

Draft Minutes
South Addition Community Council
February 24, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: President John Thurber, Vice President Daniel Volland, Secretary Patrice Parker, and At-Large Members Tamás Deák, Fran Durner and Harry Need

Excused: Treasurer Cathleen Hahn and FCC Representative RuthAnn Jennings

SACC Members Present: Anna Bosin, Sheila Selkregg, Cheryl Richardson, Deborah Hansen, Martin Hansen, Cecilia Donelson, Senator Tom Begich, Hope McGratty, Lynn Hallquist, Thomas Fenosoff, Sami Graham

Guests: Mercedes Colbert (staff to Senator Tom Begich), Tristan Walsh (staff to Rep. Fields), Daniel McKenna Foster (Municipal Planning Department), Megan Moffitt (Anchorage Equal Rights Commission)

President John Thurber called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He asked to amend the agenda, moving Sheila Selkregg's presentation to follow the Johnny Ellis Legacy presentation. Mr. Thurber noted RuthAnn Jennings and Cathleen Hahn are excused. He also noted the Traffic Study presentation will be moved to the March agenda. The changes to the Agenda were approved unanimously.

The draft January 2022 Minutes were accepted without objection.

Senator Begich spoke about his friend, the late Johnny Ellis. He recognized Mr. Ellis's 32 years of service to Alaska, 30 in the Alaska Legislature and two years working for Representative Don Clocksin. Johnny was a champion for the poor, the disabled, minorities, and the LGBTQ community - he was truly a person of our time, a person who anticipated battles we'd be fighting today.

Senator Begich then reported on legislative activity and reapportionment.

Tristan Walsh spoke for Representative Zack Fields. He noted the work done on the budget, Rep. Fields' committee work, including his efforts to link high school students with apprenticeship programs, and collective bargaining for child care providers.

Sheila Selkregg reported on the Draft Neighborhood Plan. Everything she's reviewed has been done well. It is just a matter of working through it, making sure content is in the right place, and it's organized nicely. There is plenty of documentation of public engagement. We just need to explain how the outreach was done. A final draft should be completed by May.

Harry Need made a motion to authorize President John Thurber to request a naming committee from the Municipality to recognize the legacy of the late Senator Johnny Ellis. Senator Begich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Need thanked the council and offered to work with Assemblyman Christopher Constant and other neighborhoods who may want to participate.

No one was in attendance to report from the Mayor's Office, the Police or Fire Departments or the School Board.

Vice President Daniel Volland reported he went to Juneau and met in person with Mercedes Colbert, Tristan Walsh, Senator Begich and Representative Fields. He appreciates what they're doing for our community and state.

Anna Bosin reported on the Transportation Subcommittee and the Complete Streets Project. She thanked Tamás Deák, Martin Hansen, Cheryl Richardson, Sheila Selkregg and Patrice Parker for their participation in remarks to representatives and submittal of planning documents to AMATS. She reported on highlights of Complete Streets, what they are, the key concepts, and how we can make sure these projects get funded.

Cheryl Richardson requested volunteers for the Complete Streets project - to support it, get the word out, contact our representatives, and local schools to support safety for the children. We also need to brainstorm strategies for outreach.

Daniel McKenna Foster from the Municipal Planning Department reported on the R4A Zone. He explained the zone and the project to remove barriers to infill development and get more housing in the central area. Ms. Bosin suggested reaching out to residents living in the R4A area and getting input.

Megan Moffitt from the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission reported on the shared purpose and the resources the AEDC offers to the community. They are a law enforcement agency that impartially investigates equal rights complaints. She explained the law, protected classes, and their definitions. Services are free and confidential.

Assemblyman Constant apologized about being late. He reported on the Reapportionment maps, explained the process, and noted that once it is decided, South Addition will gain a representative to the Assembly. He also discussed the efforts to demobilize the mass homeless shelter. He answered questions on the APD's draft policy on body cameras. Ms. Richardson thanked Mr. Constant.

Community Comments:

Martin Hansen gave a shout out to Brad Coy for accepting his invitation to join him and witness the traffic flow as it merges from 13th Avenue to L Street.

Ms. Richardson thanked Mr. Thurber and Mr. Volland for this meeting, noting the pace of the meeting and the depth of the discussions. Mr. Hansen concurred.

Mr. Volland made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded, and the meeting ended at 9:03 p.m.