

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2020 — 7:05-9:12 PM
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049110076>

Call to Order at 7:05 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda, moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell, no objection.

Approval of minutes

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell, to approve June minutes, no opposition.

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell, to approve July minutes, no opposition.

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell, to approve August minutes, no opposition.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

1. Governor rewrote CARES Act RPL to let businesses take advantage of federal CARES Act funding. \$290M is finally moving. Efforts to get legislature back together have failed. Will not have a special session. Emergency orders will expire Sept 15, Governor's appointments to boards and commission appointments will expire Dec. 15. Will go back to Juneau in January.
2. Roughly 45% of Alaskans voted early or absentee in the primary. It was the second-highest turnout in the past decade. The numbers of votes cast went from 88,000 in 2016 to 133,000. Absentee ballots for general election will be coming Oct. 9th.
3. Pushing to get Census count extended. President Trump reduced counting time by a month. Alaska has lowest response rate, have until end of September to be counted. After that, we will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars. Begich's district has among the lowest reporting rates; they are abysmal. Has an impact on the federal resources we will receive.
4. At recent Midtown Congestion Relief meeting, DOWL did a good job listening to the input. It is important to keep incorporating new traffic patterns due to COVID, keep track of pedestrian uses, and focus on how the neighborhood lives.
5. Working on a project to develop a statewide parks program/foundation to develop matches for the \$9 m in federal funds. Seeking input from people.
6. COVID – remain lowest state re: deaths, because of freed-up hospital beds, among lowest 5 for number of cases, tourism industry suffers, but Americans can't really travel overseas, so there may be more domestic travel. Does not support a vaccination mandate, but does think people should get it.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – can you clarify comments about the parks funding? Tom Begich – these are land and water conservation funds, we're eligible for up to \$9 m but there needs to be a state match. A model like the Anchorage Parks Foundation for the whole state would make sense. We need a non-bureaucratic program that is easy to access. Several council members gave suggestions on which organizations should be involved in planning the project.

Q from Ron Alleva – been in contact with state surplus, they have allowed an outside auctioneer to get the contract for selling the surplus. Concerned too much surplus is being sold by outside firms. Request that you look into this. Tom Begich – will ask the basic question - whatever happened to state hire?

Q from Ron Alleva – concerned about recent outbreak at BFS. Thinks it is 103 out of 110 clients, but there has been no notification of adjacent property owners neighbors. Wants it to be a requirement that

neighbors be informed about COVID outbreaks. Tom Begich – neighbors should be notified. Will follow up on this.

Anchorage School Board member Andy Holleman

When schools will open is contingent on cases, 14-day daily average needs to be below 30. Bumpy start to the semester. Had to move staff around and shuffle classes. Things will smooth out.

Q from Ron Alleva – there are surplus refrigerator trucks, can you look into getting those released by the School Board? Andy Holleman – we usually approve those things. It's an issue for Purchasing. Will ask the Superintendent. Ron Alleva – has 100 school desks. If you know of anyone who wants them, or want to take them back.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – why aren't principals actively involved in curriculum decisions? They are in an uproar right now. Andy Holleman – There is a Smart Reopening Committee, about 30-40 people, to review ideas and bring things forward. Everyone was supposed to be paid \$40/hr. Principals wanted to get their per diem rate because this was beyond their usual duties. But this didn't happen, so they didn't serve on the committee. Board has to put authority back to principals at the school level.

Superintendent will not probably want to give up authority. Contract negotiation with principals is ongoing. Complicated decisions had to be made. There are 125 principals/vice principals. They are not being consulted on every one of these decisions.

Q from Maria Crawford – does ASD have any guidelines on events partnering with the PTA? Andy Holleman – we are making school buildings available to groups doing daycare-type things, under strict guidelines. We can't let anybody use the space, because there are rules that have to be followed. Looking at bringing sports teams back, because their practices can be cancelled if they don't follow rules. PTA could probably have an event if it follows the COVID rules. SJ Klein – Maria is thinking about the Trunk-or-Treat event. Andy Holleman – If activities can happen, we want them to, to help things feel normal. Contact info: Cell 301-7004; Holleman_Andy@asdk12.org

SJ Klein – comment from parent of student in Romig. We miss having books. Many teachers are new to doing online teaching, they are using a lot of web resources. Andy Holleman – one of the things that changed a few years back, is that instead of buying a set of books for all the students, science books started coming in volumes, so some students used one volume for some time, others were using other ones in the set.

Standing Reports

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee, \$91.94 Zoom subscription, \$30 SOA Corporation Renewal Fee. Current balances: General \$267; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$4930. Total \$6,498

Presentations

Cathleen McLaughlin – director of mass shelter at Sullivan Area. Currently have 376 spots for people experiencing homelessness. This is 352 cots, 15 permanent mats, and 9 temporary mats. We have been at capacity about 2/3 of the time in the past month. COVID is here. Homeless people are not the most accountable when it comes to isolating. Most recent testing from Tuesday morning- 154 tests, 13 positives, 9 of those people are in isolation. We have created a mechanism and a communication stream to minimize the impact of homeless people with COVID. Her goal is to keep the community safe. She owns property in Fairview and lives close to the shelter. Wants to be transparent and hear from people. Tom Begich – what are the protocols in place about letting the neighbors know what is going on re: COVID outbreaks? Cathleen McLaughlin – if a neighbor contacts me (at 342-5380), I directly communicate with them about what we're doing. My view is, the Sullivan is a municipal building owned by all of us, and we need to be accountable for what is happening inside and to our neighbors. We do

mass tests weekly, but not on the same day or time to get a wide range of people (about 430 people use Sullivan on given day). This is a temporary shelter, not a permanent solution. We need to look, as a community, how we are going to move people out.

Ron Alleva – we’ve heard this “we want to be good neighbors” story before. You say this is temporary but once you get the Conditional Use Permit, it will be permanent and you will not be a good neighbor.

Cathleen McLaughlin – this is an opportunity to change how the community responds to homelessness. We need to move forward.

Qs from SJ - - how many of your 350 beds are transient and how many are “long-term” residents?

A. from Cathleen McLaughlin - It’s a head in a bed. If you are using a cot, you can stay there as long as you need to.

Q. Do you require testing of all new residents/visitors?

A. We require testing of staff. Zero staff tested positive. Can’t mandate tests of residents.

Q. The population is largely social, and if you have positive results how do you conduct contact tracing?

A. We have a lot of minglers. COVID is in the homeless community.

Q. What do you do when a client refuses a test?

A. Cannot mandate a test. Can encourage them, ask them to leave if they don’t follow the rules to minimize transmission.

Q. What protocols are you following now?

A. Weekly tests. Immediately moving positive cases off-site to isolation and quarantine sites provided by the EOC.

Q. What kind of contact tracing is going on among your infected residents?

A. Ask if people have been inside for 15 minutes without a mask. Ask people around the cot of someone who tested positive. Ask them to quarantine. 95% of those people test negative.

Dave Rittenberg – update from Brother Francis Shelter. August 18, got a call from a guest who was at hospital. Determined guest had tested positive. Conversations with muni were already underway to set up testing program. Did internal contact tracing, got the sole contact moved to quarantine space in quest house, When someone tests positive, contact EOC, they come pick them up and take them to one of the multiple hotels they are using for quarantine. A lot of David’s role in last couple of weeks is helping people who are doing this work to work better with homeless population. E.g., suggesting F2F interviewing for contact tracing rather than paper forms or online. Cases snowballed. Testing strategy is not perfect, test on Monday, get results back on Wednesday or Thursday. Not the best, but it is what we have. Saw large number of positives. Got people connected with EOC and they got into the guest house. EOC had 30 rooms at first, now have 130. Someone from ANTHC working with “persons experiencing homelessness” cluster. Latest test results show no new positives in that cluster. Trying to balance the need for social distancing against the need for shelter eds. Don’t want people sleeping outside or camping. At start of outbreak was 114 beds. But also had to do congregate dining. Not best for the situation. Changed program model – used to put mats down wherever. Now we have bunks for people 24/7. No congregate dining. People have to eat at their bunks. Require mask wearing. Can’t mandate tests, but encourage. Everyone is doing it. We have 114 beds, but not always the same people. As of last week, all but 2 people of the 158 who passed through BFS since first positive test have been tested. Require testing of all new residents and of all staff. Once per week. If client refuses, provide multiple opportunities and ways of getting tested. No issues with people not getting tested. Most people are very receptive or at least agreeable. Environmental Health person from Dept of Health at Muni has been through facility a few times and has signed off on what they are doing.

New Business

- Resolution regarding updating the Fairview Neighborhood Plan to include the Fairview Greenway and the Fairview Innovation Area

Moved by Sharon Chamard. Leslie Kleinfeld asked about why this is happening. Kristine Bunnell gave the context about how the Planning Department had given guidance to the council about how to move ahead to get Greenway and Innovation Area added to neighborhood plan.

- Motion regarding Muni's purchase of properties for homelessness and substance abuse services, to authorize the FVCC to send a letter to the municipality supporting the purchase of the four properties

Moved by Dave Rittenberg and seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld. SJ Klein gave some background. Tom Begich – he and Rep. Fields wrote a letter to the Assembly along the same lines. Roger Sgraves – we have a concern because there is a lot of controversy in the city about the use of CARES Act funds for this purchase. Tom Begich – also concerned it was an improper use of CARES Act funding, but has been assured the money is coming from the ML&P fund. SJ Klein – staff came to HHAND Commission with this concept 2-3 months ago. Intent was to use CARES Act funding originally to leverage longer-term solutions to deal with future outbreaks. Can do things to respond to acute problem to make the next problem less acute.

Ron Alleva – amendment was put in to buy my parcel first before Beans Café. I did an environmental study and appraisal, none of these other properties have been vetted and they don't even have a plan. Don't do this. It is being done in haste. Made a motion to amend the motion to support the purchases after Ron's property is purchased. Seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell. Following discussion, the vote on the amendment failed. Continued discussion of original motion. Passed with a vote of Yeas 11, Nays 1.

Motion by James Thornton to extend to 9:10, seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld.

Unfinished Business

- Resolution 2020-02, Requesting the Municipality to Place Toilets in Areas Affected by Homeless Services

SJ Klein read resolution. He forwarded the resolution after first reading to the Assembly's Homelessness Committee and they supported the idea, but they haven't moved on it yet. Motion to approve 2020-02 by Leslie Kleinfeld. Seconded by Roger Sgraves. Roger Sgraves – our business has been heavily impacted by COVID. 90 days of complete closure. Our property and the property around it has become a magnet for the homeless population. There is a lot of human waste. We specifically request that a portapottie be placed at 5th and Gambell in plain sight of everyone so it will be clear that this is a problem for the city that needs to be dealt with. Discussion about vandalism and location of portapotties, and misuse of them for drugs, etc. The resolution passed with a vote of Yeas 9, Nays 0.

Report and Updates

Community Garden – Karen Gonne-Harrell – has filled out the form, needs a signature and a check for \$100.

Adjourn 9:12 PM