

Campbell Park Community Council
Minutes
October 19th, 2023
Via Zoom and in-person at
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cay Room

I-III. Call to order, approval of agenda, and approval of minutes

Chair Harary called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. The agenda was amended and approved. The draft minutes were approved as submitted.

IV. Old Business

a. Rabbit Creek Community Council Comments on AO-2023-87

Because AO 2023-87 has been referred to Planning and Zoning until June, the Council deferred discussion at this time.

b. Community Garden Area Proposal (Folker & 46th)

The Chair referred Steven Sawyer's proposal to establish a community garden on Municipal property back to Mr. Sawyer, who was not in attendance. Later in the meeting, Felix Rivera and Forrest Dunbar reported on their discussion of the proposal with Parks & Recreation. For the proposal to move ahead as part of a bond issue, Parks would need a letter or preferably a resolution of support from the community council, ideally submitted in November. Existing underground storage tanks might be an issue at the Folker location. One time setup cost for community gardens is about \$150K, primarily for providing water to the garden.

V. New Business

a. Tudor Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Concerns

Tony J. Andrew commented on dangers to pedestrians and bicyclists on Tudor Road between Lake Otis and Elmore due to the speed limit of 45 mph. He suggested a speed limit of 35 mph. Andrew Satterfield commented on importance of high speed roads for businesses and the high volume of pedestrians and bicyclists along this section of Tudor Road. In discussion, it was noted that the Seward Highway south to Girdwood has an "safety corridor" with reduced speeds and safety signage. In Alaska, however, a safety corridor has never been established an urban area.

VI. Reports

a. FCC Kevin Fimon Wednesday's FCC meeting included:

- Margo Bellamy presentation on Anchorage School District budget
- Christopher Constant on Municipal budget, with two work sessions scheduled for November
- Nolan Klouda, UAA Center for Economic Development, on Upside Down Economics of housing Anchorage: decreasing population AND decreasing available housing AND increasing cost.
- Project Hope on Nalaxone, a product for reversing drug overdoses. Samples of Nalaxone were distributed and some are available at FCC.
- FCC Budget is underspent due to vacancy in Manager position since June. Training for Community Councils will be deferred until next year when it can be done with more notice.

b. Housing and Homelessness Committee.

Michael Burke stated that the HMIS housing information system has received at least 100 more requests for housing units than will be available in coming days and weeks. In response to questions about abandoned camps, Meg Zaletel described camp abatement as dependent on shelter capacity. So far abatement has been scheduled only to the end of October and is limited to larger camps.

c. CPCC Chair Jordan Harary Chair Harary announced that he is stepping down as chair at the end of this meeting. Without opposition, and no suggestions for additional nominations, the council approved his nomination of Nicole Cupp as chair for the remaining months of the current term. Assembly member Zaletel noted her abstention from the voting.

d. Legislature - Senate

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on

- Filipino American History Month
- The Permanent Fund Dividend
- Legislative Town Hall

Her October report to constituents follows the end of these minutes.

Sen. Forrest Dunbar reported on

- Town Hall meeting with constituents
- Meetings with Assembly, School Board, and Native Village of Eklutna
- Restoration of Eklutna River
- Blight tax legislation proposal
- AIDEA encouraged to invest in housing and workforce housing

e. Legislature - House

Rep. Andy Josephson reported on

- New Ethics Officer hired
- Natural gas shortages
- OP-Ed and meetings on competency to stand trial
- Providence Supportive Housing for Homeless Elders
- Possible legislation on out of scope pelvic examinations, legal defenses for disabling animal traps, defined benefit pensions, and classification of solar panel technicians.

Rep. Andrew Gray Deirdre Goins reported for Andrew Gray:

- Town Halls on second Thursday of each month at Denny's on Dimond
- Next Town Hall, November 8th, will focus on tenants rights
- Podcasts continue, recent episodes on housing and on mining, next episode on Russia-Alaska relationship

f. Mayor's Office. No report.

g. Assembly

Meg Zaletel reported on

- Highway safety improvements, including urban safety corridor in Anchorage and Vision Zero coordinator
- Municipal licensing of short term rentals

Draft

3

- Rezoning initiative referred to Planning and Zoning until June 2024
- Bond projects as funding for local initiatives, given likely Muni back of state support for capital projects
- Bond proposal for public rest rooms using Portland Loo design
- Tudor Road bridge over Seward Highway part of 36th Ave. project, set to begin summer 2024.
- In response to question about possible improvement to existing tunnel under Lake Otis at Waldron, by acquiring now vacant property adjacent to tunnel on Southwest side of Waldron, said she would investiate and describe potential avenues for improvements.

Felix Rivera reported on

- Housing Summit, Friday Nov 3rd, 9AM - 5 PM, UAA Student Union, see housingaction.org for details
- Homeless issues, capacities available at Alex Hotel, Aviator Hotel, and SWS building

h. School Board - Carl Jacobs reported on

- Reading efficiency improvement as top goal, with third graders now above state average
- State assessment results due in Spring 2024
- Career Academy establishment at each major high school
- New tobacco, nicotine and vaping policies

i. JBER - No report.

J. Comments from public

During discussion of public safety issues regarding homeless shelters, Campbell Creek Trail, and the lack of police presence on trails and at community council meetings, new chair Nicole Cupp said she would be in touch with police.

Jordan Horary made a statement of personal philosophy, then adjourned the meeting

VII. Next Meeting: November 16th, 2023, 7:00 pm, via Zoom only. The meeting room at St. Mary's Episcopal Church will not be available.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Steve Johnson
Secretary
Campbell Park Community Council

Related Document

Elvi Gray-Jackson October Community Council Notes (3 pages)

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes

Spenard

October 5, 2023

- October is Filipino American History Month! It was an honor to introduce and carry legislation in the Senate to honor this incredibly important month! The bill recognizing October as Filipino American Month passed both legislative bodies on May 12th and is now recognized in State Statutes.
- **Permanent Fund Dividend**

The Alaska Permanent Fund is a state investment fund that was established in 1976 to invest a portion of Alaska's oil revenue for future generations. Each year a portion of the earnings from the fund are distributed to eligible Alaska residents in the form of the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). Although the amount in the Governor's budget was more than what was appropriated, it was important to provide a PFD that was sustainable now and for future generations. State Statutes dictate that we are only allowed to use 5% of the Permanent Fund's earnings reserve. Half of that is for services and the other half is for PFD. I recognize that there are many of you who depend on the annual PFD for reasons such as paying bills, buying needed food and clothing, or medicine. But, if the statutory PFD was provided, the result would have been fewer services that would include senior and disability services, Medicaid, and more in addition to an unbalanced budget which is not allowed.

During the next legislative session which begins on January 16th, I'm hopeful we will finally address changing the PFD formula so that it is more aligned with reality today in 2023 and not 1980.

Although there are some who aren't very pleased with the \$1,312 PFD, I'm proud of the budget both the Senate and the House approved because it provided funding for services including much-needed childcare grants, school funding, Medicaid, and more. It also provided for a sustainable PFD and a budget surplus of \$84M instead of a deficit.

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes

Spenard

October 5, 2023

- Currently working with my staff on issues I will address during the next session to include bills previously introduced, use of infrastructure funding for the district capital projects, and other projects I intend to work on. Details will be provided in future community council reports.

- **Legislative Town Hall**

Thank you for attending our legislative town hall meeting last month. It was great to meet with those constituents present and online to engage in an open dialogue about the issues facing our community. The discussion we had around education funding, infrastructure projects, and healthcare access was lively and productive.

I'm grateful for your participation and insight. Events like this are so important because they allow me to truly understand what matters most to you and help shape my priorities in the state legislature.

Thank you again for taking the time to be part of our democracy in action.

- **Interim Visits**

As the session approaches, my staff and I have been actively visiting various facilities and organizations throughout the community.

Most recently, my staff and I have visited the newly constructed Solid Waste transfer station and the Volunteers of America Adolescent Residential Treatment Center (ARCH) in Eagle River. The Program is for adolescents 12-18 that are diagnosed with substance abuse disorder and may also present with co-occurring mental health disorders.

Building strong relationships across our community remains one of my top priorities.

Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
Spenard
October 5, 2023

Always feel free to reach out to me during the Session and the Interim. I'm here for you.

Always representing your interests!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and "J".

Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930
Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Besse.Odom@akleg.gov, Jeff.Stepp@akleg.gov