

UACC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
March 1, 2017

1. Opening: Paul Stang called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM. Paul next had the people in the room introduce themselves. 22 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting, with 12 UACC members signed in. An additional 10 visitors signed in and attended part or all of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes: Mary Lu Harle, with a Barbara Garner seconding, moved to approve the February Minutes as written. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Agenda: Paul Stang presented the March agenda. Paul also stated there was one item to be added as discussion item. This was a presentation by Mary Lu Harle on Alaska Common Ground forum on Transforming Anchorage/MatSu Transportation System. Barbara Garner requested that she may present the Challenge Grant proposal for improvements to Folker Park. Paul Stang requested that nominations for the 2nd Member at Large seat and 2nd FCC Delegate on the Executive Board, deferred from our February Meeting, be added to the agenda. The Agenda with these amendments were approved by unanimous consent. Paul also requested that each assembly members also discuss their views on the effect of frequent rezoning R3 to RO, on the ability of the UACC District to retain its residential character. This is response to the recent Assembly approval of such a re-zoning on Piper Street, after it was recommended to be rejected by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on several items that can be found in her assembly report within Attachment 1. Elvi commented on the R3/RO issue by stating that she does not take a personal viewpoint on the issue. She says she looks at it in terms of community needs as a whole.

2. Dick Traini discussed recent developments dealing with the possibility of ride sharing companies coming to Anchorage. He reported that Mia Costello is pushing legislation in Juneau that would take away local control on the ability to regulate ride sharing companies such as Uber or Lyft. He also discussed an ordinance that deals with the requirement for precious metal dealers to hold jewelry for thirty days and report to the police department before melting it down. He said that this may better allow for identification of jewelry that has been taken in a robbery to be later identified rather than to be immediately melted down and lost to the possibility of being identified and returned to its owner. Dick also addressed the R3/RO concern by saying that he felt that the majority of the people in the area favor the economic development offered by the R3 to RO conversion.

3. Pete Peterson talked about a recent Finance Committee meeting. He said that city finances are projected to be down by 7 million dollars. He also discussed safety and that APD has now 405 officers on the force, with 50 being newer members that are either on field training (FT) or recently released from FT. He said there will be another Police Academy, which could add another 30 officers to the force. He said that interest is high, with approximately 1,000 applicants to the Academy. He indicated community based policing might be attainable with this level of officers. Pete said that he leans toward not favoring the R3/RO rezoning. There was considerable discussion about why RO leads to loss of residential opportunity. Tim Potter indicated that businesses will not build residences on the upper floors of office buildings due to high cost of the construction and lack of return on investment. Barbara Garner said that by not adding the residences, intrusions expand into neighborhoods at the expense of a net loss of residences, which is in violation of the 2040 Land Use Plan (page 39) which requires no net loss of residences within a neighborhood.

4. Ivy Spohnholz discussed her work in the legislative session. She is on the Budget Sub Committee working on the Operating Budget. She is also on the Health and Social Services Committee. She discussed a bill introduced to the committee that would require price transparency, with doctors posting the cost for most common procedures. Elvi Gray Jackson indicated that the Anchorage Assembly passed an ordinance that requires Doctors to provide the cost of treatment up front, and the State Bill would complement the Muni Ordinance.

5. Senator Bill Wielechowski. Bill indicated that he is busy with the State Operating Budget. He said he is a member of the State Judiciary Committee and they are trying to amend the Crime bill passed last year SB-91. They are working on providing more discretion in sentencing on Class B Felonies. Also, they are providing for more enforcement on repeat petty theft offenders. He said that lack of prosecutors is resulting in fewer prosecutions. Finally, he discussed the oil tax credit situation, how it presently depresses the value the State gets from oil production and how it needs to be fixed to help in the State fiscal crisis.

6. Andy Josephson said he is working on HB-111 dealing with revision of the Oil and Gas Tax Credits. He described the four person panel discussion held recently and Q/A session dealing with the fiscal crisis. He also said that there is an Anchorage Caucus this weekend at the Anchorage LIO. He also discussed a bill dealing with Workman's Compensation and Cost of Living Adjustments that he is sponsoring.

7. Starr Marsett discussed ASD developments. She said that School District Medical Clinic has been successful in reducing medical costs to the ASD by 12 percent. She also talked about the Reading Curriculum program and its impact on reducing costs. The program hires teacher experts to be embedded in classrooms to improve the class 1 through 6 process. The emphasis is on reading first, and the teacher experts will trade around classrooms.

B. University Area Community Council Board Reports

1. Parks. Barbara Garner mentioned that Maeve Nevins will come to the April 4 meeting to present the Draft Folker Park Site Plan for information and approval. She indicated there is a \$200K Folker Park Bond Issue on the April 4 ballot. She also asked that the UACC approve the \$40K Foundation Challenge Grant proposal she has prepared. The decision was that it would be dealt with by Executive Board action. .

C. FCC/Safety- Al Milspaugh- Al relinquished his time to allow AFD more time.

D. Anchorage Common Ground- Mary Lu Harle provided a brief description of the effort by Alaska Common Ground to present a series of events to explore the Anchorage/Mat-Su transportation system. She handed out a flyer that provided details for the events. She said the first event of the series was on March 22. This would be a presentation by Roland Stanly giving the big picture on how a northern urban city can provide for all modes of transportation. On April 5 Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison Wi, will discuss how to get this done. Additional sessions deal with planning and funding work, how to engage, what the transportation in our area is now and what we would like in the future. The final session is a policy maker's panel. More info can be found at www.akcommonground.org.

E. Election of Member at Large member. Paul Stang asked for nominations for the remaining 2nd Member at Large seat and 2nd FCC Delegate on the Executive Board. Russ Kell was nominated for both positions. No other nominations were received. There was concern expressed by Board members that Russ had not been able to previously devote time to the Executive Board and UACC meetings. Russ indicated that he could attend at least 50% of the Council and Executive Board meetings. This satisfied the concern. Russ Kell was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Business

A. Fire Related Bonds on Muni's April 17 ballot & Fire Safety Preparedness- Anchorage Fire Department Representative Captain Johnson from Fire Station 4 gave a brief presentation of the services available at Fire Station 4, including firefighting and emergency medical services. He included an invitation to visit the Fire Station 4 to see how they work. They talked about what's included in Proposition 2, a \$1.654million bond on the April ballot. He said that there are two \$325,000 ambulances included. Included is funding to increase the EMS staffing from 9 to 11 to staff the new ambulances. The \$2.6 million Proposition 5 funds the purchase of 2 new fire engines. These are needed as there are two engines that have to be retired (per NFCA requirements) due to being over 20 years old. He also indicated that this funding would allow 3 engines to go into a reserve status. The proposition also allow for upgrading the Fire Stations to LED lighting for security purposes and energy savings. The proposition also provides for new roof construction on the Maintenance Shop on Airport Heights Drive. Captain Johnson also talked about fire safety and the need for having a functional smoke alarms. He stressed that the batteries need to be changed every year, unless on has a newer type that last 5 to 7 years and are not "changeable". He also said the CO

detectors are another critical safety item. The recent Fire and CO deadly incidents stress the need for functional alarms. Captain Casey recommended that one have a CO detector on each floor, and a smoke detector in each bedroom and outside of these rooms in the hallways.

B. Status of speed limit on Tudor/Accidents at corner with Wright Street-Scott Thomas, Regional Traffic & Safety Engineer, AK DOT. Scott described Tudor Road as a major arterial road and a backbone for city transportation. He said that the status of Tudor Road is dependent on the Land Use Designation around the road. He indicated that Tudor Road has seen a reduction of traffic since the construction of the Elmore and MLK roads. The traffic has been reduced from a daily average of 50,000 to 35,000 trips. He feels that to improve the Tudor Road situation, a design of the whole road system, rather than just around the Lake Otis to Piper section is needed. He said that the pedestrian/bike traffic needs to be moved into the surrounding neighborhoods to deal with some of the conflicts. He described the 5 criteria that are used for speed limit. He said that DOT is currently working on the speed limit appraisal, though could not give an exact date when the findings would come out. He said that a comparison is being done with Muldoon and Debarr, and the decision on the speed limit should be out by fall of 2017. Tentative data indicated that the speed limit might be 40 mph. Discussion on Wright Street crossing accident concerns identified several alternatives. One is to leave as is. The second would be to close the crossing. Another would be to provide for more lighting to provide better visibility during winter and dark hours. Another would be to move the bike crossings back away from the road and through the road "sweeps". This alternative was discounted as the crossing next to Tudor in front of the "sweep" is done for safety considerations. Another alternative would be to provide for crosswalk stripping across Tudor. This was also discounted as Scott felt that it may provide false security for people trying to cross the road. There was also discussion of better signage, such as no U turn signs, bike lane stop signs, and no pedestrian crossing signs. Visibility of these signs is also a concern. Scott indicated that signage is generally in place, though the visibility could be improved. There was also discussion about the need for a concentration of enforcement to give incentive for people to adhere to the traffic safety rules that are in place. Scott also mentioned there is a concern about traffic crossing Tudor at Dale Street. He is looking for input on how to make this safer, as a signal is not feasible here as it is too close to the Piper Street signal crossing. Finally, he said there is a proposal for re-paving of Tudor Road in our area, and the design work will proceed this year, but actual implementation will not occur before 2018 due to lack of funding.

C. School Bonds on Muni's April '17 ballot- Starr Marsett, Member School Board. Starr provided the UACC ASD bond details on the April 4th ballot. She provided a one page handout that described the \$58.5 Million Bond Proposal. This includes \$27.3 Million for roof replacements, \$24.4 Million for heating and ventilation replacement, and \$6.8 Million for structural seismic improvements at West and Romig schools. She indicated negligible impact to taxpayers as the proposed \$11.67 per \$100,000 assessed

value would be offset by the \$11.79 per \$100,000 assessed being retired.

6. The Chairperson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2017. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President

One (1) Atch: Elvi Gray-Jackson Notes

Attachment 1

Elvi Gray-Jackson
University Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report
March 1, 2017

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- AO 2017-26 to require health care practitioners and facilities, upon request, to provide an estimate of anticipated health care charges was approved at the February 28th meeting.
- AO 2017-29 to implement voting by mail was heard and approved at the February 28th meeting.
- AO 2017-30 to regulate Transportation Network Companies aka Uber was heard at the February 28th meeting. Assembly action was postponed until the March 21st meeting. There will be several proposed amendments to the ordinance.
- AO 2017-31 to provide for recordkeeping and reporting requirements and other requirements for scrap and precious metal dealers was heard at the February 28th meeting. Assembly action was postponed until the March 21st meeting. There will be several proposed amendments to the ordinance.
- AO 2017-36 to amending the Code to include unauthorized operation of unmanned aerial vehicles aka Drones was heard at the February 28th meeting. Assembly action was postponed until the March 21st meeting. There will be several proposed amendments to the ordinance.

Copies of all documents can be found at:

<http://www.muni.org/Residents/Pages/MuniMeetings.aspx>

Next meeting – March 7th