

**South Addition Community Council
September 23, 2021 Meeting**

DRAFT Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom.

Executive Committee Members Present: President John Thurber, Vice President Daniel Volland, Secretary Patrice Parker, Treasurer Cathleen Hahn and Members-at-Large Fran Durner, Tamás Deak, and Harry Need.

Excused Absent: Ruth Ann Jennings, Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Representative

Others present: Mark Butler (FCC), School Board President Margo Bellamy, Christopher Constant (Anchorage Assembly), Senator Tom Begich, Mercedes Colbert (Sen. Begich's Office), Representative Zack Fields, Charlie Peters (Anchorage School District Project Manager), Peter Briggs (Corvus Design), Paul Barril (NVision Architecture), Victoria Becwar-Lewis, Carol Butler, Clyde and Kyndall Carey, Amanda Compton, Dave Cushwa, Cecilia Donalson, Lois Epstein, Thomas Fenoseff, Moira Gallagher, Ken Gutsch, Deborah and Martin Hansen, Jay Holtan, Lynn Hallquist, Joshua Lewis, Jeff Manfull, Rachael McKinney, Trish O'Gorman, Kimberly Pace, Danner Pruhs, Cheryl Richardson, Rebecca Rogers, Karen Stephans, Tom Stephens, Kim Stone, Veronica Slajer, Catherine Sullivan, Michael Teo, Pam Tesche, Mead Treadwell, Mike and Mary Tullius, Doug and Kathie Veltre, Kathleen Weeks, Brice Wilbanks

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 24, 2021 Minutes as submitted. Motion passed.

II. Reports

A. No report from President Thurber

B. No report from Vice President Volland

C. Treasurer's Report: Cathleen Hahn submitted the August 2021 balance sheet via email to the Executive Committee. She also put it in the Chat section of Zoom.

D. No report from the Police/Fire Department

E. Assembly: Christopher Constant reported on the homelessness project. The Assembly is trying to decide on one large or several smaller facilities. It's a collaborative project with Tom Barrett, a resident of South Addition, and the Assembly. Mr. Constant is also working on a local reapportionment project, in response to the voters' approval of a 12th member to the Assembly

for our district. The process is expected to go through in late winter or early spring. The State is publishing the reapportionment maps on November 10 and within 60 days we have to say if we're malapportioned. Then the Assembly has 6 months to finalize the map. The mask mandate is a contentious issue. Fran Durner asked if he thinks they have the votes to overturn the Mayor's veto. Mr. Constant said there is no way to know. He's heard from a lot of constituents and it's 3-1 in support for the mandate in his district. Instead of the Assembly Ordinance 2021-91 Mr. Constant prefers an emergency ordinance, which requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote or 9 members. He believes it's only tenable and legally defensible if it's under an emergency ordinance. Mr. Constant reported that the Mayor made the decision to notify the Assembly he won't be proceeding with a storm water utility commission.

F. Legislature: Senator Tom Begich reported the Legislature finished its third special session. They were able to secure an \$1100 dividend and convince the Governor not to challenge it legally. The Governor called a fourth special session to begin on October 1st. That date won't work for a lot of people, so the Senator is working with others to find a better date or perhaps make progress informally in the interim and take up the issues at the regular session in January. Sen. Begich discussed reapportionment. The Reapportionment Board put together maps, and third parties submitted their own versions. His version would have to split South Addition at I Street. The board will meet for the next 45 days. He'll be doing constituent meetings on the subject and will let us know the dates. Final maps have to be completed on November 10 and all litigation must be filed within 30 days of that date. Mr. Need asked what legal standards are important to the Board. Sen. Begich said the State Constitution requires social and economic integration, compactness, and contiguity. He also said comments are valid not only for our district but for the state as a whole because the maps affect every citizen of Alaska.

Representative Zack Field reported there are partisan attempts to gerrymander several districts. Rep. Fields thanked Mr. Constant and the Assembly for trying to mitigate the virus. He said that he and other House members asked the Governor to declare a mask mandate for state employees. Many are on the front lines. The Governor never responded. He is not forcefully pushing mitigation. It's been very challenging on a state level, which necessitates local action. Rep. Fields also commented on the successful passing of the \$1100 dividend and restoring funding to important programs like Legal Services.

E. School Board: President Margo Bellamy said she put a brief report in the Chat. The reports are written at the first of the month, so she updates them for late-month meetings. The Covid Dashboard has been revised. They've had to temporarily suspended some transportation services – different sections of the City will lose it for 3 weeks. Families are offered a \$50 gas card, if necessary, to mitigate the loss of bus services. The Board has added Covid testing as a pilot program in several of their schools for staff and students. Ms. Bellamy announced it is Spanish Heritage Month. The Anchorage School Board passed a motion which gives priority to students to testify in the first hour of board meetings, in person and telephonically, to allow them to do homework and get to bed.

III Council Business

A. Old Business

South Addition Draft Neighborhood Plan: John Thurber reported on the Draft Plan. The Draft was submitted to the Municipal Planning Department in November 2020. In April 2021 a SACC sub-committee was formed to address comments from the Department. The review and recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Committee by the end of this year. Ms. Hahn asked if any changes have been made to the Draft Plan. Mr. Thurber said no and clarified that the committee is doing it chapter by chapter and will make recommendations and provide options for how to proceed. Mr. Constant asked who is on the Committee. Mr. Thurber said the committee members are Cecilia Donelson, Daniel Volland, David Ustick, John Braden, Kathleen Weeks, Leila Wise, and Patrice Parker.

B. New Business

a) Title 21 Amendments: Tom Davis, Senior Planner with the Municipal Planning Department, spoke to the Title 21 R-2 Zones Bulk and Height Amendment. The amendment addresses challenges to the 2 ½ story limitation that is unique to R-2 zones. 3-story buildings would be allowed on appropriate peripheral sites where it transitions to larger districts. It would minimize the impact to existing neighborhoods. The excepted sites would provide housing opportunities, minimize height and bulk on R-2 neighborhoods, and adjust multi-family building side yard setbacks, rooftop stairwell height and clarify the definition of 2 ½ stories. Informational meetings are scheduled for September 29 at 12:00 p.m. and October 5 at 6:30 p.m. More information on the Amendment and upcoming meetings can be found on the Municipal Planning Department project website: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/Pages/Compatible.aspx>

b) Inlet View Elementary School Replacement: Charlie Peters, Anchorage School District Project Manager, displayed a drawing of the planned development. The new school will be constructed on the southeast side of the lot so they can keep school in session while it's constructed. It will be a 2-story building. Concerns from several SACC members include the size of the parking lot, the limited ability for residents to participate in the planning, the failure to renovate the existing building, the enclosed areas allowing for criminal activities, the shading of the north end of the school lot, the problem with standing water on the lot, and the location of the parking lot. Several questions were posted on the Chat. The design team asked for comments to be submitted by email so they could answer all the questions. Mr. Volland made a motion and Ms. Durner seconded it to work with the ASD design team to expeditiously hold another community meeting on the Inlet View Elementary School Replacement. The motion passed. Mr. Constant asked that Tom Ross with the School District be involved in that meeting.

Mr. Volland made a motion and Mr. Deak seconded it to extend the meeting by 20 minutes. Motion passed.

c) Neighborhood Crime: Mead Treadwell and Joshua Lewis talked about the criminal activity in their neighborhood in the last 18 months, including a vandalized house (with the suspect later seen running naked on the Park Strip) and goods stolen from garages. Carol Butler, President of the Park Place Condominium Board, said their board spends too much time and money on security. Mr. Treadwell said they would like to see a crime committee, community policing and a

neighborhood watch. Mr. Volland said Police Chief McCoy is planning to attend the next SACC meeting. Mr. Constant said the new mobile intervention team responds to mental health crises, which might have been the right response to the person who vandalized the house. He is working with the police on all of these issues. He suggested calling 311 for everything except emergency needs. All of these reports drive where the public safety attention goes.

d) Resident Comments: Mr. Thurber opened the meeting to other comments. None were submitted.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Butler made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Durner seconded the motion, the motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patrice Parker, SACC Secretary

Voluntary membership dues may be made online at: <https://givebutter.com/SACC-membership>

Contributions to the South Addition Neighborhood Plan fund may be made online at: <https://givebutter.com/SACC-plan>