

UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE



••• FEBRUARY 2004 •••



POSTAL MAIL NOTICE

This is the final postal mailing of the UACC newsletter to the current postal address list. If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter by postal mail, please return your newsletter's address section to: 3550 Wesleyan Drive, 99508; Attn: Tim Neale. This action is necessary due to FCC funding changes. To receive the UACC newsletter by e-mail contact: bbgamer@alaska.com

UACC news can be read in the free "Eastside Pulse" publication. A meeting's agenda can be found in the "ADN" Community Datebook column the first Wednesday. Current and past newsletters can be read at: <http://www.communitycouncils.org/university.html>

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GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 7:00P

College Gate Elementary School Library, 3101 Sunflower Street

PROPOSED AGENDA:

- **LIQUOR LICENSE:** change request at former Williams Express, Presenter, Carolyn Heyman-Layne, Holiday company, new owners of the Williams Petroleum Company, Alaska.
- **ABBOTT LOOP (BRAGAW) EXTENSION PROJECT:** A current status discussion, Presenter, Robert Kniefel, DOWL

•CANDIDATES FORUM•

- A moderated opportunity for the April election's Assembly candidates to present their reasons for seeking an Assembly seat. Candidates please contact Hugh Wade, 929-9239, if they wish to participate.
- **OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION:** Members are to bring concerns about the UACC area: neighborhood, traffic, crime, streets, air quality, parks, trails, institutional changes, neighborhood schools, the community council, and more.

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January 7 MEETING NEWS:

• **Chester Creek Trail Connection/UAA Spur Trail:** The January 7 meeting featured the Chester Creek Trail Connection presentation (Project #96-019) by Brennan Shields and LaQuita Chmielowski, DOWL Engineers, along with Lori Schanche, Project Administrator, MOA Project Management & Engineering. This followed UACC president, Tim Neale, who gave a brief history of a similar trail, which in the past UACC did not approve. Lori explained that project died a few years ago, was taken off TIP and AMATS, but was recently bonded for and has now been approved back on the AMATS list. There has been a large public involvement process in the past regarding this trail. Local design review has been accomplished. Coordination with UAA, APU and Providence Hospital and permitting agencies is underway. This project will connect the Chester Creek trail from the Tudor Road crossing near University Lake to Goose Lake Park. From the Ambassador Drive underpass in Tudor Centre, the trail follows the south edge of the University Lake Park to the eastern creek bridge; turning north toward the substation, maintaining a 35' vegetation buffer between the trail and the power line easement; connecting to the existing paved trail south of Northern Lights Blvd. The trail ends in the Goose Lake parking lot. Construction includes also, a link from the Bragaw Street underpass, along the south side of Chester Creek through UAA housing and the Providence Hospital Campus, ending near the west side of the hospital and Providence Drive. The Design Study Report released by DOWL indicated that the paved trail will be ten feet wide with two feet shoulders on each side. The goal of this particular extension and trail is to be separated enough from other, existing paths to be usable and enjoyable by anyone. There will be work done on the existing connector portions to bring them up to ADA standards. Construction will begin in 2005. There were opinions expressed by council members about the lighting along the trail that will be west of the power lines, this section buffered by a tree zone 35 feet wide.

It was preferred that this portion of the trail not be lit, but that the portion running through the UAA campus be very well lit. There will be an at-grade crossing on the private road that runs between Providence hospital and UAA housing with signs to alert motorists of the trail crossing. All of the Chester Creek Trail will be designated a multipurpose trail. APU favors this project. DOWL Engineers would like to receive public comments and questions by January 31. Contact MOA Project Administrator, Lori Schanche, 343-8368; or DOWL at 562-2000.

• **Boniface/Northern Lights Intersection Upgrade:** Ann Brooks of Brooks and Associates, Art Johnson with USKH, and Kevin Jackson with State of Alaska DOT presented information regarding the Boniface/Northern Lights intersection upgrade which is part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The portion of Boniface Parkway to be improved is owned by DOT and the portion of Northern Lights Blvd. being improved is owned by the Municipality. HSIP projects are identified by crash statistics. The analysis for this project took place from 1997 to 2001 in which 182 accidents were reported at this intersection. According to the statistics, 40% of those accidents were the rear-ending type going southbound on Boniface and 20% of the accidents involved left turns. 73 of 182 incidents had injuries. The proposed improvements add a right turn lane southbound on Boniface; this also reduces the cut through traffic in the business area. A long left turn lane southbound on Boniface will also be added. Signal phasing has been looked at in the past for this intersection but it is currently not being proposed. If the accidents continue to happen after the improvements, then it will be looked at again. Construction will take place this summer. There was a question regarding Right of Way (ROW) in front of the William Express store on Boniface. It is a public ROW. There is currently a MOA project in the works which is looking at east and westbound traffic on Northern Lights Blvd. A council member asked if over/under pass separations have been looked at for this intersection and the response was no. Assemblymember Doug Van Etten then gave a quick overview of the non-status of the Road Transfer Program between the DOT and the MOA.

• Brian Whittle, assemblymember, emphasized that the Federation of Community Councils' (FCC) funding is a very important issue and needs attention. The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was also brought up as an area where UACC needs to be properly represented. UACC heard from Van Etten that the procedures to get a liquor license approval from the Assembly is being addressed. During this discussion it was stated that the Assembly approves only the location of the license, or a conditional use permit. Questioned was the issue with the A-K Korral (the former Pines Club at Tudor/Laurel) liquor license, and the weekend parties in that building last summer where a Catering Event liquor license was used. The A-K Korral license has not been transferred yet, because past taxes have not been paid.

OTHER NEWS:

- Several residences in the Wesleyan Drive area have reported daytime burglaries since the 2nd week of January. Please report all suspicious activity to APD, and to your neighbors.
- January 21, the executive board met with Anne Brooks, a member of the LRTP roundtable, discussing traffic issues in UACC.

PLATTING BOARD CASE:

Mar 3, Case #: S10969-2; Representative: Lee Karabelnikoff, Anchorage, 99504;.337-3434,
Request: 18 month Time Extension; Location: East of Campbell Airstrip Road, west of Baxter and north of Tudor Road; Legal Desc.: Lots 4 & 5 of the subdivision of lots 28 & 29, located within Section 26, T13N, R3W, S.M., Alaska

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COUNCIL ORGANIZATION:

President: Tim Neale, 333-4952, timua@gci.net
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