

UACC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
April 5, 2017

1. Opening: Paul Stang called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Paul next had the people in the room introduce themselves. 24 people were in attendance at the start of the meeting, with 16 UACC members signed in. An additional 8 visitors signed in and attended part or all of the meeting.
2. Approval of minutes: Barbara Garner moved that two sentences starting with "She is" on line 87 and ending with "volunteering" on line 90 be struck from the minutes. There was no opposition to this motion. Barbara Garner, with Russ Kell seconding, moved to approve the March Minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Agenda: Paul Stang presented the April agenda. The agenda was approved as written by unanimous consent
4. Informational Reports
 - A. Reports from Public Servants
 1. Elvi Gray-Jackson stated that this is her last meeting and that she is termed out. She also presented her "Public Service is my Business" newsletter detailing her accomplishments over the 2008-2017 that she has served the people of Anchorage. She reported on several items that can be found in her assembly report within Attachment 1. The community council thanked Elvi for the years of service facilitating our needs and the community as a whole.
 2. Dick Traini discussed a couple recent assembly regulations that dealt with where one can legally fly drones and with scrap metal processing requirements. Dick also mentioned that the assembly supported renaming a downtown pathway for the late Allen Tesche.
 3. Pete Peterson talked about recent Ethics Committee work. He indicated that the committee has rewritten the Ethics Handbook using more understandable language. They have been able to slim it to 17 pages, down from the previous 54 pages.

4. Felix Rivera was here to present himself as the new Midtown District 4G Assembly person.

5. Bill Wielechowski was on the phone line from Juneau. He reported that the UMED Northern Access road proposal is dead. He mentioned that his primary focus is now the operating budget. He said that the Senate budget proposal results in a significant cut in education, with a 21 million hit to the University system and a 69 million reduction to the Statewide Base Student Allocation. This amounts to 21 million for the Anchorage School District. He contrasted the Senate view, with more cuts and a heavier reliance on the Permanent Fund to fill the budget gap, with the House view which advocates a combination of an Income Tax and Oil Tax restructure, and lesser reliance on the Permanent Fund. There was some concern over how the income tax was to be calculated since it included tax on retirement annuities and capital gains. This could severely affect those that live on a fixed income, including seniors. There was also a question about why wasn't a sales tax being considered. Bill indicated that there was considerable push back from communities that already have a sales tax.

6. Andy Josephson said that he is working with the rest of the House Finance Committee on the Operating Budget Bill. He said that the bill includes a Statewide Progressive income tax, a restructuring of the Oil Tax rates, and a reorganization of the Oil Tax Credit System. He indicated that his would have a lesser affect on the Permanent Fund than the Senate budget proposal.

B. University Area Community Council Board Reports

1. Parks. Barbara Garner mentioned that Maeve Nevins is here to present the Draft Folker Park Site Plan for information and approval. She also indicated that the Parks and Recreation Bond issue was passed, and it included \$200,000 for the Folker Park improvements. She also said that the Anchorage Parks Foundation approved a \$12K Rasmussen Foundation Challenge Grant proposal for Folker Park. Barbara said that this grant requires dollar for dollar matching funds, so there will be extensive fund raising required.

2. Safety- Al Milspaugh. Al reported on Wild Fire safety tips. These are:

- a. READY – Be fire adapted and ready
- b. SET – Be situational aware
- c. GO – Act early

He also reported on the following Office of Emergency Management tips:

- a. GET A KIT – Gather the items you will need in case of emergency.
- b. GET INFORMED – Listen for public announcement
- c. MAKE A PLAN – Make a plan and practice it.

C. FCC/Safety- Al Milspaugh- Al reported no significant FCC issues.

5. Business

A. Crime, Safety, and Neighborhood Watch, Robin Nave, Anchorage Police Department

Robin indicated she is the community liaison for APD. She said that her contact information is RNave@muni.org or 907-786-8576. To report a non-emergency to APD call 907-786-8900 and press "0".

She said to report an emergency please call 911. Robin also reported that a lot of information can be obtained by going to the APD Website at:

www.muni.org/Departments/police/Pages/default.aspx

Robin talked about the problems that some people have been having with the non-emergency number, including rude responses, with people being made to feel that the crime they are reporting is not significant, and police will not respond. She says they are working to fix this, and stressed that people should call about crimes committed, so that these instances are reported. She also said that there is a traffic hot line people can call problems into. There is a crime stopper phone number that people can phone into if they have observed suspicious activity. She indicated that people can also report on line.

Robin also talked about how people can make their neighborhoods safer. She said the biggest thing they can do is to watch out for their neighbors. They can form phone trees and report suspicious activities that may be occurring. Neighborhood watch programs can also be formed where

people from one street may organize to watch for crime. She also said she has a brief synopsis on how to establish a community patrol. She said that informally neighbors walking together in challenging places and times may help deter crime. Marguerite Iverson said that the Nextdoor app provides information on suspicious activity. Robin indicated that it is not Department policy to monitor this app. There was some discussion about the need to report homeless camps on the new on line system. Robin also said there is a new homeless camp smartphone app available where the location is identified through the GPS system on the smartphone. Robin also said the department is trying to go toward more community policing, so that people see the same officers, get to know them, and that they can talk to them informally. She said that there are a large number of new officers, and they are being rotated around the community, so to they get familiar with the entire community. But eventually they will be more focused on community policing.

Robin also had a couple of handouts. The first described the APD Survey results with the top 5 safety concerns for the UACC area. Burglary and theft were the biggest concerns. Most people also felt that the situation was getting worse. Robin said the survey will be used to inform the officers on patrol what to look for. This along with the crime map will help focus the officers in appropriate areas and times to help prevent crime. Robin described how to use the Crime Map. She said the map will have drop down icons so that users can query types of crime, areas where crime occurred, time frames, and other statistics. She had an example of a Crime Map, with burglary and theft crimes concentrated along the Tudor and Boniface corridors. She said that this indicated they are crimes of opportunity. So be watchful out there.

B. Folker Park Update - Maeve Nevins Lavtar – APR Senior Park Planner.

Maeve was here to describe the Site Plan that has been developed for Folker Park, and to see if the UACC desired any changes to the plan as described, and to seek approval for the Site Plan. Maeve provided a 2 page handout describing the Folker Park Site Plan Update. She described the 12 member advisory group process used to develop the theme for the park. It is an “inter-generational” Health and Healing Park that is ADA accessible and

inclusive for all users”. Maeve stated the need for the new site is evident with the current trail being overgrown, too soft, and non ADA accessible. She also said that there is damage to the current picnic facilities and a lot of graffiti. There is also “negative” traffic that prevents many from wanting to enter the Park. Also, plant succession is occurring and results in dense cover that deters people from feeling safe in some areas.

The working group developed 19 priorities (described in the handout) that would facilitate the attainment of the Theme of the park. She presented a final concept map that showed the location of the priorities that reflect the theme. Maeve described how some of the priority areas were located. Examples would be to remove the existing planter at the SW Corner and re-sculpture gather area with a welcoming plaza. There would be two paths, the outer one would be a fitness path, with numerous pullouts for a fitness activities. The inner path would be a more intertwined path, with no beginning or end. There would be little pockets for people to visit or to meditate on the natural setting, with connections to the Reflexology Path, Bridge of Flowers, Art Areas, and Labyrinth Plaza, and other priority features.. Maeve had an example of how a beautiful Climbing Bridge over the Stream of Flowers could provide mobility challenged individuals with climbing skills needed for their independence.

There were a couple of questions about the Plan. First, was whether the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) would be covered by the \$200 K approved in the bond? The answer is no, that the O&M will be covered in normal Park and Recreation Budget. The second question was whether dogs and bicycles are allowed in the park. Maeve said that all are welcomed in the Park, though dogs need to be on leash and that the paths in the park would not suitable or desirable for high speed bicycle traffic.

Maeve described the tentative schedule for approvals for the Site Plan. These are:

- 1 University Area Community Council (April)
2. Parks and Recreation Commission (May)
3. Site plan Administrative Review (June-July)

Marguerite Iverson moved, with Paul Stang seconding, to approve the Folker Park Site Plan as presented.

The motion was approved by UACC in vote of 13/0 in favor.

C. AWWU Northern Lights Water Main Project-Jennifer Satterfaeld, P.E.

Jennifer said there are two AWWU projects that are going to affect traffic on Northern Lights Boulevard in 2017. The first will install and connect the remaining 300 feet of water line in Northern Lights Boulevard at the pedestrian crossing near Assets, Inc. This will require some temporary lane closures on Northern Lights on Northern Lights between Bragaw and UAA Drive for two weeks in period from end of April to the end of May.

The second project, previously presented during our December 2016 meeting, will install several thousand feet of water main under Northern Lights Boulevard between Bragaw and Wesleyan Drive. This will require closing the road for the Memorial Day weekend and weekend of June 3rd and 4th to install traffic control for the approximately 3 month project. The northern two lanes of Northern Lights Boulevard will be closed for construction, while the southern two lanes will be open to two way traffic. A median barrier will be used to separate the traffic. The water main project will be open trench construction and will use locally recycled glass for bedding material. There was a question about whether water service would be interrupted during construction. Jennifer was unsure about whether this is the case, but indicated that potentially affected residents would be contacted before such an occurrence.

6. The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on May 5, 2017. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Signed

Paul Stang, UACC President

One (1) Atch: Elvi Gray-Jackson Notes

Attachment 1

University Community Council – Assembly Report

Elvi Gray Jackson

April 5, 2017

- *AO 2017-30, as amended which regulates Transportation Network Companies aka Uber was approved at the March 21st meeting. The vote was 6-4 with one member absent.*
- *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 April 11th meeting. A Work Session is scheduled on Friday, April 7th from 11:30 – 12:30. A substitute version will be available on line.*
- *AO 2017-36 to amend 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 April 11th meeting. There will be several proposed amendments to the ordinance.*
- *The 1st Quarter Budget Revision resolution and mill levy ordinances for both General Government and the School District will be introduced at the April 11th meeting. A Work Session is scheduled for Friday, April 7th from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m.*

Copies of all documents can be found at:

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

Next meeting – April 11th

It has been an honor to represent you for the last nine years!!