

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 09, 2021 — 7:00-9:00 PM
On ZOOM

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda – approved no objections

Approval of August 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes - approved no objections to Sharon and seconded by Elizabeth. Two minor spelling errors were fixed.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

Email: sen.Tom.begich@akleg.gov

Tom Begich

- Working on a revenue bill to be passed to help provide \$1B in revenue for the state.
- Constitutional amendment introduced for power cost equalization checks as well as capping the dividend.
- New mapping redistricting would split Fairview in half. Reapportionment is open to public comment
 - <http://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery/>

Questions and Comments

- Leslie: Who draws these maps?
 - Tom: The board has a map maker on staff that takes guidance from criteria and legal. When a map is produced, we run it through the computer to help create a shape - this is non-partisan. The assembly will likely sue that would potentially sue the city. All lawsuits must be filed by Dec. 15 and be determined by the next election
- SJ: I lived in Government Hill, and it was split. What is the advantage of being whole?
 - Tom: In 2001, the court ruled the CC were no boundaries to be considered. In the menu, you can draw the lines wherever. Right now, it is in the downtown district. Under the board's plan with splitting, it can have two house members instead of one. May create more influence and have more flexibility in votes in the senate house. To not be split, I will not have to run for reelection, a public purpose that can ensure broad representation.
- Jannel: Could we have an update one where we are on COVID mandate - etc.
 - Tom: The governor rejected our request to create an emergency order. Two pieces of legislation were put on the table for the tele-medician and the nurses compact. This is irrelevant to the pandemic. The power to grant an emergency nurse license was passed earlier this year. Dr. Zinc is doing what she can to put on track. Like the mayor, there will be no mask mandate. The US President put some in place but went a bit far regarding the vaccination. This governor could implement a mask mandate but will not. Our COVID count is overwhelming the hospitals, so I encourage masks and vaccinations.

Representative Zack Fields

Questions or comments? Call (907) 465-2647, rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov or tristan.walsh@akleg.gov

- Governor is up for reelection, so he will not implement mask mandates within the state, even though the hospitals are overwhelmed.

- Public employees are at risk because no mask mandates at work.
- Masks and vaccines have been politicized, putting the Federal government in a hard place.
- House will pass Telehealth Bill, and the governor will not pass it himself due to his base.
- AK Dividend, the house has passed a \$1,100 twice and was vetoed twice by the governor.
 - The large majority of revenue is from earnings from the permanent fund.
 - Constitutional convention on the ballot a year from November
 - Money from outside will be streamed to change the constitutional laws.

Questions and comments

- Leslie: What can we do to support you and Tom? In our neighborhoods? A lot of people are unaware of what is at risk on the rights that will be lost.
 - Zack: Traditional and non-traditional, grass-roots efforts to discuss the reality and the alternate reality that the governor is advertising. Alaska is one of the strongest states regarding income equality, trust-funded budget, and a diverse population.
 - Tom: I did have a bill passed on Constitution Day, and the governor wouldn't sign it. There are a number of groups that are focused on a ballot initiative group. They need the support of people who understand the situation. If you want the connection, send me an email.

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

Questions or comments? Christopher.Constant@anchorageak.gov

- In ongoing negotiations with the administration on where to site homeless facilities in Anchorage. List published of potential sites today. Sullivan Arena is currently on that list and will continue being the mass shelter due to no other option. Brother Francois is providing support to medically fragile homeless.
 - program funded by alcohol tax
- Reapportionment process - the assembly should consider malapportionment. The state is going to publish the final plan on Nov. 10. The committee page will be up very soon. I was selected as chair of the committee for this process. Timeline is a matter of importance. Everyone would like to see the election in April 2022, unlike the census being delivered eight months late. If maps are finalized in February, we will ask to vote to add the 12th member in.
- 120 memo received for the budget

Questions and comments

- Arman Nyborg: I own a six-plex above the Sullivan arena, and I live on the 3rd floor. I was able to see everything. It was really tough living there. Security was not incentivized and didn't do much. I am confused about all the pushback on the Elmore road option. Why should these facilities be located in residential areas? It has impacted the area and was life-changing.
 - Chris: I agree with you about the bad conditions. I will not be a party to move the problem without working on the actual problem. There are homes near Elmore. There are a lot of challenges to the idea of massive shelters. Imagine 3x the people being put in your neighborhood. I will not be part of that. It isn't fair. There is a massive price tag to this. I have been working for ten years to decompress this issue but not to compound the issue.
- Janell: You don't want to push it to other neighborhoods but are ok with it being in ours? There was a person in our yard, and the security didn't do anything.

- Chris: I have been working to stop having a single neighborhood, not all in one place. That is the issue. I am in full agreement that it isn't ok. I am saying they are here and cannot remove them until they have a place to go that meets their needs. It isn't ideal. This is the decision being made.
- Tom Leydon: What is the problem with moving them to Elmore? They have already destroyed our area. Make it comfortable, so they want to stay. What is going on here is ridiculous. The 13th and Gamble are ridiculous. I have to patrol my property to ensure that people do not break-in. You can't keep destroying neighborhoods; Elmore was a great location. What are you going to do?
 - I understand there is a specific problem I demanded with the APD. I am addressing these things as well as we can. I am working with the mayor's team. We can't just write blank checks. We are working on a plan and budget. All the promises in the world can't go anywhere without figuring out how to pay for it.
 - Tom: Why don't we have a police presence to walk the beat?
 - Chris: We as a city need to provide toilets. We are working to provide this.
- Armond: I know that there isn't an easy answer to this. The homeless population is prioritized over the taxpayers who do not feel represented. I had visitors this summer that were disgusted by the city. Everyone is getting angry over this. We have to address this issue because the homeless population is destroying the city.
 - Chris: The actual number of homeless people is going down, 100 this last month. Failure of the federal policy due to the pandemic. I am very sensitive to this. I have spent a lot of time on this. I stand in finding a resolution to deconcentrating all the services in our neighborhood. Because of the pandemic, a plan hasn't come together.
- Lindsey Hajduk: Chris, where can we find more information about this issue?
 - Chris: There isn't a site at this time. We are working on facilitating a process. If you go to the committee on homelessness webpage. If you listen to that stream, you can hear what happened at that meeting. I will see that your idea on a website will be added
- Janell: I saw that you were one of two people for the library director without a master's degree. Why did you vote to confirm Sammy gram?
 - Chris: A point was made regarding the HR director with a law degree, etc. Everyone voted for didn't have the qualifications. For Judy, I will not be voting for her due to her not having a degree based on the resolution passed last week.

Anchorage School Board Member Dora Wilson

Contact: Wilson_Dora@asdk12.org

- Board met last night and passed the Fairview elementary school, renaming it Dr. Davis Fairview Elementary.
- Transportation has been an issue - short-staffed bus drivers due to COVID.
 - routes affected but not Fairview
 - Mid-October, all bus routes will be moving again
- Communities requested COVID numbers to be shared by the school instead of as a whole. These numbers are posted daily. You can see those numbers here:
 - yesterday there was only one classroom closed and moved to virtual
- Thank you to community partners for providing backpacks at Northway mall and the Fairview rec center. APD coordinated an event for kids to go clothing shopping. National Coalition for BIPOC communities as well.
- Tomorrow, the school board will be joined with the assembly
- The next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 26 and 6 pm. Each person has three minutes to testify.

- There is a helpline 742-HELP for families seeking information on everything ranging from technology or health resources.

Questions and comments

- Dustin Darden: Masks and big pharma are impacting the kids. (inaudible arguing – called Chris Constant a communist and cited municipal rules of order, was muted and removed from the meeting)
 - Janel: Is this a resident of Fairview? And I had my hand up
 - SJ: I would like to remind you that this is not a governmental meeting
 - Chris Constant: he also levied a threat
- Janel Walton: Thank you for having kids wear a mask. I am a teacher, and many of our kids are grateful that the school is a safe place and be face-to-face with safety. We need more mental health for our youth - a lot of children have challenges accessing mental health. If there is a way to add more support to mental health, it would be beneficial. There is a small angry minority that would like to make things harder for you, but there are many more supportive people out there.
 - Dora: I am happy to work with the state and even partner with other services to help get these services. Please connect with me.
- SJ: Wanted to remind everyone, I will recognize you to speak, and if we ask you to stop, please stop. If you can't or won't stop, we will reject you from the meeting. We are all equals here, but please be respectful.
- Elizabeth: I am appreciative of all the ASD is doing to keep kids in school. I have a second grader that has only had half a year of kindergarten in school. I know that the COVID numbers are bad, but I wanted to express how important school is for children. Anything that we can do to keep school, I will do it.
 - Dora: Thank you, the school district will continue doing what we can to keep the school in person and safe.

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

- SJ Kline stepped in for Allen, who is not in attendance. No report for him.

Questions and comments

- none

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

- No Action and no bank fee
- Current balances: Total \$11,741
 - General: \$179
 - Community Development: \$1,013
 - Beautification: \$274
 - A Better Fairview: \$10,275

Questions and comments

- none

Presentations

DoT design and Build Interchange on Seward Highway Update – *Sean Baski*

- Seward Highway 36th ave. interchange - Midtown congestion relieve planning and environmental linkages study conducted in 2020 with 5 recommended projects
- Elected to move forward to grade-separated interchange at 36 ave. Due to the budget.
- Noise study in 2022. Another open house is scheduled for late 2021.
- Under vs. over discussion. Under is hard to do because of water issues.

Questions and comments

- SJ: This interchange was the least controversial of the PEL.
- Leslie: How do the pedestrians get across the street?
 - Sean: There will be pathways/sidewalks that are safe with minimal lanes to cross.
- SJ: Do you see the construction impacting the neighborhood?
 - The department strives to not divert traffic through like roads.

Unfinished Business

- Resolutions
 - Earl and Muriel King Park resolution
 - Pushed to next month for review by the board

Comments:

none

New Business

- Resolution 2021-xx has been put on the floor.

SJ - to extend the meeting 10 minutes - James and Sharon

Report and Updates

Community Comments

- Elizabeth Serrano: Free table located near the truth, large gathering of homeless in the area. Have emailed and called the church about this to remove. I was hoping from the community council level that something could be done.
 - Send a copy of the email to Shilo, cc Executive board of the council at eboard@fairviewcommunity.org and Christopher Constant. We may be able to help. The FCC doesn't have authority. Anyone has issues like this, please email
- Keelin: September is a library card signup month. Storytime in the park was a hit, twice a week at Dave's Rose Park Tuesday at 6 and Friday to X:30. please email me if you have any library-related questions
- Armand: Elizabeth, I am so very sorry you have to deal with that near your residence. What is the framework for how we deal with these situations? Taxpayers vs. homeless people. I don't understand where we stand - everyone I talk to wants this. I don't see what to show for that.
- Janell: is it possible for those interested in talking about homelessness to talk about this after the meeting?
 - SJ: Yes, I can keep it open after the meeting adjourns. I also own property in Fairview.

- Tom Leydon: I have property as well. You can't make people do what they don't want to do. The muni isn't doing enough to control the problem. We need to give the mayor a chance to fix this situation. We cannot let 1000 people who do not want to help destroy Fairview.
 - Sharon: It isn't illegal to loiter unless you are blocking pedestrians.
- SJ: We are resurrecting the Fairview business association. A gathering will be held on Tuesday at the Secret Garden at 2pm. All business owners are welcome. Sending the info to the federation of community councils. Many of us are frustrated as well on what the muni is doing.

Meeting Adjourned 9:08 pm Motioned by Janell, Seconded by James.