

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020 — 7:01-8:42 PM
On ZOOM

Call to Order

7:01 pm

Welcome and Introductions. No quorum.

Approval of Agenda – no action due to lack of quorum

Approval of June and July 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes – no action due to lack of quorum

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

Insider's view of PEL. Office will be harassing the winner of the PEL RFP, will have to deal with him on a weekly basis. Proposes that the FVCC put together a formal working group to work with his and Zack Field's offices.

Governor's program for getting money out to businesses continues to fail. About 20 people from Juneau economic council brought on board to review applications. Running the funds solely through Credit Union 1 makes no sense. Businesses in district are failing, not getting the money, even though they submitted applications properly. Put out \$17M of available \$290M. Hope was to go back to Juneau soon to deal with the situation. There is \$3M on the table for a safe election process, but Governor did not take the money. Need to go back to request that funding. 53,000 people have requested absentee ballots, requesting that Lt. Governor put a business-reply envelope in with absentee ballots.

Census data collection is coming to an end, but there has only been 50% response from Alaska.

Trump wants to reduce funding to USPS because it will make it harder for people to vote by mail.

Leslie Kleinfeld – is the Fairview PEL a go? Tom Begich – yes, RFP is out, but the RFP did not meet all the conditions we placed on it. But it did not exclude them, so we will be adding these, mostly more reporting requirements for the vendor. They need to include the community-based things. Want to FVCC to talk about it over the next six weeks. We've been doing it informally, let's make it formal.

Allen Kemplen – regarding the Great American Outdoors Act and money made available by Congress. Will this be on the agenda for the next session? Tom Begich – don't know. That would be a capital budget issue. There are a number of federal funding initiatives out there and we don't always know about all of them.

Everybody stay safe out there. We are getting more and more COVID cases.

Tristan Walsh on behalf of Representative Zack Fields – CARES Act grants are still in progress. They just received a raft of updates last week. If you received less than \$5,000 for paycheck protection program, you can apply for more funds. There is nothing to prevent a business from getting both PPP funds and CARES Act funding. Dept of Commerce and AIDEA are discussing removing the cap. More people are coming on board to review applications.

Governor announced that federal FEMA funds under Stafford Act can be applied towards unemployment insurance. If you are receiving the maximum of \$320 per week, you can get a supplemental \$300 per week. But this involves digging into existing state funds, and also digging into FEMA funds set aside for hurricane relief.

There is a lot of community transmission of COVID in Anchorage right now. Be safe, wear a mask.

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

Touched bases with James Boehm at Health and Human Service Neighborhoods section re: status of public input on HUD funds for Consolidated Action Plan. Original schedule of June/July has been pushed back, he will let Allen know. Important because it is associated with the concept of the Fairview Neighborhood Initiative Plan.

No progress on Eastchester Park project improvements. Delayed until next summer.

Community gardens at 14th and Ingra, getting ready to move forward with formally filing an application with DOT to get a permit to have a community garden there. Should have more information next month. Ron Alleva – regarding community garden, we held a fund-raiser auction, set a goal of \$1,000 goal, don't know how much has been raised yet. Saw that a neighbor put out a swing set, would be good to talk to that person about what he would like to see at the garden, like a playground. I'll offer assistance and equipment to help with any physical work at the site.

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

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

General \$396; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$4930. Total \$6627

Presentations

Jasmine Boyle, Executive Director, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Jasmine Boyle gave a PowerPoint presentation showing current statistics on homeless in Anchorage, gaps in services, anticipated large increase in new homelessness due to COVID.

Questions/Comments – Ron Alleva – you pointed out the upcoming evictions and new homelessness, this will likely hit Fairview hard, we should be first in line for support to keep people in their homes, we could use an family outreach hub here in Fairview. They want to make Beans a service center, but the new homeless population is not likely to go the Beans.

Jasmine Boyle – there has been a lot of discussion around AO-2020-066, purchase of 4 properties, including Beans, which would be intended to be a day space for people who sleep at Brother Francis, to prevent people from wandering around all day. But Beans has not committed to selling. Love the idea of diverting new homeless. We have McKinnell House, Clare House, and a hotel designated for families. If we see more families falling into homelessness, we'll send them to places like that. Unaccompanied youth will be sent to Covenant House or Volunteers of America. Hope that money in CARES Act will be distributed to the community through 211.

Tristan Walsh – we've referred constituents to 211 for rental assistance, they got help right away from Lutheran Social Services. Want to get people who get eviction notices to receive information about rental assistance.

Leslie Kleinfeld – where are we on setting up mental health support for people who are super-traumatized? We have a lack of mental health capacity in this state, is this part of the equation?

Jasmine Boyle – we have great needs, across the state people with those needs end up in Anchorage, mental health work is often siloed from homeless services, homelessness is a bucket that catches everything. The 11-15 waiver makes it easier to access funds for mental health. Crisis Now is a new

service that triaged people with mental health needs and diverts them from police and emergency mental health services. Builds upon what the Mobile intervention Team is doing. AMHTA would be a good place to ask about this.

Allen Kemplen – COVID-19 and increase in newly-homeless people, is there thought about using vacant hotel rooms to house some of these people? The hotels could provide low-cost, affordable housing.

Jasmine Boyle – there has been some discussion of this, providers are struggling with COVID issues, resources, how you provide services. Providers are focusing on landlords because of high vacancy rates, and also small hotel operators, asking them if they want to act like landlords, it is better to put people in hotels than in large facilities. The municipality and the Emergency Operations Center would need to partner with us on that to develop agreements with hotels, because the providers are already strapped and treading water.

Allen Kemplen – providers operate within siloes, and even in crisis, they are still stuck in those siloes. It is good to break down these siloes. COVID will be with us for a bit, and there has been a reduction in tourism and convention travel. ACEH should open up a dialogue with the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau about use of public facilities like the Denaina Center. Traditional silo thinking (e.g., use of Sullivan and Ben Boeke) has burdened Fairview, with an unjust and inequitable portion of the burden that the community as a whole needs to share. I applaud the Assembly for looking at locations in mid-town, but there is more density and housing in East Anchorage, but I don't see facilities over there where the population is.

Jasmine Boyle – nobody asks me where to put these services. Providers are willing to be creative. Idea to put people in hotels requires money – to contract with hotel, provide services to them when they're in the hotel, make contact with landlords to get the people out of the hotels, etc. How can you ask a provider to take this on without more money? Right now the muni is controlling all COVID-related money and they aren't putting any funds towards this.

Karen Gonne-Harrell – had a tenant who lost Choices funding. Tenant was referred to Home for Good, who will be paying their rent. This program is good and will probably be getting a lot of attention soon.

Jasmine – Home for Good is run by the United Way.

Ray Flores from Shirts Up! – marketing and branding proposal

Not at meeting, but Allen gave report. He met with Ray about quantities and materials for t-shirts, stickers, etc. Ray suggested developing a website where people could make selections about which graphic they like the best, and sizes, and so on, so as to get a good sense of quantities. When the website is ready, the FVCC will send out a notice to our membership.

Allen Kemplen - Noise app and crowd-sourcing of noise data

Encourage folks to go the Federation's webpage for the council. We've added information about noise. More people are working at home and they are becoming aware that the neighborhood is really noisy during the day. The National Institute of Health has developed a noise-measuring application for Apple phones, and there are other apps for other phones, that give immediate readings on noise levels. Measured 85 decibels on one occasion. The muni's Health and Human Services webpage has information on health impacts of excessive noise. Asks people to download the apps and start recording

the noise levels. We will make a map showing the results of this crowd-sourcing effort. We can let frequent violators know about the health impacts of excessive noise on Fairview residents. We can use these apps in a coordinated fashion to make our neighborhood better.

New Business

Unfinished Business

- Resolution Regarding Municipal Efforts to Attract Hong Kong Residents to Anchorage in Support of Opportunity Zones and Reinvestment Areas – no action due to lack of quorum
- Resolution Requesting the Municipality to Place Toilets in Areas Affected by Homeless Services – no action due to lack of quorum

Community Comments

Sharon Chamard asked about whether people want to have recordings of our meetings put online. General discussion with no conclusion.

Ron Alleva mentioned situation of woman from Brother Francis Shelter leaving facility in a wheelchair. There was garbage in the area and there was a bear. Ron talked to staff from BFS and they said they weren't responsible for people once they leave the facility. They haven't dealt with the crosswalk problem, and there are other people across the street in wheelchairs. It is elder abuse. The respite facility should be moved to where the Animal Care and Control facility is, because it is flatter there.

Sarah Kehoe said she raised the issue of cutting the trail back through Sitka Park, and it was done very quickly.

Adjourn 8:42 PM