

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Draft Minutes
Fairview Recreation Center — 1121 E 10th Ave
March 12, 2020 — 7:00-8:45 PM

Call to Order 7:04 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Kelly Ittenbach. Add Senior Center director to presentations. Remove Mayor Berkowitz from list of elected officials. No objection to agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Kelly Ittenbach.
No objection to minutes.

Elections

Allen Kemplen presented the slate of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations. No objection to approval of slate. New officers are President: Allen Kemplen, Vice-President: SJ Klein, Secretary: Sharon Chamard, Treasurer: Sharon Chamard

Allen Kemplen presented the slate of members-at-large. There are seven nominees for five positions. Kemplen asked nominees to make a short statement on why they want to run. All the candidates: James Thornton, Denise Jensen, David Rittenberg, Harry Need, Karen Gonne-Harrell, Jerome Lopes, and Tammy Miller made brief comments.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich (on phone)

Legislative subcommittee on coronavirus. One tested positive case so far, was an international traveler who was transported to a hospital and put in isolation. About 1,000 tests are available. 160 other tests have come back negative.

Practices implemented by Fairview Community Council – separation of chairs, availability of hand sanitizer – are good things to do. Also, don't touch your face.

Trust guidance by Anne Zink. Could be in the situation of social distancing until a vaccine is developed, at least 6 months.

Q – is SB6 moving forward? A. Yes, it's in Finance right now. Should be heard on Tuesday and then go to Senate floor on Friday or following Monday. Have met with members of House to prepare them for the bill. There is strong support. About 75% chance of having it passed and signed into law.

Hearing concerns about virus. 1) Keep the public safe as much as possible. Passed request for COVID-19 funding for extra nurses.

Priority is to complete 4 finance actions: pass general budget; supplemental budget ready to go; dispute over reverse sweep which caused so much problem last year, will deal with it over the next few days; capital budget. Will try to keep other bills alive.

Legislature may self-quarantine for 14 days before coming home to avoid spreading virus. But there is no indication of it being in Juneau.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – If we have to go into an emergency status response for the state, where do we get the funding? Sen. Begich – We have flexibility in the state accounts. The Governor identified substantial funding, we have capacity to tap the earnings reserve, it would require suspending rules of the legislature. The Governor reached out to Muni and asked for their priorities and received those lists very quickly. Despite low oil prices, declining stock market, we do have money and can tap it in the case of emergency, and we will.

Q from Dave Rittenberg – what is the state doing to help people who can't self-quarantine or are homeless? Sen. Begich – It's the local responsibility and also a state responsibility. The homeless population is very vulnerable. We're working on a humanitarian response. Hotels may be used. We believe we have the resources to handle what we will face. There may be federal resources available.

Representative Zack Fields

Unavailable, at Finance Committee meeting

Election Results

The five new members-at-large are James Thornton, Denise Jensen, David Rittenberg, Jerome Lopes, and Karen Gonne-Harrell. Congratulations to the new members-at-large and thank you to out-going members-at-large Harry Need and Tammy Miller.

Standing Reports

President – Allen Kemplen

Parks and Rec is reviewing schematics for log constructions that are part of the Eastchester Park improvements.

Clean-up will be on Saturday, May 9th. Coordinating with ACLT to have an event after the clean-up at Eastchester Park. If Parks and Rec has delivered the logs, there will be debarking, and discussion of the wraps for the utility boxes.

Also asking Parks and Rec for logs for the raised garden beds and decorative entry portals for the community gardens.

We submitted comments on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Arbor Day grants are available. Can apply for grants from \$200-500. Due on Friday, March 20. Allen is submitting proposal for trees for Eastchester Park.

Treasurer – Sharon Chamard

\$8 bank fee. Current balances:

General \$477; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$4930. Total \$6694

Presentations

Becky Parker, Executive Director, Anchorage Senior Activity Center

Proposition 7 for \$2.5M for upgrades and renovations of Anchorage Senior Activity Center, and for seniors' home in Chugiak/Eagle River. It also supports the Loussac and Mountain View Libraries.

Allen Kemplen, Fairview Neighborhood Improvement Initiative

Handout on table about Consolidated Plan for HUD funds. We've taken advantage of these funds in the past, particularly block grants, to install pedestrian lighting and to make improvements in Fairview Lions Park. The Muni puts together a Consolidated Plan every five years and will soon be seeking input on what the priorities should be. Allen met with people from Muni about getting some of the funds for Eastchester Park or community garden. Advised that any projects really need to be much larger. Scattered site projects can be considered. If Fairview puts together a plan, enough people need to show up for public hearings, etc. Allen presented ideas for small projects as part of a scattered-site larger project – the Fairview Neighborhood Improvement initiative. Community garden at 14th and Ingra, Eastchester Park, expansion of Orca Park, winter city street conversions (get rid of rolled curbs and add snow-storage buffers), gateway element at 9th and Ingra, winter city bike lane, façade improvements, Fairview Innovative Art and Science project at Fairview Elementary School and bring that art and science into the neighborhood, repurposing of spruce bark beetle trees into tiny log homes, improving access trail to Chester Creek Trail at Sitka Park, and Fairview water main improvement program to reduce costs of construction and renovation. Seeking preliminary input.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld, can the Consolidated Plan process be used to buy boarded-up properties in the neighborhood to develop them into something more useful? Allen Kemplen – Yes, a CHDO could apply for funds to do that. General discussion about community development corporations in Fairview. Allen – it would take organization and hard work. It's possible.

Q from S Klein, What is the next step? Allen Kemplen – we need to firm up our concepts, come to the public hearings en masse, say this is what we want in the Consolidated Plan. S Klein – written comments are also extremely important. Last year, there was only one written comment submitted. Allen – we should have a resolution by the FVCC and people should also submit individual comments.

Allen – we can make a difference. It's a five-year plan. We can work on it bit by bit every year.

Allen – I'm forming an adhoc committee for the purposes of working on the Consolidated Plan. Eight people volunteered.

New Business

Discussion of need for meetings in absentia

Harry Need – we should discuss what we will do if we can't meet in person anymore because of COVID-19.

General discussion about use of Zoom and other platforms (like Facebook Live) for meeting. Is there enough bandwidth at the Rec Ctr to support these applications?

S Klein suggests formation of an adhoc committee to look into video conferencing for future meetings and impact on bylaws. Committee formed with James Thornton, Harry Need, and S Klein as chair.

Unfinished Business

None

Community Comments

Harry Need – he and S Klein met with Tom Begich, Löki Gale-Tobin, Michelle McNulty, Chris Schutte, Craig Lyon, and Chris Constant re: the Fairview PEL. Status of the Midtown Congestion Relief Project and status of forthcoming PEL guidebook. Concern that AMATS is the customer of the Fairview PEL and not the community. The PEL guidebook will be implemented for the first time in Alaska in our neighborhood. We don't want the project to be given short-shrift. There is \$5M; it should be spent on a real PEL. Everyone in this meeting was in agreement.

A member advised of an upcoming social function regarding the Alaska Fair Share Act on Wednesday, March 18, 921 W. 6th Ave. 6 pm.

A member reported that there there was panic buying at Costco. We're all in this together, we need to stick together.

Harry Need - Prop. 12 is on ballot. It's important for downtown because we'll get another Assembly member. It benefits other districts as well because they will have fewer residents per Assembly member.

Adjourn 8:49 PM