

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020 — 7:00-8:45 PM

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049110076> (see more details below)

Call to Order 7:01

Welcome and Introductions
No quorum

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

Issue with funds for businesses being released. Will lead to massive business failure if not resolved. Will be going down to Juneau next week or next week. May also start special session in August or September to deal with budget. Staff working on reform package – substance abuse, criminal justice, education, day care, etc.. They are working with Zack Field's office.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – concerned about the election re: virus and people having opportunity to receive ballot in mail, because the Lieutenant Governor is not supporting that. Anything we can do to make sure everyone gets to vote? TB – there is a concerted effort to get out the vote. Focus on voter turnout as elected officials and as candidates. Having serious conversation with Kevin Meyer. Wants to ensure every senior gets a mail-in ballot. Want to make it as seamless as possible.

Representative Zack Fields

Municipality of Anchorage is considering how to invest CARES Act funding. Reps are coordinating with muni on that. Sent in letter to muni re: signal timing on 5/6th & I/L to slow down traffic.
Tom Begich - Zack is being modest. He has taken to lead on traffic issues, making sure the muni addresses our businesses.

Anchorage School Board member Andy Holleman

We rotate the areas different reps take from year-to-year. Lives in South Anchorage around Dearthmoun. Was a 20-year educators with ASD, also was with union. School year follows a set pattern, but this year more disrupted than any other. End changed suddenly. Period of uncertainty around Spring Break, decision about whether to comeback was put off by a week, then a month. Usually this time of year things are quiet, but continuing to meet during summer. Administration is working out a plan to open again in the fall. Don't have room to create space for students, might be looking at half the students coming some days, half the other days, or morning/afternoon shifts, or fully online. As we get closer to mid-August, will look at how the state is doing and will make a decision. How schools operate has a big effect on how people can work. We seek feedback from community members. Gave Email address for ASB. The process of getting students' belongings back took a long time, required a lot of effort. ASB is working on a statement in response to events re: police interaction with African-American community. Will be looking at SRO program, but it doesn't really seem to be a problem. SRO are not involved in school discipline. They have an office, but don't patrol the school. They only interact with students in a law enforcement capacity if it's a situation where police would be called anyway.

SJ Klein – we really want to reimagine what Fairview Elementary can be. Denali has an expectation that students will be successful. We are interested in changing the culture at Fairview Elementary. Many of us have chosen not to send our kids there, even though it's the neighborhood school. Fairview Elementary leadership has said they will be a choice school if the parents ask for one. We've put forward a few ideas to turn Fairview Elementary into a choice school focused on the arts. Amazing music

program already there. The parents show up for the music and dance performances by students. But there is resistance from the leadership at Fairview Elementary. Also, problem with how COVID impacted Fairview Elementary. Many parents of kids there work full-time and don't have computers at home. They aren't able to stay home and help their kids with online classes.

Andy Holleman - would appreciate hearing more about your concerns with Fairview Elementary. Don't agree with the superintendent in wanting to have each school be the same in terms of what is taught and when. Would like to see more decision-making at the schools, based on input of teachers. Would like to hear from people - andy.holleman@gmail.com.

Allen Kemplen – please look into why there is such turnover of principals at Fairview Elementary. If Fairview Elementary is a magnet school or a school of choice, you're bringing in more parents, some from outside the neighborhood, some with resources to participate in education of their children, involvement with the school and PTA.

Quorum at 7:38.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Harry Need, seconded by Dave Rittenberg. No discussion. Agenda approved.

Approval of May 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Moved by Laura Orenge de Gaffory, seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld. No discussion. Minutes approved.

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

Addressing expenditures of CARES Act funding. Asked all the downtown councils to provide CIP lists. Looking at this with focus on projects that put people to work and put money into people's hands. Will move those projects forward. Example, there is a lot of beetle kill. Would like to hire people to go into residential neighborhoods and abutting woodlands to remove the dead trees. Multiple benefits: jobs, beautification, reduction of fire risk. FVCC CIP has a range of projects from small to large.

National scenario of civil unrest. Some people are making an argument that Anchorage Police are the second-worse in the country. Would challenge people to look at the data, which doesn't really support that claim. Some of our neighborhoods have had underinvestment for years. Will have discussions for next few months. Waiting to hear from organized voices from the African-American community about what we need to do here. Looking forward to policy discussions.

Looking at investments for additional facilities for homeless people. Policy documents at muni have bullet points, "Not in 99501."

Ron Alleva – you're talking about not having more facilities in 99501, but is there talk about closing Brother Francis Shelter and Beans Café? Can you get them out of our neighborhood?

Christopher Constant – probably not, we can keep further investments out of 99501, but it's not likely we'll be able to close Brother Francis Shelter and Beans Café.

SJ Klein – How do you deal with human feces? Is there is a policy on how the public is supposed to deal with human feces for people who have come from homeless shelters? Christopher Constant – recommend you compile those videos, anonymizing the faces, and show video at policy meetings, would put some people in the spot. We need public toilets. It's inhuman how we treat people.

Dave Rittenberg – I do have policy for that and can send it to you. We've seen a deconcentration of services. The providers did not like the situation on Karluk Street. It was hard for us to do our job when there were 400 people in that small space. We, as service providers, don't want to see that situation return anymore than businesses or residents in the neighborhood. There was perception that we liked how things were, but we didn't. We were told in no uncertain terms by APD that our ability to police our clients stopped at the boundaries of our property.

Christopher Constant – we are poised now to make extensive changes and we’re not going back to what we were doing before. But DOT is not coming to the table. Without addressing the highway, we’re stuck. Allen Kemplen – harvesting the dead spruce is a good idea. Would like to note that the FVCC, as part of our neighborhood initiative, have tiny log homes as one of the projects. It would be good to put some guidelines in for cutting lengths of the logs for constructing tiny homes. Could help our homeless situation through sweat equity.

Leslie Kleinfeld – anything happening with mental health services in anchorage with CARES Act funding?

Christopher Constant – there isn’t enough in the CARES Act to address these problems. Focus is getting funds to people through jobs. Comments about funding of mental health. Tom Begich – I’ve begun conversation with Cathy Geissel and the Mental Health Trust about mental health services. AMHTA has a lot of land that can tapped into for funding. Budget from last year opened many people’s eyes up to the deficiencies with substance abuse and mental health treatment. It’s a priority for this funding to come from the state because municipalities can’t do it alone. Christopher Constant – I intend to use CARES Act for “transformational investments.”

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

- Heritage Land Bank making presentation about rezone of old Native Hospital from PLI to B2-C, on July 1st at 5:30 pm
- Merrill Field moving forward with plans to spend \$18M of their CARES Act fund.
- “Last Stop on Karluk,” encourage people to check it out.
- JBER doing “JBER Salutes” for essential workers. Offering them tours on base on July 10th. Looking for names and job titles of people considered essential workers so he can invite them 552-4659.

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee, \$15 Zoom subscription. Current balances:

General \$426; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$4930. Total \$6642

Presentations

Colleen Howard, Alaska Joint Ventures, regarding Voodoo Cannabis Neighborhood Plan

Recently purchased old Falafel King and Senor Taco buildings. She was born and raised in Anchorage. Former ICU nurse in Anchorage. Currently own two cannabis dispensary licenses, looking forward to being a member of the Fairview community.

SJ Klein – ad hoc committee reviewed Neighborhood Responsibility Plan. Basically a copy of the ones submitted by other similar businesses. SJ Klein moves that the FVCC have a non-objection to Voodoo Cannabis. Seconded by Harry Need. Leslie Kleinfeld – how many cannabis businesses do we have? SJ Klein – Secret Garden, Alaska Buds, and two more, so this would be five. Leslie Kleinfeld – so that would be within 1.5 miles of each other? SJ Klein – per capita population, it’s a lot, but there is a lot of traffic in the area. It provides a lot of jobs. Christopher Constant - the highest concentration of retail licenses is in Spenard, there are 12, the market is starting to sort things out. There will be closures. Harry Need - pleased to see capital improvement and investments that these businesses are making in the neighborhood. These were for the most part previously rundown properties. Pleased to see the investment and the two businesses this couple have invested in are doing well. Colleen Howard – comment about lack of bathroom facilities for homeless people, experiencing same issues on this property. Ron Alleva – I own Eagle Automotive building across the street. Hope that the added security of a business across the street will help us both. Welcome to the neighborhood. No objection to the motion. Motion is approved.

Tanya Hickok, The Boutet Company, regarding 3rd Avenue improvements

Scope of project limited to sidewalk. For CPTED, planning to install filter rock along south side of sidewalk. In addition to street lighting, will also install pedestrian lighting at corner of 3rd and Karluk. 5 foot tall bollard lighting in Fairview green color. At 95%, plan to have construction start in July and go through summer. Christopher Constant – 95% design and nothing changed except a bit of the lane pattern. We're putting in sidewalks that will encourage people to cross the street. This is an unsafe area for pedestrians. People will die, and when they do, it will be because of this plan. Tanya Hickok – the municipality is just looking at bringing this road up to minimum standards and adding the sidewalk. This is an engineering project, not a social project. Christopher Constant – the muni's decision to do it this way is going to lead to death. SJ Klein – agree with Chris's comments. Improvements to the south side of street encourage more crossing. Population isn't there now, but otherwise it's a thoroughfare. CDBG authorized \$100K for a concrete barrier along the southern edge of the northern sidewalk. I don't see anything about that in your plans. You should include that in your plans if it is going to happen. Tanya Hickok – we are under contract to prepare the design drawings for the HLB for those barriers. They're not ready for public release yet. Leslie Kleinfeld – I thought there was a possibility this area might go underground in terms of the highway. It's like we're putting a band aid on this, rather than dealing with DOT not coming to the table and committing where they will put the highway. We should be putting our money into figuring out how to prevent traffic coming into the city from conflicting with pedestrians. Tanya Hickok – this is a municipal project, not focused on human factors. Allen Kemplen – this is a short-term project, highway is a medium-term project. This project will have immediate, short-term benefits. Ron Alleva – the Truckers Association objects to this because the lane reduction makes it more likely that an out-of-control truck will run up on sidewalks and into people there on the sidewalks. David Rittenberg – would appreciate if other people don't tell me what my opinion is. Would also like if the plan could be sent out to the council membership should we could have a closer look at it. A sidewalk on the south side of 3rd Avenue could be a disaster with the traffic. Tanya Hickok – it's moving forward on construction, not seeking comments at this point. Allen Kemplen – can you forward landscape plan set to me so I can forward them? Harry Need – Moves a resolution in opposition of the 95% of the proposed 3rd Avenue channelization, etc. Allen Kemplen – perhaps the sponsor of the resolution can include those words in his written submission. Referred to Executive Board.

New Business

Allen Kemplen – Introduction of a Resolution Regarding Municipal Efforts to Attract Hong Kong Residents to Anchorage in Support of Opportunity Zones and Reinvestment Areas. Referred to Executive Board

SJ Klein – Introduction of a Resolution Requesting the Municipality to Place Toilets in Areas Affected by Homeless Services. Referred to Executive Board.

Christopher Constant – suggests that the FVCC send him a letter asking for this, stating there is a resolution pending. Moved by SJ Klein to authorize the president to request placement of portable toilets in the public right-of-way etc. Seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld. Dave Rittenberg - who will be responsible for monitoring these? SJ Klein suggested they be emptied/monitored daily. No opposition to the motion. Motion is approved.

Christopher Constant – there is a work session tomorrow at 12:45 pm about the CARES Act. Would be good to get the letter before then.

Unfinished Business

Capital Improvement Plan

Allen Kemplen shared his screen showing the resolution. They are the same priorities that the council approved last year, with the inclusion of items from the Neighborhood Improvement Initiative project list. Leslie Kleinfeld – with the city and state responding the pandemic, how does that effect the CIP? This is a wonderful wish list, but in reality, what can we really expect will be done about any of these items? Allen Kemplen – there will be lots of money coming in through CARES Act, these federal dollars will be spent on projects that will put people to work. Some of our projects might be selected. Congress is also considering further stimulus funding, so more money might be coming into the neighborhood, and it's important that we have a list. Tristan Walsh – we still have to pass our capital budget. Your list is helpful for that. The second round of stimulus from Congress might include funds for infrastructure. Harry Need moved, SJ Klein seconded to approve the resolution. No objection, resolution approved.

Motion to extend by 10 mins. Moved by Dave Rittenberg, seconded by James Thornton

Dave Rittenberg – we're anxiously watching what the muni plans to do after the mass shelters close and winter draws closer. As a service provider at shelter for 10 years, none of us want it to return to how it was. Want to be partners in making sure that doesn't happen again. Encourage this body to make your voice heard in meetings discussing clustering of services.

Allen Kemplen – Dave helped us schedule Jasmine Boyle, Executive Director of ACEH, to talk to us at August GMM.

Community Comments

Justin Black – lives at 12th and Cordova in South Addition, issue of AT&T installing cell tower 100 feet across from his house. Cell tower would be in Fairview. Would be 10 feet from Cordova Square condos. Has concerns about health effects of cell towers. Cited research, noting it is out-of-date. Large issue with cell tower being put in so close to people's homes.

Evan Anderson – Alaska Center – need to push our Lieutenant Governor to get as many absentee ballots requested from Fairview. Get out the vote.

Anchorage Mutual Aid Network – neighbors helping neighbors with anything from picking up groceries, yardwork, dog walking, etc. <https://www.wearemana.org/>, evan@akcenter.org. Seeking neighborhood leads in Fairview.

Adjourn 9:10 PM