

**Meeting of the Airport Heights Community Council**  
**September 17, 2020**

The meeting was called to order via ZOOM by President Carolyn Ramsey. A quorum was present.

There was a motion to accept/approve the May minutes. There was no objection to this motion.  
Motion passed.

**Attendance:** Chelsea Ward-Waller; John Grover Whitlock; Carolyn Ramsey; Barbara Karl; Crystal Morris; Matt Burgoon; Genevieve Mina; Susan Ives & John Cobb; Jennifer Leneave on Oak; Margi Clifford on APH Dr.; Amber Morris; Hope Meyn & Matthew Nyholm on APH Dr.; Katie Conway (DOWL); Russ Porter (AWWU); James Armstrong (AWWU); Mike Knutson (AWWU); Barbara on Logan St.; Brix Hahn (Staff to Sen. Begich); Anne Lazenby and Lynne Eldridge; Karlene Leeper; Larry Hayden; Assembly Member Felix Rivera; Assembly Member Meg Zaletel; School Board Member Margo Bellamy; Rep. Geran Tarr; Sen. Tom Begich; Ed Brewer; Mark Sabel

**Legislative/Assembly Updates:** Brix Hahn with Senator Begich's office spoke. 1) Legislative budget and audit committee met about 2 weeks ago; they convinced the governor to unlock 260 million in CARES funding for Alaska businesses; 2) Final Push to complete the census. Deadline is at the end of the month. There are talks with Congress to extend the deadline, but there are no guarantees; 3) Not likely to have a special session, but Sen. Begich and his caucus support one to address issues related to COVID-19 (other leaders in the house, senate, and the governor's office are not supportive of a special session). 4) Do not forget to get your absentee ballot requests in. 5) Senator Begich joined later and said that he has been attending meetings relating to mid-town planning and will continue to monitor the planning process. Representative Geran Tarr spoke briefly about the following: 1) Working on updating the definition of "consent" in statute. This language is outdated. Currently, there is a big national effort to reform this language. We have been working with STAR and ADVSA and will be getting feedback regarding language for a new statute at a statewide meeting. 2) Rep. Tarr and Sen. Begich will be having a constituent meeting on October 10, 2020. 3) Discussed the Northway Mall / Carrs closure; mentioned how the Carrs store closed due to declining theft. Rep. Tarr discussed access to pharmacies and said that it's against federal law to tie access to pharmacies to club memberships (so if you are not a member of Costco, you can still use their pharmacy). Assembly Member Zaletel. 1) Assembly chambers are now open to the public with limitations. Testimony is still being taken by phone and email. 2) This past meeting, there was discussion regarding employee retention for hotels (this item was postponed indefinitely). The assembly created an office of equity and justice with the idea being the assembly or a department could request the assistance of an equity officer to get help in developing, supporting, or implementing equity policy for the assembly. 3) Emergency declaration is set to expire on 10/16 (the date that corresponds with the end of the school quarter). Here is a link to the CARES act funding [web site https://assembly-cares-act-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/](https://assembly-cares-act-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/). Felix Rivera. 1) Member Rivera discussed a presentation given to the MOA public safety committee (he mentioned that property crimes and theft crimes are experiencing downward trends; violent crimes, assault, sexual assaults, and robberies are experiencing a downward trend; and homicide rates are experiencing a downward trend - <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Public%20Safety%20Committee.aspx>); 2) Discussed the allocation of CARES act funding (consult <https://assembly-cares-act-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/> for further details); 3) The assembly will be

working on the budget in October and November. One discussion that will take place during this time is regarding the use of proceeds from the sale of ML&P to CEA.

**School Board Report (Margo Bellamy):** 1) Provided an update regarding the school board meetings being open to the public; 2) Discussed that schools are closed to the public until further notice; 3) Enrollment is down 5K – this will have a significant impact on funding; 4) Parent teacher conferences will most likely be held via zoom in October; 5) ASD has delivered 21,675 chrome books to families along 3,195 internet connectivity devices. Any kid that needs to have a chrome book or connectivity needs to contact their school right away; 6) From now until December 31, free and reduced lunch is available for all who want it due to a federal waiver. A list of food distribution spots are available on the ASD web page. 7) The ASD superintendent recently release a re-entry plan. This plan is waiting until October to add changes based on additional input and the current state of public health.

**Russ Porter, James Armstrong, and Mike Knutson w/ AWWU(Thunderbird Terrance and Grandview Subdivision Water Upgrade Update)** – They have finished water lining on 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and will finish Columbine by the end of the year. Wintergreen, Valarian, 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, and Nichols is slated to be completed in 2021. Will provide another update at October's Meeting

**Nominating committee:** Amber Morris was appointed as the nominating committee chair + Karen Walker and Mark Sabel were also appointed as members. There were no objections by the body to these appointments.

**President's Report:** 1) Nothing has happened with Tikishla Park. Steve Raffuse says that they put the park out for bid and it is the first time they have ever had no bids come in for a project. The project will go out for bid again with the project to hopefully start in the spring of 2021. 2) Airport Heights Drive and Alder Drive have been targeted for traffic calming measures. Columbine, east 17<sup>th</sup>, east 16<sup>th</sup>, and Noreen St. did not make the MOA traffic calming list; 3) Picnic did not happen this year due to COVID-19. 4) Bean construction on Sunrise and the planting went well. Props to Emily Becker.

**FCC Report:** Discussion ensued regarding FCC feedback on the CIP process and how it can be improved. The FCC recently received thousands of cloth masks for distribution.