

•••UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL••• UPDATE

MAY 2004

GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, May 5, 7:00P, College Gate Elementary School Library, 3101 Sunflower Street

PROPOSED AGENDA:

- **Lake Otis Parkway and Boniface Parkway Resurfacing Projects:** Presenter: Riki Lebman, HCG, Inc, a consulting group, to begin April 26 and continuing throughout the summer, from Tudor to DeBarr
- **Highway Safety Improvement Projects:** Presenter, Brad Doggett, DOWL Engineers; includes Tudor/ Folker and Northern Lights/ Bragaw intersections
- **Tudor Road Corridor Study Progress Report:** Presenter, DOWL Engineers
- **Safe and Sensible Streets:** "Context Sensitive Design" Resolution Vote (see April meeting news below)
- **MOA Capital Improvement Projects:** Vote on final UACC list to MOA

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JIM PARSONS

UACC Board member Jim Parsons, immediate past president, died April 4 following a short illness. Much has been available in the Anchorage media regarding Jim's vast and varied service for over 50 years in Anchorage, including elected office, mental health professional, and a founder, leader or member of many civic, cultural and recreational organizations. Within UACC he served recently as President (a parliamentary Master), was the prime force behind the UAA Drive Safety Path/Trail completed in 2003, a member of the 1983 Goose Lake Task Force (became the U-Med Plan), and a devoted protector of all aspects of Goose Lake and the Park. The Anchorage Assembly honored and remembered Jim with a Resolution on April 13. UACC's executive board has asked the Assembly to consider naming the UAA Drive Trail for Jim.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Tudor/ Lake Otis Intersection Proposal:** Contact Legislators immediately with your comments.
- **Saturday, May 1: U-Med Neighborhood Meeting,** ANMC Hospital Conference Room, 1st Floor
 - 10:00 - 10:15: Welcome
 - 10:15 - 10:45: Neil Fried, State of Alaska economist
Growth in Health Care in Alaska, Questions and answers
 - 10:45 - 11:45: Panel discussion by major landowners, institutions, health, education and community leaders in the U/Med area. Discussed will be land use, transportation and essential services required for the University/Medical area to meet its potential providing a thriving economy and high quality living environment.
 - 11:45 - 12:15: Mark Begich, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage
Comments about how Anchorage's Transportation needs will impact the U/Med district.
 - 12:15 - 1:30: Collect sack lunches (provided) and break into interest groups determined by participants -- to discuss topics decided by assembled neighbors.
 - 1:30 - 2:00: Group reports and action plans discussed and implemented. Several State Representatives, assemblymembers and school board members will all be on hand to participate in discussions about land use and transportation plans in this area. Info: 1-800-922-3875.

- **Monday, May 3:** Folker Park cleanup, 6P, Picnic follows, Hot Dogs provided. Info: 563-6328.
- **Saturday, May 15:** Water Cleanup Day - Chester Creek, Goose Lake and University Lake
- **Low Flying Helicopter Noise Complaints:** Contact Merrill Field Airport Manager's Office, 343-6305, David A. Lundeby, Airport Manager, lundebyda@ci.anchorage.ak.us
- **Monday, June 14:** Bragaw/Abbott Loop Extension, public meeting, 5:00P, Service HS

- **APRIL 7 MEETING NEWS:**

- Jeanne McQueary, with Anchorage Roads Coalition for Safe and Sensible Streets (ARC), presented the history of how ARC was formed - by interested community members with a special concern regarding collector and feeder streets. ARC's main goal is to advocate safe, neighborhood friendly and cost effective street construction. The group is concerned that roads in Anchorage are being built to allow for higher speeds. Traffic calming is not being developed in the planning process. There is also concern that the public is not involved in the neighborhood planning issues, leading to conflicts when construction is to start. During the discussion with council attendees, Tim Potter of DOWL Engineers suggested that when money is being allocated for road planning, there be a certain amount designated for a "lessons learned" report after the road is built. The collector street status policy is currently being rewritten by the PM&E department (MOA). It was suggested that community members get involved to give their opinions on what they would like to see in the future. ARC asked that UACC pass the following resolution: **"Resolved that: Whereas the citizens of the Municipality/ State have found their ability to participate in and influence the planning functions of the Municipality and the State to be inadequate we request that the Mayor/Governor adopt the following policy and require that MOA/SOA planning organizations adhere to it:**

NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

This new Executive Order directs MOA/SOA employees to implement Context Sensitive Solutions tools on all department projects. Context Sensitive Solutions is a model for transportation project development that has recently received much discussion and broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the aesthetic, social, economic and environmental values, needs, constraints and opportunities in a larger community setting. MOA/SOA endorses the Context Sensitive Solutions approach for all projects, large and small, from early planning through construction and eventual operation. This means that MOA/SOA employees working on projects and facilities should:

- **Engage from the project's inception with representatives of affected communities including elected and appointed officials and a widely representative array of interested citizens.**
- **Assure that transportation objectives of projects are clearly described and discussed with local communities in a process that encourages reciprocal communication about local views and needs in the overall project setting.**
- **Pay attention to, and address community and citizen concerns.**
- **Ensure the project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.**

Context Sensitive Solutions is a process that places a high value on seeking and, if possible, achieving consensus. MOA's/SOA's belief is that consensus is highly advantageous to all parties and may help avoid delay and other costly obstacles to project implementation." President Tim Neale asked that UACC delay voting on this resolution until the May 5 meeting so that members have the time to review the information and form an opinion.

- Tim Potter, DOWL Engineers, and Newton Chase, with Providence Hospital, spoke to the **Providence Alaska Medical Center South West Campus Expansion**. Potter explained the location of the proposed new parking garage on the southwest side of campus. The garage will have a capacity of 1000 cars and most of the traffic for the southwest campus will come from the proposed extension of Piper Street. He also informed of the proposed medical towers, and a sky bridge which would connect the towers, main campus, and the new parking garage. A Conditional Use application for the parking garage and site improvements, along with a full campus proposal will be included in the architectural plans presented at the Planning and Zoning hearing on May 3.

- A report of the **Walkable Community Neighborhood Workshop** held March 9 was presented by Kelly Brown. UACC's Ad Hoc Neighborhood Revitalization Committee sponsored the meeting which had 25 attendees. The purpose of the meeting was to extract comments for the **Tudor Road Corridor Study** that was taking place. The letter written to DOWL Engineers included the suggestion of incorporating pedestrians and

cyclists in the traffic study count. The committee also discussed the expectations that the neighborhood had expressed for the proposed Piper Street extension and East 42nd Avenue. These include appropriate down focused lighting, paths on both sides of the streets, traffic calming tools, and trail access for students and employees of the U-Med institutions. The history of East 42nd Avenue was given in this letter and long term needs and goals for the neighborhood were discussed as well. It is hoped the Neighborhood Revitalization Committee will continue to meet in the future. A copy of the letter sent to DOWL Engineers can be obtained by calling 563-6328.

• **Assembly Members:**

-Outgoing member Doug Van Etten thanked UACC for the support the council has shown him in the last three years.

-Brian Whittle asked the council for its opinion on the FCC. It was felt that FCC has a role of bringing together the numerous councils in the city in order to facilitate communication. The council's FCC delegate reported that APD is trying to have a police officer attend council meetings periodically. They would like for UACC to send neighborhood issues to this officer in advance of the meeting so the officer can come prepared to speak to the council.

-New member Dan Coffey introduced himself to the council.

PLATTING BOARD CASE:

• **May 5, Case #11249-1:** Postponed from April 7, and April 21: Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, University of Alaska, Providence Alaska Medical Center & Sisters of Providence; To subdivide 5 tracts of land and one unsubdivided parcel into 6 tracts of land with the vacations (**includes Piper Street extension to Providence Drive**) Location: South of Providence Drive, east of Lake Otis Parkway, west of Bragaw Street and north of East 40th Avenue, Representative: Dowl Engineers, Tim Potter; Providence Hospital Site, Tract 1, MHTL Subdivision, Tracts A,C & D, UAA Subdivision, Tract A & an unsubdivided parcel

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

• **May 3, Case #2004-081:** Providence Alaska Medical Center, a Conditional Use to allow a parking garage and oversized surface parking in the PLI District, located NE of Piper Street and East 40th Avenue, Representative: Dowl Engineers, Tim Potter; Petitioner; Providence Hospital Site, Tract 1 (Tract 1-A)

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COUNCIL ORGANIZATION:

• 2nd Member-at-large, Sam Dickey resigned in April. The President appointed Craig Valentine to the position, as provided for in the council's By-Laws.

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

Vice President: Barbara Garner, 563-6328, bbgarner@alaska.com

Co-Secretary/Treasurer: Betty Adkison, 333-1774, bettyadkison6@msn.com

Kelly Brown, 569-5678, kellybrown_ak@yahoo.com

Past President: Jim Parsons (deceased April 4, 2004)

1st Member-at-large: Hugh Wade, 332-4844, hughwade@hotmail.com

2nd Member-at-large: Craig Valentine, 337-3959, craig@camaibnb.com

FCC rep: Kelly Brown

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