

1 **UACC MEETING MINUTES**

2 **October 7, 2020**

- 3 **1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting, via Zoom, was  
4 called to order by President Paul Stang at 7:00 pm. Al Milspaugh acted as host  
5 for the Zoom meeting. Al Milspaugh announced that the meeting will be live  
6 streamed and recorded. These will be available via Zoom and Facebook apps,  
7 and as such no privacy should be expected. Paul said that the normal  
8 introductions would be suspended. There were 36 people present during  
9 portions of the meeting (Attachment 1).
- 10 **2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with Susan Share second-  
11 ing, moved to approve the September 2, 2020 minutes. The minutes were ap-  
12 proved by unanimous vote 9/0.
- 13 **3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight’s agenda. Susan  
14 Klein moved to approve to the agenda, with Al Milspaugh second. The agenda  
15 was passed by unanimous vote of 9/0.

16 **4. Informational Reports**

17 **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**

- 18 **a. State Senator Bill Wielechowski-** Bill discussed three items. These were;  
19 1) his work with the Therapeutic Task Force, 2) a letter sent to the Lt.  
20 Governor to request an increase in mail in ballot drop boxes and, 3) the  
21 State court found that witness signatures are not required on mail in ballots.  
22 On the latter Bill recommended one should still provide the witness  
23 signature until there is final disposition of the case.
- 24 **b. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson-** For details on Elvi Gray Jackson’s  
25 written report to UACC. See Attachment 2.
- 26 **c. State House Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy reported activities  
27 that he has been involved with lately particularly with the Finance  
28 Committee.
- 29 **d. State Representative Ivy Sponholz-** Ivy discussed the impact of COVID-  
30 19 on the State economy. She highlighted the high unemployment rates,  
31 how relief funds have expired, and how gig workers are not covered by  
32 previous relief. She asked that individuals contact their Senators to ask for  
33 the passing of a new Federal relief bill. She also mentioned that interest in  
34 mail in voting is extremely high with 110,000 ballots already mailed out,  
35 and that the deadline for requesting a ballot is October 25<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned  
36 that vote by mail ballots may not be tallied until November 18<sup>th</sup>. Paul  
37 Stang noted that absentee ballots and vote by mail can be considered  
38 synonymous.

- 39 e. **Assembly Chair Felix Rivera-** Felix reported the following items. He  
40 said the Assembly will be debating whether to extend the COVID-19  
41 Emergency Declaration since it will expire on October 16<sup>th</sup>. He also said  
42 the Assembly will also be examining an Ordinance that would require body  
43 cameras be employed by the Anchorage Police Department.
- 44 f. **Assembly Member-Pete Peterson-** Pete reported that Taxi fees will be  
45 temporarily lowered to reflect the impact that COVID-19 has had on the  
46 industry. He indicated the MLP sale to Chugach Electric should be  
47 finalized by end of October or early November. The large payment from  
48 this sale the MOA will receive will be put into trust funds to help lower  
49 future overall municipal taxes.
- 50 g. **Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar:-** Forrest reported the Assembly is  
51 considering removing the tax exemption on vaping products. He indicated  
52 that the Municipality offered to help the State run its mail in ballot effort,  
53 using the example of how Anchorage helped Juneau out on their recent  
54 election which resulted in their highest turnout. He mentioned the four  
55 capital improvement projects of interest to UACC that are funded for this  
56 year: 1) Campbell Creek trail improvements and way finding; 2) 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
57 upgrades; 3) extension of access of MLK across Elmore Drive, and 4)  
58 Image/Reflection Lake Drive improvements
- 59 h. **Margo Bellamy-Anchorage School Board-** Margo said that the ASD plan  
60 to hold in person classes is delayed until at least October 15<sup>th</sup>. There will  
61 be a weekly update. She mentioned long time School Board member Starr  
62 Marsett will be retiring with her last meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>. She discussed  
63 the progress for honoring School Board Member and State legislator Bettye  
64 Davis by naming a school within the District for her. She said that a tasked  
65 committee recommended renaming East High for Bettye Davis, but the  
66 Superintendent recommended an alternative of renaming Fairview  
67 Elementary and the East High Auditorium for her. Marguerite Iverson  
68 asked whether the outreach for renaming the schools was done Community  
69 wide. Margo replied that it was only done in the affected neighborhoods  
70 and that she was not necessarily in favor of the name change. Marguerite  
71 also mentioned that news had reported that Charter Schools would receive  
72 some CARES Act funding. Margo said that this was correct and the ASD  
73 Board considered that Charter School kids are part of the District and that  
74 the Charter Schools are a good model.
- 75 B. **UAA Representative Ryan Buccholdt-** Ryan indicated that the 2025 UAA  
76 strategic plan is ongoing. He also indicated that documents dealing with  
77 UAA 2025 Strategic Plan work will be on the UAA website. For detailed in-  
78 formation “Google” their website. He said he will have the contractor tasked

79 with developing alternatives to adapt the UAA Campus Master Plan to this  
80 strategic plan be available for a presentation for our November meeting.

81 **C. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons.**

82 **a. Parks and Rec Subcommittee- Steve Callaghan, Chair-** Steve reported  
83 that the University Lake Park improvements, specially the relocation of the  
84 parking lot and trail on the southwest corner will be completed next year.  
85 He also said that Folker Park needs an additional bond of \$200K to  
86 complete improvements for the playground and the trail system. He also  
87 indicated the Reflexology Path construction is moving forward but will not  
88 be completed until next year due to weather conditions. Al Milspaugh  
89 asked whether any Folker Street crossing signage has been completed.  
90 Steve replied that none has been completed, and Al said that he would  
91 follow up with the Muni to ascertain the statues.

92 **b. FCC Representative -Al Milspaugh:-** Al Milspaugh reported the FCC  
93 meets the third Wednesday of the month, from 6 to 8 PM. It's open to all,  
94 currently virtually via Zoom.

95 **c. Safety Committee-Al Milspaugh:-** Al discussed safety tips while walking  
96 alone. He said to always walk with confidence and be aware of the  
97 environment around you. He also said that APD has reported less overall  
98 crime in Anchorage.

99 **5. New Business and Public Comment**

100 **A. Debate on Ballot Measure 1: North Slope Oil Production Tax Increase**  
101 **Initiative-AK State Sen. Bill Wielechowski (for) & Mr. Bill Popp (against)**

102 **Argument for Passing:** Senator Bill Wielechowski detailed the cost to  
103 the State from SB 21 tax structure with resulted in loss of \$1 billion per year  
104 and \$5 billion in 5 years from oil tax revenues. He said the new tax structure  
105 would raise the minimum tax rate from 4 % to 10% and the corporate rate to  
106 15%. He said net production taxes have collapsed from a five-year average of  
107 \$3.8 billion before SB21 to less than zero after SB21. He said that under the  
108 new tax structure our taxes would still be much lower than other states. He  
109 also use the example of Conoco Phillips, where 68% of their company profits  
110 come from Alaska, but only 12% of their investment goes to Alaska Oil fields.

111 **Argument for rejection:** Mr. Bill Popp stated the primary issue with  
112 Ballot Measure 1 would be the impact to the Alaska economy which currently  
113 is in a five year recession. He said that the oil industry is a major driver of  
114 our economy and provide 77,000 jobs and \$7.6 billion in wages, and \$3.8 B  
115 to State and local governments in taxes. Bill indicated that the new tax  
116 structure was written by small group and did not include all stakeholders. He  
117 indicated that there is a big risk of reduced oil production from oil companies

118 if production taxes are raised, hence lower number of jobs and large impact to  
119 the economy. He said that some of the lack of new oil production is the result  
120 of the collapse of oil prices, not the SB21 tax structure.

121 **Rebuttal for:** Bill said that the argument that Measure 1 tax structure does  
122 not reflect stakeholders is specious. He indicated that the SB 21 was written  
123 by Conoco Philips tax attorneys and has greatly benefited the oil companies  
124 while the State economy has still greatly suffered. Examples are that BP laid  
125 off 500 people, oil field investments have plummeted, and the oil companies  
126 pay less in taxes than they get in credits from those investments that they do  
127 make.

128 **Rebuttal Against:** Mr. Popp indicated that SB 21 was and is a detailed oil  
129 tax legislation that deals with a complex system that was passed by the state  
130 legislature. He said the lack of tax revenues is the result of the unforeseen  
131 and continued collapse of oil prices. He stressed the way out of state budget  
132 problem would be through increase in oil production, and not the increase in  
133 oil tax rates. He said that any new oil tax structure needs to reflect the  
134 complexities of the oil industry, not the simplistic system advocated in  
135 Measure 1, which put the future economy at risk.

136 **Question and Answer Period-** There were no questions for the debaters.

137 **B. Debate on Ballot Measure 2: The Alaska Top-Four Ranked Choice Voting**  
138 **and Campaign Finance Laws Initiative-Mr. Jason Grenn (For) & Sen.**  
139 **Mike Prax (against)**

140 **Argument For:** Mr. Grenn indicated the Measure would give a stronger voice  
141 for voters. It would open primaries, so that independent voters (the majority  
142 in Alaska) could vote for members of either party in the primaries, which they  
143 currently can't do under the current closed primary system. The top 4 candi-  
144 dates in the primary would move on to the general election, regardless of par-  
145 ty affiliation. The general election would be held under a rank choice system  
146 where each voter can rank up to four candidates. Mr. Grenn discussed the  
147 process of this system. The other aspect of the measure is to rein in the pow-  
148 er that "Dark Money" exerts in the current elections. The measure requires  
149 that any donation over \$2,000 would require that full disclosure of the donors  
150 name would be revealed.

151 **Argument Against:** Sen. Prax said that it doesn't meet the need of one person  
152 one vote. He said that party primaries are actually an "organic" ranked choice  
153 and provide opportunity of any voter to show up and make their voice known  
154 in creation of the party platform. Members of the party can elect the candi-  
155 date of their choice and their party platform, so voters know better where can-

156 didate stands. He said the Measure would take away the party platform influ-  
157 ence and voters will not know what candidates actually support.

158 **Rebuttal For:** Jason said that parties can endorse the candidate of their choice  
159 so voters can know the stance of the candidate in relation to the party’s plat-  
160 form. Jason also said the measure has broad support across the State. Exam-  
161 ples are many Native Alaskan groups and the Alaska League of Women Vot-  
162 ers as well as many elected officials.

163 **Rebuttal Against:** Mr. Prax indicated that the Measure is very dense and deals  
164 with 26 pages and 70 sections of Alaska State Statues, so it’s hard to ascertain  
165 what the passing of the measure would mean to voters. He says that the  
166 “Dark Money” decision is already been decided through the Citizen United  
167 case and found to be OK. Finally, he said that the Measure takes away voters  
168 individual choice.

169 **Question and Answer Period-** Susan Klein had a question about how top con-  
170 tributors are listed. Jason indicated that if the contribution was over \$2,000  
171 they would be listed, and the contributors had 24 hours to notify APOC that  
172 the denotation had been made, so they can be added to the list. Bill Wiele-  
173 chowski noted that on the Alaska for election website a video is available for  
174 one to understand how ones votes are distributed to candidates are based on  
175 the ranking distribution the voter gave them. Mike Prax argued that the vot-  
176 ing process would take too much time. It also does not allow individuals an  
177 opportunity to change a political party’s platform. Paul Stang noted that on  
178 October 14<sup>th</sup> Alaska Common Ground (ACG) would be holding a forum on  
179 the Measure. One must pre-register with them to participate. Also, the ACG  
180 had a forum on Measure 1 last night and a video of the proceeding is available  
181 on the ACG website.

### 182 **C. Muni’s 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Upgrade Project-Status Report- Juston Keene, CRW** 183 **Engineering**

184 Justin said that he is the design engineer for the project and there will be a  
185 virtual open house on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 6:30 PM. He said the project  
186 consists of a full reconstruction of 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue from Lake Otis to Florina.  
187 This includes lighting, water and waste, pavement, gutters, curbing and  
188 pedestrian facilities. He said the draft design has been published, at  
189 [www.42ndAvenue Upgrade.com](http://www.42ndAvenueUpgrade.com), with various alternatives. Instructions for  
190 logging on to the virtual open house are also available on the site. He would  
191 appreciate review comments of the draft final design. Finally, he said that fi-  
192 nal design would be bond issues for 2021, and construction on the 2023 bond  
193 issues.

### 194 **D.Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program-Al Milspaugh**

195 Al explained that the muni examined potential traffic calming needs within  
196 various neighborhoods during 2014 and 2017. They have developed an Excel  
197 spreadsheet listing these neighborhood streets. Criteria used to identify the  
198 need for traffic calming is whether 85% of cars are traveling at or below the  
199 speed limit. If so then there is not a need for traffic calming measures. 42<sup>nd</sup>  
200 Avenue, 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Image Drive and Vance Drives were part of this project.  
201 All of these were found to be below the 85% threshold criteria, so would not  
202 qualify for traffic calming measures. The MOA wants a response to these  
203 findings by Thanksgiving. It's proposed that the members review the report  
204 and come prepared to comment, so a vote on comments can be completed  
205 during the November meeting.

206 **E. Public Comments/Open Dialog-** None

207 **F. Adjournment:** Susan Share moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Zemke  
208 seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 8:30  
209 pm.

210

211 *Signed*

212 Paul R. Stang, UACC President

213

214 **Attachment 1- October 7, 2020 Attendance Log**

Name	Affiliation
Susan Klein	Member
Susan Share	Member
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ivy Sponholz	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Andy Josephson	Member
Della Grey	Member
Barbara Garner	Member
Mary Lu Harle	Member
Ryan Buccholdt	Member
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Joanie Nardini	Member Member at Large
Steve Callaghan	Member P&R Chair
Krista Scott	Member P&Z Subcommittee Chair
Paul Stang	Member President
Steve Zemke	Member Secretary/Treasurer
Al Milspaugh	Member Vice President
Bryan Silva	Visitor
Lynn Franks	Visitor
Paul Bauer	Visitor
Alex Murphy	Visitor
Jason Grenn	Visitor
Intimayo Harison	Visitor
Juston Keene	Visitor
Felissa Wilson	Visitor
Katherine Pfeiffer	Visitor
Rita Spenser	Visitor
Karen Cameron	Visitor
Tammy Means	Visitor
Bill Popp	Visitor
Margo Bellamy	Visitor
Forrest Dunbar	Visitor
Pete Peterson	Visitor
Felix Rivera	Visitor
Bill Wielechowski	Visitor
Keith Bauguess	Visitor
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Mike Prax	Visitor

215

216 **Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson’s Notes, University Area Community**  
217 **Council, September 7, 2020**  
218

219 *Welcome to Fall!*

220 **Census**

- 221 • A Federal judge has issued a **preliminary injunction** requiring the U.S.  
222 Census to continue the headcount through the *end* of October.
- 223 • For further assistance you can contact - **2020census.gov**.

224 **Commercial Fishing**

- 225 • The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering around \$530 million to  
226 help the U.S. seafood industry deal with retaliatory tariffs from foreign  
227 governments.
- 228 • The funding for the **Seafood Trade Relief Program** will support several  
229 fisheries in Alaska including crab, cod, pollock, and salmon.

230 **Minimum Wage Increase**

231 The minimum wage in Alaska will **increase** slightly in 2021.

- 232 • Current minimum wage = \$10.19
- 233 • 2021 minimum wage = \$10.34

234

235 **Property Tax Exemptions**

236 **Did you know that, because of State law, the Municipality of Anchorage has**  
237 **several types of property tax exemptions that could benefit you and/or**  
238 **someone you know? You could be eligible to exempt \$50,000 (Residential**  
239 **Property Tax) and an additional \$150,000 (Senior Citizen/Disabled Veteran) of**  
240 **the assessed value of your home.**

- 241 • **Senior Citizen Exemption**
- 242 • **Disabled veteran Exemption**
- 243 • **Residential Exemption**
- 244 • **Military Service Widow / Widower Exemption**
- 245 • **Disaster Exemption**
- 246 • **Nonprofit Exemption**
- 247 • **Business Property Exemption**

248 *See the link below for full details:*

249 [http://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/property\\_appraisal/Exemption/Pages/de](http://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/property_appraisal/Exemption/Pages/default.aspx)  
250 [fault.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/finance/property_appraisal/Exemption/Pages/default.aspx)

251 **If you are not receiving my monthly newsletter, and interested, please let me**  
252 **know.**

253 **Interim: 907-269-0174**

254 **Session: 907-465-4930**

255 **Email: Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov**

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