

Airport Height Community Council Meeting
January 20, 2022

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

Carolyn Ramsey (President); John Grover Whitlock – Eastridge; Joy Boston (JBER); Jena Ferrarese – Kuskokwim; Sen. Tom Begich; Genevieve Mina – 20th; Emily Weiser – Sunrise; Rayette Sterling – Sunrise; Carl Jacobs (School Board); Sheri Whitehorn – Rosemary; Brita Mjos – Alder; Rep. Geran Tarr – 18th Circle; Karen Walker – Eastridge; Loki Gayle Tobin (w/ Sen. Begich’s office); Assembly Member Meg Zaletel; Assembly Member Felix Rivera; Barbara Karl; Teresa San Miguel – 1780 Eastridge; Mikhail Siskoff – East 20th; Karleen Leeper; Chelsea Ward-Waller; Jan Stancle – Sunrise.

Rep. Geran Tarr moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and the January 2022 agenda. The motion was seconded by Jena Ferrarese and passed with unanimous consent.

Senator Begich: Senator Begich talked about the upcoming session. He first addressed the education bill that he has been working on. His aid, Loki Gayle Tobin, has been helping Rep. Chris Tuck in the house with HB 164 (a companion to the Senate Education Committee’s bill built from Sen. Begich’s bill) that does the following: Establishes a voluntary pre-k that has a strong reading component. This includes substantial resources for the department of education to support struggling schools. The state has generally scored toward the bottom in testing. For the past 12 years pilot pre-k programs have been conducted and observed all across the State of Alaska. The results from these pilot-studies have shown effective outcomes. We know from national data that if you back that up with a strong reading component to lock in those gains, that you can achieve generational change. The senate bill is having hearings in the coming week(s) to move this out of the senate. HB 164 is also holding hearings on this legislation. Senator Begich has been testifying before the house and the senate in favor of this legislation and will continue to do so. Sen. Begich described this legislation as bipartisan and potentially “transformative.”

Senator Begich discussed long range fiscal planning and talked about some of the legislation that he has put forth to address long range fiscal issues (See SB 13 and SB 100).¹ Senator Begich also gave an update on the redistricting process and the legal challenges that have been put forth.

Senator Begich also encourages all capital project requests to be sent to his office by January 28. This is a hard deadline.

Rep. Geran Tarr: Discussed legislation regarding public pension reform. Rep. Tarr also her discussed her invasive species legislation (HB 177) and work regarding the definition of consent in Alaska Statutes (HB 20).

¹ You can find a detailed list of Senator Begich’s bills sponsored on BASIS.
http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Member/Detail/32?code=BCH#tab7_3

Assembly Member Meg Zaletel: 1) Gave an update on the composting program. This program is not going away and will continue starting this May; 2) Ms. Zaletel discussed the possibility of the institution of a safety corridor on some state roads (from Lake Otis to East High on Northern Lights).

Assembly Member Felix Rivera: At a special assembly meeting on 1/19/22 the assembly voted on a bond package for the April ballot. Mr. Rivera discussed the timing of placing the 20th Ave. pedestrian improvements on next year's bond since construction is not scheduled to start until 2023. Mr. Rivera also discussed the discussions relating to the EagleExit bond proposals.

Carl Jacobs (School Board): 1) ASD is in the public engagement phase of the superintendent selection process and will be conducting town halls on the selection process with the assistant of the Alaska Humanities Forum. 2) He will be discussing the ASD bonds in greater detail next month.

Joy Boston (JBER): Mark your calendars now for this summer's Arctic Thunder Open House at JBER on July 30-31, 2022. Find information at <https://www.arcticthunderopenhouse.com/> or on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/events/s/arctic-thunder-open-house-2022/868294350700826/>

Assembly Member Felix Rivera (re Anchorage Reapportionment): He discussed the local reapportionment process. Please see the links below a recap of some of what Mr. Rivera discussed and for additional information about reapportionment.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/ReapportionmentCommittee/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/ReapportionmentCommittee/Documents/2022-0107%20Reapportionment%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

CIP List: The CIP list was mentioned and discussion among the council ensued regarding the CIP process.

President's Report: Vice President Karl mentioned the AMATS resolution and that it would be discussed at the next meeting. Vice President Karl also mentioned that there was an FCC delegate vacancy and that the alternate delegate has been filling in for the past several months.

FCC Report: Alternate FCC delegate Whitlock discussed the items mentioned at the Federation of Community Councils meeting on 1/18/22. These items included: 1) The proposed Fairview Innovation Plan; 2) Title 21 Parking and Site Access; 3) Community Council CIP lists.

Community Concerns and Announcements:

Jena Ferrarese talked about the Midtown Congestion Relief PEL. Emily Weiner and Mikhail Siskoff were interested in this project and potentially being point people for the counsel on this project.

<http://www.sewardglennmobility.com/getinvolved.html>