages. Difficult to find and codify the middle ground on many issues
  - He discussed the rewrite of the towing ordinance
    - Mentioned examples of the current ordinance such as the cussing/aggression surtax, fees for people to enter tow lots to get their belongings, as well as high variance in fees, and the need to deal only in cash. Dick is working to eliminate these egregious provisions while defining more reasonable approaches such as a maximum towing fee of \$230
  - Dick reported the Indoor Recreation Center, aka "Tennis Courts", if constructed would be in the middle of the parking lot for the Dempsey Arena
  - He mentioned the Community Council By Laws update will have a December public hearing and a vote for approval in January. If passed the Community Councils would have 7 months to come into compliance.
6. Bill Wielechowski- provided information on these several topics:
- Bill felt that there was a broken process used to fund the tennis courts and the Northern Access projects. The public was excluded from the actual obligation process.
  - Bill mentioned that the next two years State budgets are projected to be running major deficits of 2 to 3 billion dollars and will have to dip deeply into the constitutional Budget Reserve.
  - Bill talked about the need to change the situation pertaining to sexual assault within the Alaska National Guard
    - Mentioned that virtually all women in the guard have been assaulted
    - Women are forced to go within the chain of command which has not helped the situation
  - State should consider accepting Medicaid expansion
    - Would cover an addition 41,000 individuals, generate an additional 2,000 jobs, and create an additional \$2.5 Billion in economic activities

- Correction reform is a big issue in the State, Goose Creek prison is full. Estimate to take another \$250 million and \$10 million annual cost to keep up with current incarceration rates
- Reported he felt that the large tax break that the oil companies received were unjustified. Used the example where Conoco Phillips 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Alaska profits were \$484 million. The profits for the rest of North America for the same period were \$390 million for rest of North America. This was under the existing tax regime.
- PERS and FERS are a big issue, with \$10 Billion in uncovered costs. State needs to start covering some of these costs now, as the delay in payments has resulted in the current large obligation

#### 7. Kathy La Mentia- Rescue Mission

Kathy reported on the activities of the Rescue Mission housing program, the new life program and the work to expand the Chapel to help getting people off the street.

#### B. Community Council Reports

1. Al Mispaugh reported on the activities of the safety committee
2. Reported on the APD police academy activities. There are 15 current recruits even though over 700 applied. Should have 25-30 to maintain the current APD staffing levels.
3. Due to MOA Ordinance 37 APD is expected to lose about 40 officers in January 2014 when typically APD loses about 20 officers.
4. For the latest crime statistics see the APD website at:  
<http://www.muni.org/departments/police/stats/Pages/default.aspx>
5. Al reiterated the need to let people know about the Safe Baby Program, particularly in light of the tragedy that occurred recently with the baby death in Eagle River

#### C. FCC Representative – Al Mispaugh on the results of the FCC meeting

1. Al reported on the discussion of the bus center being moved from downtown to a mid-town location
2. ASD is evaluating schools for renovation or replacement
3. In January, February, or March 2014 the FCC is planning on a training session for Community Council officers
4. 2014 FCC budget is \$80K asking for another \$20 K
5. Discussion on public archive access and work needed on the process for getting records into the archives
6. The Council has their own Facebook page ~ Friend of UACC developed by Susan Klein

#### 5. Business

##### A. Parks and Recreation – Steve Rafuse - The University Lake Dog Off leash area

A discussion with Steve about the need for an increase dog control within the area was initiated. There were several discussion ideas brought up. These could include building fences within the area, from short sections around key conflict area to a fence completely around the

unleashed dog area. There should also be some element of enforcement of park rules, as none seems to exist now. A discussion about how the current signage is inadequate and not in the right places ensued. The Council also felt that the boundary of the off leash area also needs to be delineated on the ground so people know where dogs need to be on leash. No decisions were made on these points but a UACC ad hoc committee was formed to work with Steve on these and other issues that may come up. UACC members of the committee are Barbara Garner, Mary Lou Harle, Karen Workman, and Steve Zemke. Barbara will contact Steve Refuse to set up a meeting between the committee and Parks and Recreation. Discussion about other venues to discuss the dog off leash issues are the monthly MOA Assembly Public Safety Meeting, with the next one on November 12th at the library, and the Animal Control Advisory Board Meeting held the 4th Thursday of the month, except for the December which is scheduled for December 12th.

B. UACC By laws- This item was deferred at this time since the Municipality has not updated the area wide by law protocols. This discussion needs to wait until after the December meeting to come back on to the agenda, or time after when the Anchorage wide protocols have been approved.

C. UACC Boundaries- The idea has been proposed that the Scenic Foothills Community Council might annex the area of the UACC that lies between Boniface Drive and Baxter Drive. This UACC does not get people from this area and they may be better served by the Scenic Foothills Council as they seem to be more geographically connected to the areas east of our present boundary. Jacob will propose such an annex to the Scenic Foothills Council executive committee. If the Scenic Foothill Council Ex Com agrees then the annexation should come before both the UACC and the Scenic Foothill CC meetings for full approval.

D. Checkmate Street Lights- Mary Lou Harle reported on the meeting held with the Muni to discuss options for the new street lights to be installed in conjunction with the Checkmate sidewalk construction planned for next summer. The UACC members looked at several options and decided on a couple of preferred designs. The first design has a shaped light pole where the light pole an arch, similar to ones used on Spenard Drive going down to Eastchester lagoon. The second design is one that has a sigmoid curve for the main pole. All of the poles would have LED heads. Discussion was also held on potential colors, but no decision of color was made, as further research is needed. The Muni was going to further research these designs and get back to the ad hoc committee to discuss final design options.

D. Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Baptist Church at Tudor and Wright.

After the presentations the University Area Community Council thanked the University Baptist Church, their pastor and their staff for their kind service in allowing us to use their facilities for our meetings.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 8:51 PM.

Enclosure 1

University Community Council – Assembly Report

November 6, 2013

- *Public Hearing on Ordinance submitted by Assemblymembers Traini, Gray-Jackson and Honeman to have the AO 37 Labor issue before the voters at the April 1, 2014 election was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> and it was approved on October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 7 – 4. Mayor vetoed ordinance on the floor and the issue is now before the courts to determine if the Mayor has veto power regarding selection of an election date.*
- *Assembly approved ordinance to Repeal AO 37 and after the public hearing, it was approved 7-4 and Mayor vetoed ordinance on the floor.*
- *Citizen’s Tax Force Recommendations - The Rules Committee will meet on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Assembly Conference Room to discuss suggestions that can be implemented through changes to the Municipal Code and those that can be implemented through policy. Task Force recommendations can be found on-line at [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org)*
- *Title 11 – Taxicab Ordinance – several changes to this section of the Code to address taxi availability for the disabled, bar closing hours, and other issues. Ordinance can be found on line at [www.muni.org](http://www.muni.org). The Public Hearing will was continued at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and closed. There will be another work session to review proposed amendments and debate and action will take place at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.*
- *The Administration’s new Financial, HR System aka SAP scheduled to go live on October 1<sup>st</sup> has been postponed and is costing the taxpayers’ lots of money. Initial cost quote in a July 2011 Press Release was \$9.8 Million and it is now up to \$20.6M and the Assembly approved another \$7.5M at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Administration will hire the Peloton Group as the new Project Manager to fix the problems that have occurred with Black and*

*Veatch (previous Project Manager). Although they reportedly have lots of experience, one of the Partners used to work for SAP, the other had contracts with SAP and the Peloton Group has been in business since January 2013.*

- *Tennis Court Issue – Assembly approved the 2013 Capital Budget and Legislative Program submitted to the Legislature which did not include funding for tennis courts. Funding for the Library maintenance project was not appropriated by the legislature along with other community-wide and much needed requests. Public Hearing was held at the October 8<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup> meetings and was continued to the meeting of November 19<sup>th</sup>. At an earlier meeting, the Assembly approved \$26M in State grants for other projects and held off approving remaining \$10.3M with a revision to complete maintenance at the Ben Boeke, Dempsey Anderson and the Sullivan Arenas. The Mayor has a resolution on the floor to re-appropriate the entire \$37M in order to fund the Indoor Tennis Court.*
  
- *The second public hearing on the 2014 budgets was held at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Assembly will have a Work Session on November 15<sup>th</sup> to review proposed amendments submitted by the Assembly. Approval of the budget is scheduled for the meeting of November 19<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the latest.*
  
- *Public Hearing on Fees and Fines increases was held at the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Proposed increases includes:*
  - *Department of Health and Human Services – Noise Permit Increases*
  - *Community Development – On-site Water and Wastewater Fees, and Rights-of Way and Land Use/Planning Fees.*
  - *Fire – Ambulance Fees*
  - *Public Transportation – Adult, Youth, Senior, and Medicare Single Trips, Day and monthly passes, and AnchorRides increase. Free Wednesdays for seniors will remain intact.*

*Next Meeting – November 19th*