

**Federation of Community Councils
Board of Delegates Meeting
Wednesday, 19 July 2006**

Attendance – 15 councils

Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule	Campbell Park – Sandy Traini	Downtown – Kim MacBeath
Chugiak – Merten Bangemann-Johnson		Fairview – Justina Meyer
Eagle River Valley – Tom Freeman		Northeast – Bob Reupke
Mid-Hillside – John Weddleton	Mountain View – Kep Pierce	Sand Lake – Sherri Jackson
Rogers Park – Heather Ireland	Russian Jack – Kathleen Plunkett	Turnagain – Cathy Gleason
Scenic Foothills – William Theuer	Spenard – Jason Bergerson	
Secretary – Niki Burrows	CC Center – Deborah Bauer & Ed Leach	
Mayor – Mark Begich	Mayor’s Staff – Teri Albrecht	Assembly – Ken Stout
Elmendorf AFB – Bill Day	APD – Sgt Cindi Stanton	
Officers and distinguished members from various Community Councils		

Call to Order: by Chairman Kim MacBeath at 6:00 PM.

Agenda: Approved .

Approval of Minutes: May and June minutes were approved.

Mayor’s Office – Teri Albrecht

The Westchester Lagoon project has commenced with Phase I – utility relocations. Signs are posted describing the extent of the work. Phase II – is still in pre-design.

The study draft for the Transportation Improvement Program is available at <http://www.muni.org/transplan/TIP.cfm>.

Changes that include funding for the highway-to-highway connection can be read at <http://www.muni.org/iceimages/transplan/0608MAMEND1.pdf>

Anchorage Assembly – Ken Stout

We welcomed him as our new Assembly liaison. He said that he was glad to be here with us and was looking forward to working with us.

Executive Board Changes – Kim announced that she has to step down as chair because of her husband’s sudden transfer to Dallas. Cathy Gleason nominated Justina Meyer for Chair and Bob Reupke seconded. The nomination and selection were accepted without objection. A new Treasurer will be selected in September.

State Grants – The State awarded several grants to the FCC to administer:

\$150,000	Chugiak – Eagle River Consortium – Title 21 Document preps
\$ 3,200	Fairview Community Patrol for equipment
\$ 2,500	Mountain View Community Patrol
\$ 2,500	Northeast Community Patrol
\$ 2,500	Nunaka Valley Community Patrol
\$ 2,500	Russian Jack Community Patrol
\$ 5,000	Russian Jack Community Patrol for equipment
\$ 20,000	Russian Jack CC for Williwaw Park

Merten Bangemann-Johnson – In the past the grant amounts were relatively small and did not require a significant effort to supervise. But this grant administration will require increased responsibility and potential liability. At the very least, our tax filing will be more complicated.

Cathy Gleason – Can the staff handle this?

Kim – Debbie has had training on grant writing and administration.

Bob R – What administration is required?

Merten – We will file papers with the State, sign grant agreements with the Councils, audit the expended funds, and our tax filing will account for the money (Form 990).

Kathy Ireland noted that the Councils need to be aware of any fees charged.

Cathy – is there any indication from the Councils on how they feel about fees?

Sherri Jackson – Sand Lake previously received grants through the Anchorage Community Schools. One or two per cent is very reasonable, and it would be very helpful for the FCC to do the grant administration.

Kathleen Plunkett – Smaller amounts in the past did not require audits. RJCC's park monies in the past were channeled through the Anchorage Community Foundation, which made interest money, so no fees were charged. But given that there are administrative costs here, RJCC has no objection to fees.

William Theuer – Is one or two per cent sufficient?

Merten – Anchorage Community Foundation charges two per cent, which is less than the costs of a Council becoming an independent 501c3 (IRS).

Kep Pierce moved and Niki Burrows seconded to accept the grants. The motion carried without objection.

William Theuer moved and Bob Reupke seconded that the FCC charge a two per cent administration fee on the grants. The motion carried without objection.

Elmendorf AFB – William Day

The Alaskan Arctic Thunder 2006 will be next month. Buses will run from the East High School parking lot. Because of budget constraints, this will become an even year event – next show will be in 2008.

F-22s were here for training. They were significantly less noisy than the F-15s. Two squadrons will deploy here in 2007, replacing the F-15s.

The annual tour was successful. The stops included the fish hatchery, landfill, wildlife center and the historical static displays. The old landfill is significant in that the base is using a natural recovery method with willow and poplar trees. The recovery is being studied by the Universities of Colorado, Florida and Alaska-Anchorage.

Mayor Mark Begich

Willing to meet regularly with the FCC.

Lots of construction in 2007 with planning and preparations this year. These will be a huge benefit for the community at large.

Public Safety – when he came into office APD was falling behind in staffing, special units were not performing and morale was not good. The openings have been filled and there has been a growth of 40 officers. The special units have been reorganized, with one unit dedicated to gang intelligence.

Last year APD referred 2600 felony arrests for prosecution, but only 70 went to trial. The courts and prosecutors are overworked and cannot handle the load (state responsibility). Anchorage is hiring two attorneys to work with the federal prosecutor to get more cases through a court system and punish the offenders.

State gun possession laws were loosened this year such that if a felon is driving a car with a gun on the back seat, the gun can be confiscated, but the felon cannot be arrested. But if the felon is driving with an open alcohol container on the back seat, he can be arrested.

On the Reka Drive shooting, the families of those involved finally came forward after several days with information that led to arrests. Three people will be prosecuted for perjury for providing false alibis.

The city is safer than ten years ago. In 1994 there were 34 murders, but since most occurred in Fairview and Mountain View, these were tolerated. To date in 2006 there have been 8 murders, but since they are city-wide, there is more public outcry to stop them. You are more likely to be a pedestrian struck by a car than hit by a bullet.

A question for the legislative and gubernatorial candidates should be “What will you do about the backlogs at the courts and state laboratory?” The criminals know that the judicial system is collapsing.

Public safety is very manageable with some issues. We have a safe city. And neighborhood watches are great.

The capital budget presently concentrates on road projects. The emphasis will shift to infrastructure protection in the maintenance and expansion of community centers, libraries, etc. Investment is necessary to support the next generation.

Heather – Two recent car accidents involved drivers with histories of speeding and DUI. What can the community do?

Mark - After APD puts together a case, the state district attorney chooses the next step (based on money and resources available). The state system needs more resources, but it is eliminating therapeutic courts, which are more expensive, but more effective in changing behaviors. Felons are often not prosecuted. We need court reform, like community courts to judge non-violent first offenders.

Cindi Stanton – last Saturday already had 5 DWI locates (community people called APD to warn of drunk drivers) when the accident occurred.

Sherri – Her family experienced the shooting at the Sullivan complex. What should the community do if it is afraid?

Mark - I told students recently that the longer you keep zipped, the more it will go on. We need to change the culture in the community, especially by not tolerating nuisances. Nuisances can be reduced by confronting the offenders during calm times.

Neighborhood watches are good by engaging neighbors. There is also the citizen's academy, which is doubling to six times a year.

Sherri – How do we distribute the message to those afraid of retaliation?

Mark – There was good legislation on this that died in the conference committee at the end of the session. Positive actions include removing the hangouts for offenders. This can include demolition of problem buildings to clean up neighborhoods. Downtown, 70% of the police calls come from just four bars. The city does not do a good job of publicizing the successful follow-ups.

Justina – Calls to dispatch about scary situations do not get a response for a hours, and when APD does show up, no arrests are made.

Mark – Probable cause limits the power of the police to make arrests. The dispatchers prioritize the calls based on the situations – violence in progress takes precedence over fears. And large groups require a large police response. Another 53 officers (planned) will provide better responses.

Teri – Each Council should find out when community groups are meeting about gang problems.

William T – What came of the meeting with the Seattle mayor?

Mark – This was reestablishing a fallen relationship. Anchorage is the regional center for Alaska – trade, education, etc. Anchorage is 35% of the business of the Port of Tacoma. A lot of business is conducted by companies located in both cities. But federal political issues interfere with complete cooperation.

Keo – When do we get Cindi back (Sgt Stanton)?

Mark – APD will do the right thing.

Ken – The Assembly and the Mayor have been working together, with the Mayor usually on an issue before him.

To address some of the public safety concerns, one answer may be to institute an alcohol wholesale tax to fund intervention, treatment, etc.

Community Council Appreciations

Merten and Mark handed out certificates to acknowledge Community Council members who have worked to improve their communities and Anchorage.

Keo was awarded for the best attendance in the past five years.

Merten was honored for making the FCC more effective. The theme of the celebration was “From Seeds to Flowers”. The Mayor gave a plaque to Merten on behalf of the FCC. Merten also became the father of three foster children recently, so the FCC gave him gifts for the children.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.