

Airport Height Community Council Meeting
February 17, 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; 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; Mikhail Siskoff – East 20th; Chelsea Ward-Waller; Stephanie Taylor – Assembly Candidate; Cheryl Richardson – South Addition; Larry Haden – 18th Ave.; Mark Sabel – Aleutian St.; Ed Brewer – Alder Dr.; Carol Hoblitzell – Cassius; Brianna Beswick – Demure; Kimala Rein – Garden St.; Noah King (DOT); Alex Reed (DOT); Kim Millett – Birchwood; Kalen Saxton – 16th; Andy Erickson – Sunrise; Steve Noble; Kengo from Alaska Literacy Project.

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

Representative Tarr discussed progress on personal legislation. Her invasive species bill passed the house today and she is working on legislation to extend the council on domestic violence and sexual assault. She gave an update on the bridge naming survey – Mountain View Shell owner Insook Baik was the name that was most popular in Rep. Tarr’s survey; legislation will be drafted to make the naming of the bridge official.

Loki Gayle Tobin for Senator Begich addressed the council on Sen. Begich’s behalf. She talked about the status of Senate Bill 10 and the proposed joint resolution on Canadian and Alaskan Friendship. Senate will be taking up the budget in mid-march and hopes to do so in conjunction with legislation regarding a fiscal plan. You can receive updates on the status of Sen. Begich’s legislation via BASIS at this link: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Member/Detail/32?code=bch>.

Assembly member Meg Zaletel mentioned how the assembly recently passed reforms to title 21 and title 23 (building code and land use). She also mentioned that she postponed an ordinance regarding tax exemptions for accessory dwelling units; she is looking to optimize the ordinance to make it an affordable housing solution and not a tax break for vacation homes. Regarding reapportionment maps, she is trying to incorporate an amendment to keep some of Airport Heights in midtown.

Joy Boston: Not much to report. Arctic Thunder Open House is coming up ☺

Assembly member Rivera provided an update on municipal reapportionment and the facilitated collaborative process relating to housing and homelessness.¹

Carl Jacobs: Mr. Jacobs spoke briefly about the school bond package.

AHCC discussion on Reapportionment Final Maps: There was discussion amongst the council regarding the proposed maps. The council does not support maps 12 and 7. 10 council members indicated support for map 6 and 15 members indicated their support for map 11.

Alaska Literacy Project – Kengo (907-743-0207): Kengo discussed the Alaska Literacy Project. You can contact Kengo at knagaoka@alaskaliteracyprogram.org if you have any questions. More information about this program can be found at this web page: <https://www.alaskaliteracyprogram.org/>

36th Ave. Interchange Project Update (Alex Reed)

DOT representatives discussed this project and provided us a web page where he could read more about the project. They will be attending the meeting in March to provide further updates. www.36thinterchange.com

PEL update and AHCC comment discussion: AHCC council member Mikhail Siskoff discussed the PEL-Planning and Environmental Linkages. He encouraged members of the Airport Heights Community Council to submit public comments regarding issues relating to Airport Heights. <http://sewardglennmobility.com/>.

Discussion ensued regarding the merits of the “cut and cover” concept.

President’s Report and Committee Reports: 1) Yes Bistro wants to renew their alcohol license. President Ramsey asked if there were any objections from the council. No objections were stated 2) President Ramsey discussed a call she had with MOA long range planning regarding a section of Airport Heights being rezoned for high density development; President Ramsey talked with the long range planning representative about the proposed development area being located on wetlands. President Ramsey will forward this item to Ms. Brita Mjos for further study.

¹ Link to the Assembly's Reapportionment Committee:

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

Housing and Homelessness Jan 31 document Felix showed regarding the Facilitated Collaborative Process:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Documents/Webpage%20-%20Committee%20on%20Housing%20and%20Homelessness/Implementation%20Update%20013122%20FINAL.pdf>

FCC Report

Alternate FCC delegate Whitlock reported that the school bond package, 36th avenue interchange, and municipal ballot tracking software was discussed at the FCC meeting.

Community Concerns: Assembly member Meg Zaletel, candidate for re-election, discussed that she is running for reelection and would be happy to continue serving on the Anchorage Assembly.