

## FCC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 20, 2021

Reported by Jim Wright

FCC meetings have been via zoom during Covid-19.

Mark reported that:

1. FCC needs folks to send stuff in sooner if it is to be posted in time for the next meeting. He asks that submissions be ten days in advance.
2. FCC is presently open for business, in the sense that staff is present. The office is closed to the public due to covid, but appointments can be made by calling him at 240-3068.
3. He asks that FCC representatives pick up their mail, which has backed up during covid.
4. FCC liability insurance was renewed, which he says is for “each council for their 2020 meetings.” However, the “named insureds” are the MOA and ASD, indicating that it will cover all meetings in Municipal-owned buildings and Municipal-owned parks. The FCC will add specific non-Municipal buildings where councils meet, upon request for such an endorsement. That would seem to require further action on our part. I (Jim Wright) have not seen the insurance policy, despite multiple requests.
5. Mark encourages community councils to get Al Milspaugh’s assistance with zoom meetings, in order to facilitate business. RPCC has now done so.

The FCC wishes to do training and needs assessment for community councils. It seeks volunteers to establish training curricula.

The AMATS Committee representative is Bob French, who advised that the next meeting is via Microsoft Teams on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>.

The FCC also seeks a homelessness committee representative, and an FCC secretary.

The Mayor’s office did not present a report.

The Assembly Report was given by Felix Rivera:

1. The current Emergency Order will expire at the end of February.
2. The West Anchorage Assembly seat is empty. The Assembly will fill the empty seat until the next election.
3. The Assembly continues to look at needed APD IT upgrades, including body cameras. They are looking at a ballot proposition for a special property tax levy, or perhaps shifting funds brought in from the alcohol tax, currently for early childhood development, to the APD.

4. The Assembly is considering proposals to allow alcohol take-out orders, and for on-site consumption.

Anchorage School Board member Margo Bellamy (VP) reports:

1. APD is on track to bring students back into the classrooms. K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will start Jan. 19. 3<sup>rd</sup> and above will start on Feb. 8.
2. There was a legislative priorities event on January 8, to address: fair and predictive funding; student wellness, mental health, and safety; and foundational programs that prioritize pre-K, literacy, and readiness to learn.
3. Margo's written report is attached. It refers to a variety of other documents. However, these were not distributed. Some are available on the ASD website.
4. RPCC representative Jim Wright noted that, while it seems imprudent to re-open before vaccinating teaching staff, Margo reported in December that teaching staff was then expected to be vaccinated Jan. 20, the day after schools reopened, so that this concern would be remedied. Since the December meeting, developments indicate that teaching staff will not in fact be vaccinated in the near term, despite the planned return to the classrooms. Can she provide a new estimated date for vaccinating teaching staff? While Margo was hopeful this would be taken care of, she had no idea when vaccines would now be available to teaching staff, regardless of the reopening date.

There were presentations as follows:

1. 2021 Municipal Property Tax Appraisal process, presented by Jack Gadamus, the Municipal Assessor. This is the time of year when we receive the little green cards stating a property's estimated value for tax purposes. Valuations are appealable, and there are partial exemptions for disabled veterans, senior citizens, and others. Applications for exemptions are due in March, so check the MOA website for deadlines. Jack's annual reports are informative, and the information presented is generally available on the Municipality of Anchorage website.
2. Zoom meeting assistance, presented by Al Milspaugh.  
Al noted reports that certain people or groups were interrupting or disrupting community council zoom meetings with uncivil conduct. He counsels doing advance warnings that attendees have no expectation of privacy in this public meeting setting, and their comments may be recorded. A zoom moderator can mute the speaker's microphone or delete them from the meeting if they break the rules. Attendance must be taken and attendees identify themselves. The zoom host should vary from the presiding officer so that the latter can focus on the meeting agenda. Al is preparing a list of helpful steps. All councils have concerns about sign-in and voting on zoom, which is somewhat more complex

to police in a zoom meeting, but do-able. One issue AI is looking at is how to archive chat comments and questions. Archiving presents a high data load so cloud storage is needed. Attention to pre-meeting settings is also warranted. Jim Wright invited AI to meet with the RPCC board for training and input.

Best wishes,

Jim Wright, RPCC representative to the FCC