

Minutes for University Area community Council Meeting
December 3, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:10p by President Tim Neale. Members of the executive board were introduced. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.

Bob Kniefel of DOWL Engineers was introduced. He is consulting with DOT on the Abbott Loop Extension. The scoping meetings have been held and the technical studies will be completed by this summer. A meeting will be held Jan 5, 2004 at Service High School. This is to inform the public what has been learned about this project so far. Four or five alternatives will be shown and funding will be explained. The process will result in a design study report. They are trying to come up with the best design possible. They will also hear from the Corps of Engineers whether an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment will be necessary before the project can be started. The former is much more extensive study. They are hoping to start construction in 2005. They have also held meetings with numerous groups regarding environmental concerns. Winter construction may possibly interfere with dog racing but they will work with these user groups to accommodate their activities as much as possible. Once the design is complete, they will come back to meet with public groups to keep everyone informed of their progress. Their web site will have a lot of information. Bob Kniefel can be reached at rkniefel@dowl.com or 562.2000. The meeting in January will be very similar to the meeting at Kasuun School. There will be designs up on the walls that can be seen in advance, then an open comment period which will be followed by a Q&A period.

Dianna Durst, from the UAA Office of Facilities and Construction, introduced the consultants who were present to explain the future plans for UAA. Paddy Tillett from ZGF, Trent Thelen, Gary Katsion and David Moore were the presenters. Paddy Tillett explained the process being used to determine the UAA needs and how those needs can be met. There is a 10 year plan and a 20 year plan. These must meet the growth needs of the University and stay within the U-MED plan, as presented to the Assembly. There will be changing needs for the university as well as changes in the traffic patterns. The population of UAA is expected to double in 20 years. They need to deal with existing and future traffic problems. The buildable land is limited so growth requires careful planning. Trent Thelen explained the projected growth for both the 10 year and 20 year plans. There is a web site www.uaa.edu that will direct you to the university master plan. They have had meetings with all of the existing facilities in the area. He went on to explain the projected new buildings in the 10 year plan. Upgrades of existing facilities, or in some cases, replacing existing buildings in the area. A very aggressive 10 year plan is being proposed. The 20 year plan is also very aggressive. The plans include a Sports facility, large enough to be a multi-use property that would more nearly fit the needs of the school, This would probably require some community involvement to make it succeed. This plan is trying to use existing land to expand existing programs and allow for new programs and also expand student housing to meet growing needs. He also showed maps demonstrating the history of growth of the UAA campus, and the projected growth as plans become actual buildings. This presentation was followed by a Q&A period. They will be back as plans progress to keep the council up to date.

Vince Huntington, of AK Providence Med. Center, discussed a proposed traffic study that has been rolled into 3 other studies to include the whole area and become a more comprehensive report. It should be moved forward on the schedule and be completed by March or April. They also hope to finalize the U-MED traffic plan to get some good pedestrian walkways. The road from 40th Avenue along the east side of the Providence buildings is a private road.

Dick Traini, Assembly Chair, reported that the Muni budget had passed last night. The funding for the Federation was reduced to \$26,000 for the coming year. This should help with some newsletters. At the next Assembly meeting they will be having public hearings on proposed controls on teen strip clubs.

Doug Van Etten, assemblymember, reported that as the zoning change for the Mental Health Trust Lands had been approved, he had added a requirement that Laurel Street be extended to Providence Dr. within 2 years regardless of the progress on the building construction.

Assemblymember Brian Whittle expressed concern over the loss of support for the Federation.

Betty Adkison reported about a recent AMATS meeting where a member of the Tudor Area Community Council requested to have Pine St. extended south from Northern Lights Blvd.

Representative Sharon Cissna thanked the council for the flowers sent to her during her recent hospital stay. She also spoke of a conference being held the next day, dealing with health issues.

Submitted by Betty Adkison, co-secretary.