

UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

••• MARCH 2004 •••

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00P

College Gate Elementary School Library, 3101 Sunflower Street

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PROPOSED AGENDA:

- **Anchorage School District Bond Issues:** Presenter - ASD representative
- **Neighborhood Loussac Library Service:** Presenter - Art Weeks, MOA Municipal Librarian, current and future library service for UACC community.
- **Tudor Road Corridor Study:** East 42nd neighborhood, Walkable Community Planning-Design issues.

NEWS: A public scoping meeting was held February 18 at Lake Otis Elementary School, guided by the MOA Traffic Engineering Dept. and DOWL's manager, Brad Doggett. When the U-Med Framework Master Plan was adopted by the Assembly, October 2003, they added an amendment to include a study prior to any traffic related changes. The study area includes Lake Otis Parkway to Bragaw, and Tudor to UAA's campus, north of Providence hospital. This project is focusing on Tudor Road issues, additional access from Tudor Road north into the U-Med District and pedestrian/non-motorized travel in the area. Several commented about the high number of pedestrians in this zone. UACC has long requested pedestrian and other traffic safety attention for East 42nd Avenue and its environs. **The council is providing a Traffic Safety Planning-Design Workshop for all who live/work within the Study's boundary on Tuesday, March 9, 7:00P, Dining Room, Providence Horizon House at Folker&42nd. Call 563-6372, 569-5678 or 563-6328 for information.** Otherwise, those with concerns, or needing additional information, please contact Glenda Radvansky, MOA Traffic Engineer - 343-8406. Persons wishing to submit comments can send them to the project title, c/o Traffic Department, 4700 Bragaw St., Anchorage 99507, or via fax to 343-8488. All received by March 18 will become part of the project report.

FEBRUARY 4 MEETING NEWS:

- **Williams Express liquor licenses:** Holiday Companies is in the process of buying the Williams Express chain, two of the stores adjacent to UACC at Boniface/Northern Lights and Tudor/Wright. Dave Hoeschen of Holiday Station Stores, spoke about the company and its policies. This large private retail company, headquartered in Minneapolis, is applying to transfer the existing Williams liquor licenses when the purchase process is completed - expected by the end of March.
- **Bragaw Extension:** Robert Kniefel, DOWL, presented an update of the Abbott Loop/Bragaw Extension Project. Four trail user groups with varied needs are being consulted. DOWL asked that UACC have a member participate in meetings to guide decisions regarding the trails, bridges and other design needs. A third area-wide project meeting will be May 24, where trail details, and others, will be included. At a later date DOWL expects a report from the Corps of Engineers about its decision to require an Environmental Impact Statement, or an Environmental Assessment. MOA's Heritage Land Bank wants to keep as much land as possible in parks and open areas.
- **Bragaw Extension Air Quality:** February 4, UACC sent a letter to Kniefel, with copies to many others, regarding the negative air quality issue in the project area that has not been addressed by the Extension's planners. This is a low elevation area in the Anchorage basin where vehicle fumes are particularly offensive during cold weather inversions. In January, fumes were present in residences and businesses in the broad area south of UAA and Providence Hospital and east of Lake Otis Parkway. A major contributor has been the Anchorage School District's Transportation Facility (buses) at Tudor/Bragaw. Vehicles backed up at traffic signals contribute also.

University Area Community Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 4, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Barbara Garner at 7:02P. The minutes and agenda were approved as printed. The Board members were introduced.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Dave Hoeschen of Holiday Station Stores. He spoke briefly about the company and its policies. Holiday Companies is in the process of buying Williams Express chain. Holiday is a large private retail company with headquarters in Minneapolis, Minn. They are applying to transfer the existing liquor licenses as soon as they complete the purchase. This expected by the end of March. They will be appearing before the Assembly as soon as it can be arranged. Vic Sacco was introduced as someone else from Holiday who is working on the transition.

Robert Kniefel, of DOWL, spoke about the second area wide meeting of the Abbott Loop north to Tudor plan held at Service High School Jan. 4. There were many comments from the meeting. These can be read at abbottloop.com. They have completed the scoping report which discusses the real concerns of the public. Eleven or twelve of the technical reports have been completed and the environmental site assessment and hydrology reports are ready. Drilling at the end of 64th Avenue going north should begin soon. They are working with the dog mushers and other users to accommodate their races, etc. There are three major areas where public involvement is needed. These areas include bridges, trails, and design details such as fences, lighting and private well locations. These meetings will be held in April or May. The Planners would like to have at least one person from the neighboring Community Councils to discuss the details. There will be 3 meetings, one for each element. The third area wide meeting will be May 24, to show details of location of trails, lighting, etc. Later they expect to hear from the Corps of Engineers about their decision to require an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment. The Heritage Land Bank would like to keep as much land in parks and open areas as possible. UACC sent a letter to a number of people regarding the air quality issues that have not been addresses by the planners of the AbbottLoop - Tudor extension.

There is also a Tudor Area Corridor Study being started to be part of the overall improvement plan. Brad Doggett of Dowl Engineers will be project manager for this study. This area includes Lake Otis Parkway to Bragaw and Tudor to UAA's campus north of Providence hospital. It will be part of the U-Med plan. The meeting will be held Feb 18 at 7:00P at Lake Otis Elementary School. This is a pedestrian and traffic safety project to make it all work together.

Hugh Wade conducted a Candidates Forum for those running for the Assembly in the April election. The candidates for the Assembly seat held by Doug Van Etten were introduced. Troy Malden could not be present. Stephen Johnston, Dan Coffey, and Doug Van Etten were given 4 minutes each to present their views. This was followed by a question and answer period.

The candidates for Melinda Taylor's seat were introduced: Paul Bauer was not able to attend. Ken Stout and Bill Wielechowski followed the same format. All candidates answered each question.

President Tim Neale arrived and presided over the rest of the meeting.

There was an open forum discussion of council members' concerns. There was considerable concern over the University Lake dog park, air quality issues, traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, land use coordination, break-ins, snow removal, homeless people and pocket parks.

Kathleen Plunkett, Russian Jack CC chair, gave a brief overview of the recent FCC meeting. The Municipality talked about taking over the operation of the FCC Center but has given money to FCC for newsletters next year. Most councils are trying to get their members to change over to e-mail, this will save postage. It is an idea that may not work for all members.

Doug Van Etten pointed out that the Chronicle and Pulse papers will publish community council news. The assembly is holding a special meeting on bond proposals Tue, Feb 17 at Noon. This meeting will carry over to the next day if all of the issues are not addressed. There is a group called the Rainbow coalition who would like to make the Equestrian Center a year round operation.

Brian Whittle attend a meeting at St. Anthony's Church. There were about 300 in attendance. The primary concern was crime. There was some discussion about the need for better communication about local crime. Traffic calming issues were also mentioned. The Police Dept thinks there may be as many as 44 gangs operating in the city.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10P.
Betty Adkison, co-secretary/treasurer