

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.
Board of Delegates Meeting
In-Person at the BP Energy Center and via Zoom

March 20, 2024, Minutes

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum: Gretchen Stoddard, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Quorum attained.

Al Milspaugh read the guidelines for delegates joining via Zoom. Zoom meeting being recorded, including the “Chat”. There is no expectation of privacy.

FCC Delegates in attendance (24):

Abbott Loop	Patti Higgins
Airport Heights	Amanda Moser
Basher	Don Crafts
Bear Valley	Kaitlyn Jackson
Birchwood	Carol Perkins
Campbell Park	Kevin Fimon
Chugiak	Darryl Parks
Eagle River	Cliff Cook
Fairview	James Thornton
Girdwood (GBOS)	Mike Edgington
Government Hill	Bob French
Huffman/O’Malley	Gretchen Stoddard (FCC Chair)
Midtown	Kris Stoechner
Mountain View	Daniel George
North Star	Penny Gage
Northeast	Pamela Raygor
Old Seward/Oceanview	Gary Meaders
Rabbit Creek	Mike Kenny
Rogers Park	Linda Chase
Russian Jack	Kathleen Plunkett
Sand Lake	Robert Hays
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason
Turnagain Arm	Michael Packard
University Area	Al Milspaugh

Others in attendance:

Office of the Mayor	Trista Espe
Anchorage Assembly	Christopher Constant
Anchorage School Board	Pat Higgins

Gloria Lyons	Old Seward/Oceanview
Ethan Leaf	Sand Lake
Karen Pletnikoff	Turnagain
Steve Callaghan	University Area
Melinda Gant	ACDA
Evan Leaf	Sand Lake
Lisa Demer	ACEH
Jessica Parks	ACEH
Dianne Holmes	Rabbit Creek
Dr. Hannah Hennighausen	UAA Dept. Of Economics
Jean Sauget	Community Councils Center

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve made by Al Milspaugh, seconded by Kevin Fimon. MMSC.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February minutes made by Linda Chase, seconded by Kevin Fimon. MMSC.

4. Government Updates

a. Office of the Mayor – Trista Espe, Director of Community Engagement

b. Anchorage School Board (ASD) – Pat Higgins

5. Presentation – [Some Thoughts on Anchorage House](#), Dr, Hannah Hennighausen, University of Alaska, Dept. of Economics.

6. Presentation – [Next Step Initiative](#), Jessica Parks, Chief Operations Officer, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness.

7. FCC E-Board Transitions – Gretchen Stoddard

No report.

8. FCC Transition Update – Amanda Moser, FCC Secretary

Announced the hiring of Arianna Bellizzi as new Executive Director.

9. Council Updates

Abbott Loop – Patti Higgins

Focused on the CAPSIS and turning in stuff for the CIP. Looking at grants for putting in a forest garden.

Airport Heights – Amanda Moser

Seward to Glenn Connectivity information has been released. The number of houses that would be displaced is not shown on the maps. We want to make sure we recognize the impact to other neighborhoods as well as ours.

Basher – Don Crafts

We haven't met since February, but we did have elections and the same people were re-elected to the board. Not much else, except community patrol issues.

Bear Valley – Kaitlyn Jackson

No report.

Campbell Park – Kevin Fimon.

We meet tomorrow night. There's been some discussion regarding a pedestrian overpass on Lake Otis at Campbell Park as part of our CIP, as well as speed limits on Tudor.

Chugiak – Darryl Parks

We held elections last month; I was voted in as president and Jake Horazdovsky took over as secretary. Hot topics include Carol Creek, trail access, and Parks & Rec.

Eagle River – Cliff Cook

Pretty much the same as Chugiak. We submitted a resolution concerning the Carol Creek development project to make sure our concerns are addressed and that they're in accordance with Title XXI. Also, a resolution on the Long Trails that could bring business into our community.

Fairview – James Thornton

We held elections and had a presentation by HDR on the Seward to Glenn Connection; alternatives were presented. There was Design Week held at the Museum. Established some resolution through the Reconnecting Fairview project. The Block Party will be held July 20th at Fairview Elementary School.

Girdwood – Mike Edgington

We have two committees which correspond to meet Council functions and one is the Land Use Committee. Elections were held in January for this committee. We spent quite a bit of time on the HLB workflow. We got some data back from the traffic department doing a traffic calming study. We've had a good trails plan passed by the Assembly. We just published the draft COVID comprehensive plan. The intent is to have that submitted to Planning by the end of April.

Government Hill – Bob French

Working on the forest grant to get rid of some invasive species, as well as getting our comments in on the Seward to Glenn highway project. The AMATS citizens advisory committee had a meeting and provided some comments to the AMATS policy committee.

Huffman/O'Malley – Gretchen Stoddard

No report.

Midtown – Kris Stoehner

The camp in Midtown is consuming a lot of time, 50 people have died this winter. The camp is probably going to be abated as soon as zoning is finished and it's put up for sale. We're told there are going to be 1000 people on the street by the end of May. We're very concerned about where these people are going and how they're going to be taken care of.

Mountain View – Daniel George

There was a resolution proposed dealing with the impacts from homeless camps in parks throughout the Downtown Assembly district. We had a presentation on the Seward to Glenn Highway Connection. Black History the Last Frontier has a chapter on the disproportionate impacts to neighborhoods of Fairview and Eastchester, which historically have discriminatory policies, redlining, racial covenants, southern lands forbid renewals that are new to everyone. That needs to be taken into consideration when we're talking about relocating communities, which historically had the overwhelming majority of all black people in Alaska until maybe 20 years ago.

North Star – Penny Gage

No huge updates, preparing for nominations. Worked on our Valley of the Moon grant which Rep. Zack Fields is assisting with for a pump track and other improvements. Passed a resolution to support that process. Participating and had some discussion around the Midtown plan steering committee that ACDA is leading and we will be nominating two members from our council to participate.

Northeast – Pamela Raygor

Will be taking nominations and hold elections next month. Working on our grant for the Muldoon Park. We need help from the FCC to update our webpage.

Old Seward/Oceanview – Gary Meaders

Two presentations at our last meeting, one by State Sen. Cathy Giessel concerning natural gas production in Cook Inlet and Hilcorp's de-emphasizing 10 of the platforms. Another on the Long Trail as concerns the Alaska Railroad easement.

Rabbit Creek – Mike Kenny

Went through strategies for the Home Initiative to decide what our response will be and how we'll present it to Planning and Zoning. Discussed the ballot measures, including the CASA bond which would help alleviate some of the traffic pileups at the Chugach Mountains in parking lots, public safety/fire bonds. We made sure we knew what we wanted for the CAPSIS proposal.

Rogers Park CC – Linda Chase.

Our senator is Elvi Gray-Jackson and our representative is Alyse Galvin; they talked about education and how important it is to have support. Also talked about the Seward to Glenn Connection PEL Study. We had a presentation on the Fireweed Lane Rehabilitation Project. We discussed/voted on the Seward Highway Buffer Park resolution. Marilyn Pilifont will be new FCC delegate as of May 15th.

Russian Jack CC – Kathleen Plunkett

Two highlights: working on a couple grants and a cleanup/picnic, the date TBD.

Sand Lake – Robert Hayes

Liz Vazquez is our president. The residents living across from the airport on Raspberry are concerned that the chemicals used to de-ice airplanes contain PFAS and are polluting the groundwater wells. Also, discussed the Dimond High School personnel issue which has been in the news. Evan Leaf will be new FCC delegate.

Turnagain – Cathy Gleason

We approved comments on a fairly large aviation development, 150 feet from the Turnagain neighborhood southeast of the gravel strip. Approved the design study for the Forest Park Drive rehabilitation that will occur in 2025. Passed some comments that we will be submitting on the airport master plan facilities requirements proposal. Approved some comments on the Home Initiative that other council reps have brought up. Attended P&Z meeting on Monday; could the FCC facilitate a community forum for what will be presented. A Challenge Grant is being requested by three Turnagain people, which TCC wholly supports, for rehabilitation at Earthquake Park. We will be having indigenous place markers installed at Earthquake Park and Spenard Beach Park. Thank you to Jean for always being there. The West Anchorage Candidates Forum held March 8th — well attended!

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard

No report.

University Area CC – Al Mispagh

The DOT fair will be held a week from tomorrow; any help would be appreciated. At UACC we talked about the propositions coming up. Passed a resolution against obtaining a variance for the establishment of a marijuana facility. The one proposed is short of the 500 ft of an elementary school. The second one supports the RCCC’s objections to Municipal-wide residential rezoning.

10. Public Comment

Daniel George announced that Shiloh Community Housing got federal earmark for \$1.5 million for a Mountain View community center. Also, ALC got \$1 million federal earmark for a commercial kitchen for people with businesses but don’t have commercial kitchen.

Melinda Gant reported on the community council boundaries. Tom Davis said that they will go before Planning & Zoning in June. Each community council should review the recommendations.

11. Adjournment

Chair Stoddard announced that nominations for FCC executive board will be accepted next month.

Motion to adjourn made by Robert Hayes, seconded by Kevin Fimon. MMSC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jean Sauget, Community Councils Center Acting Manager.

March 20, 2024 – Zoom Chat

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Thank you everyone. Please see the links below I mentioned in the Mayors Report. Feel free to reach out to our office anytime and I am happy to help. My contact information is below.

Mayor Video <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/zHZkYu76tRM>

2024 Mayor's Arts Grant Recipients Announced

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/Mayors-Arts-Grants-Recipients-Announced.aspx>

Mayor Bronson veto message

<https://mcusercontent.com/75e5ee1539e832218e0d02e57/files/a30818e6-99ea-3803-049b-c3b415b0f310/Veto.01.pdf>