

UACC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
April 2, 2014

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves. Thirty people were in attendance at the start of the meeting, including three UAA students. Eighteen members signed in. An additional eight visitors signed the meeting sign in sheet and attended part or all of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes: The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Agenda: A motion to add to the agenda a discussion on an Executive Committee letter written to the Anchorage Curling Club with previously the UACC Resolution opposing locating the proposed Curling Club in Goose Lake Park was proposed. The motion was passed 18/0. The amended agenda was approved unanimously (18/0).

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

- a. Elvi Gray Jackson reported on several items that can be found in her report found within Enclosure 1.
- b. Dick Traini reported on the following items
 - He reported the April Assembly will have no substantive deliberations. He also indicated that the Loussac Library bond issue was currently losing.
- c. C. Max Gruenberg reported on the Legislative Session.
 - Two substantive bills he is working on are the Education bill and the Omnibus Crime bill.
 - A question was fielded to Max about the bill proposing to defund the UMED Northern Access project. Max replied that his co-sponsored bill to do so is unlikely to pass out of the House.
- d. Bill Wielechowski reported on several items
 - He is involved in the Operating budget (\$9 B) and Capital budget bills. He also talked about the development process for the Gasline bill before the Senate. He also mentioned the bill dealing with funding a portion of the State retirement obligation. He felt a portion of the previously proposed \$3 billion might be acceptable. He indicated that along with Berta Gardner and Max Gruenberg he has proposed a bill to amend the Operating budget to strip out the \$20 million for the UMED Northern Access proposal.

B. Community Council Board Reports

Al Milspaugh - Safety Committee. Al held a discussion on how to be safe around unrestrained dogs:

You're walking out to your mailbox when the neighbor's large dog bounds over to greet you-or bite you. What should you do?

- A. Turn and run away.
- B. Walk toward it with your hand out and your palm down.
- C. Look it in the eye and yell, "Stop dog."

D. None of the above.

More than 4 million people are bitten by dogs each year in the US and about 1 in 5 requires medical attention as a result, reports the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Making in right choice when approached by a dog can make all the difference between a safe encounter and a dog attack.

Which brings us back to the question. **The correct answer is D. None of the above.** If a threatening dog approached you, the safest choice is to stand still and let it sniff you, according to the CDC, when a dog sees that you're not a trying to hurt it, it will probably leave you alone. (Source: Providence Alaska Medical Center- Healthy Alaska-spring 2014)

C. FCC Representative – Al Milspaugh reported on the results of the FCC meeting:

- a. Abbot Loop CC is the first to submit their by-laws under the new MOA ordinance.
- b. The new FCC web site should be available in the near future.
- c. The treasury report for Jan/Feb is available for review:
- d. Anyone interested in running for executive positions and secretary let Al know.
- e. In an effort to save \$\$\$ the FCC is trying to reduce its mailing list. Changing tech knowledge is steering most individuals toward email for notifications, therefore; the FCC manager is requesting that he be allowed to remove our existing 553 snail mail listings. Anyone wishing to remain on the mailing list will remain. Any cost savings here will allow the FCC to better support community councils elsewhere.

D. Folker Park Sub Committee (Barbara Garner)

Barbra introduced the new Activity Director for Providence Hospital. She will be coordinating with Steve Refuse on the volunteer program and discuss with them what the Folker Park is about. Barbara iterated some goals for the park. Keep it natural, provide accessibility for elders and children and partner with the Mental Health Facility. Two current needs for the park are to address the illegal camping issue, and to upgrade the trail to a paved surface for accessibility needs. Al Mispagh had some suggestions. These were to talk with Elvi Grey Jackson since she is a member of the MOA Parks Committee, call APD as soon as illegal activity is observed, and apply for a Rasmussen grant for a potential source of funding for parks upgrades. Barbara will be meeting with MOA park officials next week.

5. Business

A. People Mover's Upcoming Changes-Jamie Action

Jamie discussed the extent of the People Mover program and its service around the UAA area. She highlighted service changes that could come to the area with a target of June 2. The biggest change would be to route 13. Here the route along Checkmate Drive would go directly to Tudor Drive and eliminate the East 43 Street segment. A discussion about safety concerns with pedestrian traffic and buses at the Tudor/Checkmate intersection was held. Jamie also discussed the potential for a new mid-Town transit center at the Ted Stevens Archive site. She also mentioned that an open house would be held April 10th to discuss the proposed transit changes, and that the comment period for the proposed changes would end April 14th. Other discussion items were on how UAA ridership costs were calculated, and how a bus transfer option might make bus ridership more affordable and convenient.

B. Animal Care and Control Center – Brook Taylor

Brooke discussed the two aspects of the Center's program, Shelter and Enforcement. These are from the Knik Bridge to Girdwood. The program is only for domesticated pets, with dogs and cats being the primary emphasis. Wild animals are under the purview of ADF&G. They also do not deal with animal cruelty issue, as these are under the judicial system. They work under MOA Title 17. They currently have 7 officers and work under 2 shifts per day, so that only one to two officers are on duty at any one time. They have about 500 calls a month, mostly animal bites, aggressive animal behavior, and excessive dog barking. With limited resources they must prioritize calls. They do not go out on regular patrols and primarily respond to calls. Ideally they would have 15 officers for a city with the population of Anchorage. They provide dog license service and dogs 4 months and older are required have a license. Licenses can be obtained at the Center or at 20 veterinaries who are vendors. The Center is an open admission facility and have up to 500 animals a month in residence. They work to adopt out unclaimed animals. They animal must go through an evaluation first, and if fail might go to a rescue facility. The Shelter facility is greatly assisted by a dedicated volunteer staff. They also work closely with Anchorage Unleashed. They are on the Muni website and have their own Facebook site.

C. UACC Bylaws

There is subcommittee formed to develop the new by-laws. Al passed out the current By-laws and how they might be affected by the new requirements. Al Mispaugh, Russ Kell, and Jacob Gondak are currently on the subcommittee. If anyone that is interested in helping please contact Al. The bylaws will need to be done in several months.

D. UACC Parks Resolution

Al Mispaugh lead a discussion on a resolution (Enclosure 2) for the MOA to recognize four parks (Goose Lake, University Lake, Castle Heights, Folker) within our area as dedicated MOA Parks under Anchorage Statute. Al mentioned that the Castle Height Park and Folker Park were not specifically zoned as designated parks, but are zoned the same as the surrounding neighborhood (R-2A). The resolution calls for the four parks to be zoned Dedicated-PR. Al felt that this designation would better protect the value of the parks and would make the use of the Parks for other purposes go through an extensive and open public process. Barbara Garner had been in contact with MOA Park officials and was advised that this is not an issue and that the parks, particularly Folker ark are dedicated Park land. After considerable discussion, there was no consensus on what is meant by "actual" dedication and how it relates to the zoning. A motion was made that the Executive Committee, at their next meeting, put together questions to the MOA in this regard. They will also invite the MOA Parks Department, through either letter or email as most appropriate, to a future meeting to discuss the issue. This motion was passed 17 for and 1 against. The original Resolution died for lack of a motion.

E. UACC MOA Animal Care & Control Center

A draft resolution was presented (Enclosure 3) requesting an increase of MOA Animal Care and Control Enforcement Staff to a size commensurate to the size of Anchorage's population. This would increase the size of the staff from 6 ½ to 17 officers. During the discussion of the resolution, concern was expressed about requesting the actual number of officers or rather requesting an appropriate increase given current budget realities. There was also discussion about whether this should be the highest priority for increasing the number of municipal employees. Concern was expressed that the focus of the resolution, the area around University Lake Park, was too narrow to justify the great increase in staff requested by the resolution. Al mentioned since this is a city wide issue the goal would be to get all the Councils

to pass a similar resolution. There appeared to be no consensus on the resolution. A motion as made to rewrite the original resolution to broaden its scope and to make it more concise and bring it back to the Executive Committee for approval. This motion was approved unanimously 18/0. The original resolution died for lack of a motion.

F. Curling Club Resolution

Paul Stang presented a letter (Enclosure 4) to the Anchorage Curling Club that was drafted by the Executive Committee. The purpose of the letter is to reaffirm to the Anchorage Curling Club (ACC) our opposition to the siting of the Curling Club facilities in Goose Lake Park and to make sure that the Anchorage Curling Club is aware of the UACC Resolution opposing the relocation of the ACC facilities into Goose Lake Park. A copy of the resolution will be attached to the letter for clarity. The action was agreed to by unanimous consent.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on May 7th at 7 PM at the University Baptist Church.

Enclosure 1

University Community Council – Assembly Report April 2, 2014

- *A public hearing was held on the ASD Budget on March 25th. Total budget is \$743,449,248 and of this amount - \$233,776,423 are property taxes. Mr. Starr requested that there be two public hearings on the budget instead of the required one. The public hearing was continued to the meeting of April 8th but we were advised that the Charter requires approval by April 2nd. The budget presented by the ASD to the Assembly on March 25th is now the budget for FY 2014-2015.*
- *The Assembly approved an ordinance that will allow public disclosure of absentee mailing addresses with the option of opting out of this disclosure. In other words, if you do not wish for anyone to know where you're out of town, you can opt out. This ordinance was approved at the March 25th meeting and is effective 45 days from that date.*
- *Bond propositions and Charter amendments that passed at the April 1st election follow:*
 - *ASD Bond - \$57,285,000*
 - *Public Safety Facilities and Police Service Area Capital Improvements - \$650,000*
 - *Anchorage Fire Service Area Capital Improvements - \$1,950,000*
 - *Park and Trail Improvements - \$2,550,000*
 - *Safety and Public Transportation - \$1,793,000*
 - *Roads, Storm Drainage, and Related Capital Improvements - \$20,200,000*
 - *Charter Amendment – Gender Neutral Terms*
 - *Charter Amendment – continue to allow Community Service Patrols to write tickets in the area outside of downtown instead of police officer and allow for an administrative hearing process instead of challenging a ticket through the court system.*

Passage pending for following bond waiting for tally of approximately 6,000 absentee and questioned ballots:

- *Areawide Facility Improvements - \$5,550,000*

Next Meeting – April 8, 2014

Enclosure 2

UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL - RESOLUTION

**A Resolution of the University Area Community Council (UACC)
recognizing our 4 (four) parks as dedicated (PR) MOA Parks.**

WHEREAS the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art. VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; and

WHEREAS the Anchorage Municipal Code Chap 25.10.080 B establishes MOA Parks; and

WHEREAS Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS the exiting MOA Parks currently in the UACC are Castle Heights Park (4913 Vance Drive – R-2A), Folker Park (2701 East 42nd Ave – R-2A), Goose Lake Park – PLI), and University Lake Park - PLI) ; and

WHEREAS the UACC is in agreement that all of our parks should be designated as **DEDICATED-PR**; and

WHEREAS the MOA Assembly, by ordinance, may dedicate specifically described properties for permanent purposes or long-term park or recreational purposes under the meaning of Charter section 10.02(8). Following October 16, 1979, no municipal lands may be formally dedicated to permanent or long-term public park or recreational use except as provided by ordinance.; and

WHEREAS once **DEDICATED-PR** by ordinance, the MOA Mayor may not change the purpose without a vote of the MOA Assembly; and

WHEREAS the MOA Assembly, with recommendations by the Planning and Zoning and the Parks and Recreational Commissions, may, by ordinance, change the use to another municipal purpose (AMC 25.10.080 C); and

WHEREAS the main advantage of **DEDICATION-PR** is that the public will be aware and know of any proposed change of use of a **DEDICATED** park and be able to participate in a public process; and

NOW THEREFORE the UACC hereby resolves:

THAT our 4 (four) parks: Castle Heights, Folker, Goose Lake, and University Lake be designated as MOA **DEDICATED-PR** parks.

Resolution Vote: For _____ Against: _____ Abstain: _____

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council on this day of APRIL 2, 2014.

Jacob Gondek, President, UACC

Enclosure 3

UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL - RESOLUTION

A Resolution of the University Area Community Council (UACC) requesting an increase of the MOA Animal Care & Control Center (AACCC) Enforcement Staff to their required numbers.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art. VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, animals are a significant aspect of the Municipality of Anchorage and have an impact on the quality of life for those living here; and

WHEREAS, over 75% of the citizens polled (National Animal Control Association ((NACA) statistics) on this subject support increasing the number of enforcement staff for ACCC; and

WHEREAS, the AACCC enforcement staff respond to an average of 600 citizen requests for service per month regarding animal cruelty, animal bites, loose animals, barking dogs, injured animals and other requests for service; and

WHEREAS, MOA residents and their pets have been confronted, and in some cases attacked, by unleashed dogs while walking and biking on the MOA authorized walking/bike trails surrounding University Lake Park as-well-as within the off lease dog park area; and

WHEREAS, MOA residents and or their dogs are also being attacked while exercising their dogs within the greater Anchorage area; and

WHEREAS, the NACA independently found in 2006 that, based on the Municipality's service area and the number of calls for service, the MOA needed approximately **seventeen** enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, that requirement was almost **3 (three)** times the current number of **6 ½ (six and one-half)** enforcement officers now available to the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.1 of the Strategic Plan for AACCC calls for increasing the number of enforcement staff for the MOA; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan for AACCC was transmitted to the Mayor and Assembly **8 (eight) years** ago and accepted by them; and

WHEREAS, the number of enforcement officers available for ACCC has **decreased** by **.5 NOT** increased in the past **8 (eight)** years;

NOW, THEREFORE, UACC HEREBY RESOLVES:

THAT, the funding for the Animal Care and Control Center contract be increased in an amount sufficient to fund and equip additional enforcement officers; and

THAT, such increased funding should be included in the MOA Operating Budget for 2014.

Resolution Vote: For _____ Against: _____ Abstain: _____

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council on this day of May 7, 2014.

Jacob Gondek, President, UACC

Enclosure 4

Draft 4/2/2014prs

Ty A. Schommer
Arbor Capital Management
1400 W. Benson Blvd.
Suite 575
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Hello Ty,

On March 6, 2014, Barbara Garner, Chair of the Parks/Rec Standing Committee of the University Area Community Council (UACC), received an email from you indicating that the Anchorage Curling Club (ACC) is still interested in pursuing construction of a new club building at Goose Lake.

As you know, on May 15, 2013, I emailed you a May 1st resolution clearly stating the UACC's strong opposition to siting the Curling Club's proposed facility at Goose Lake (see attachment). We thoroughly studied and evaluated the proposal you presented to the UACC last year and provided the rationale for our opposition in that resolution.

During your presentation to our community council, you said that your club had previously looked at locating a new facility at Russian Jack Park, but met opposition from the residents in the Russian Jack Park area. You indicated that the club decided to look for another site because the ACC didn't want to locate a new facility in an area where local residents were opposed it. We re-visited the topic at our April 2, 2014 meeting and feel the same about the club. So, we again request that you will look elsewhere for a more appropriate location. If we can, in any way, help you find another site, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob Gondek, President
University Area Community Council