

UACC MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2022

1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions

At 7:05 PM UACC President Tyler Robinson opened the meeting. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh then detailed the protocols for tonight's meeting. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and there should be no expectation of privacy. Also, members present on tonight's Zoom meeting should identify themselves by using a UA identifier preceding their first and last name. He explained that members are residents, business owners, or institution representatives within the UACC boundaries. 29 persons were in attendance of all or part of the meeting. See Attachment 1 for attendance log.

2. Approval of the January 2022 Meeting minutes

Al Milspaugh moved to approve the January minutes. Mary Lu Harle seconded the motion. UACC members voted to approve the January minutes by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

President Tyler Robinson introduced tonight's agenda. Al Milspaugh moved to approve the agenda, with Mike Grunst seconding. The UACC voted unanimously to approve the agenda with modifications.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

A.I. State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson- For details on Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's information presentation see her written report to UACC under Attachment 2. Paul Stang had a question about how the new rank choice voting works. Senator Gray-Jackson indicated that the vote is one time where voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference: first, second, third, and fourth. If one candidate receives a majority (more than 50%) of the first-choice votes, they win. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and those votes count instantly toward the next choice on each voter's ballot. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority. She indicated that more information is available on the State of Alaska Website and in her written report.

A.II. State Senator Bill Wielechowski- Senator Wielechowski reported on his assignments within the State Senate and the several important bills they will have morning overviews and have hearings in the afternoon. Od note he reported on a bill that proposes to increase the potential owner property tax exemption from \$50K to \$75 K. He also said the proposed UMED Northern Access (Bragaw to Elmore) extension is headed to the transportation committee.

There was extensive question and answer period. Tyler Robinson noted he was confused about the need to update the State Cap's and TIP's list and how he can go about what the due date is. Senator Wielechowski stated that various organizations have and/or need to rank their priorities in these lists. He noted the due dates are February 14th and that UACC representative can contact his office call or email his office for assistance. Mike Grunst had a question about the "State Checkbook" system. He was worried about whether State employees would need to fill out the checkbook forms for something as simple as registration and per diem and other expenses to go to Federal sponsored

training. Senator Wielechowski indicated that this is not expected, and does not anticipate it will require extensive work for most employees.

Krista Scott had question about the increased property tax exemption as she noted that here property tax appraisal rate went up much more than the reported Anchorage average. It was noted that property values have gone up significantly in Anchorage, and there is a process to contest the appraisal value. Forrest Dunbar noted that the increase in property value may not result in a like increase in property tax rate as there is still a overall tax cap level. So even though a property value is up, but the mill rate would have to go down to stay under the tax cap, thus resulting in not increasing individual property tax rates significantly.

Finally, Tyler Robinson noted that the UACC has taken a position in opposition to the UMED Northern Access extension. He was surprised that neither the State nor the Mayor's Office has contacted the UACC about the current resurrection of the proposal. Senator Wielechowski noted that the State Finance and Transportation Committees will have to hold public hearings on the proposal.

III. State House Representative Ivy Sponholz- Representative Sponholz discussed the Governor's proposal for use of \$350 M in Federal Covid relief funds. She cautioned that this one time draw and the over optimistic projection of continuing high oil prices may lead to fiscal problems in the future. She is said bills dealing with PFD PMOV percentages for state funding, and another providing for flexibility via telehealth and another for provisions for allowing dental hygienists to perform simple dental procedures in rural Alaska are under consideration. She indicated that she is co-chair of the Labor and Commerce committee which will deal with the Federal Infra-structure funding coming to the State of Alaska. They will be meeting with the Congressional delegation this Friday on these Federal transportation funds that will be available through the Build Back Better Act. She indicated that two projects are on her radar, one the UMED Northern Access extension and the other the Governor's proposal to create a Upper Cook Inlet Port Authority which may have impact on Port of Anchorage reconstruction.

IV. State House Representative Andy Josephson- started by saying that he is glad for the infusion of Federal money to help balance our present state budget but assumes that that this will not continue into future years. He indicated the downside is the legislature will lose incentive to do meaningful fiscal reform and that will result future State budgets again running significant deficits. He cautioned that some Federal funds needed to be parked to help this prevent this fiscal situation scenario. He also discussed bills dealing with several topics such as State employee defined benefits, increasing penalties for LBGTQ+ hate crimes, campaign contribution limitations, and increasing entry level State Attorney salaries.

V. Andy Josephson Representative Elise Sorum on the State CAPSIS system-

UACC President Robison previously indicated there was confusion on who should enter data for these systems (CAPSIS and TIPS) and if the UACC needed to enter the UACC priorities how and when this can be done. In response to President Robinson question about the Capital Budget System (CAPSIS) system and how to enter project priorities and data she provided the following information.

- 6 of 7 UACC CIP priorities are currently entered into the system.
- The CAPSIS system is a "Swiss Army Knife" document with all type of capital

projects included.

- Entering the information into the system is matter of communication. The UACC can enter information directly into the system, or through designated legislative assistants.
- If a project is in CAPSIS doesn't mean it would be included in the State Capital budget. It still requires a budget memo from the legislature to be included in Capital budgets.

Al Milspaugh questioned which office is in the lead for the system. .Elsie indicated it's the Road and Transportation department for the municipality and that it's the State Senate District (Ivy Sponholz). President Robinson questioned which UACC CIP project is not on the list is. This was not resolved.

VI. Anchorage Assembly-person Felix Rivera- discussed two topics. First was the facilitated process dealing with alternatives for addressing homelessness in Anchorage. Detailed description of the process is available on the Assembly webpage. Of importance is what happens when the Sullivan Navigation facility closes. The options described are a combination of constructing and staffing new facilities and repurposing existing buildings. There is \$9.5 M available for development of three properties. \$3.5M for a 61unit/120 bed medically fragile person facility at the former Sockeye Inn, \$3 M for a 91 unit/120 bed special population (elders, women, LBGTQ+) facility at the former Barret Inn, and a new 200 bed single male facility (with an additional 100 bed surge capacity) at the Elmore and Tudor Road site. The Muni is looking for an additional \$5 M from the State to support this process.

The second topic was the reapportionment effort. He said that two reapportionment town hall meetings were held last week, and will be two additional town halls in coming weeks. Currently there are 10 maps which the Assembly is considering. These maps, which are being updated this week, as well as the timeline for completion, are available on the Muni website. These maps will come before the full Assembly on February 9th for development of the final apportionment Districts. Additional meetings on Feb 19th and March 1st are planned.

VII. Anchorage Assembly-person Meg Zaletel- discussed briefly that in regards to the Homeless Shelters any structure could be declared an emergency shelter, and as would not have to receive a conditional use permit and adhere to Title 16 requirements, as it is an emergency. Long term the facility would go on to having to meet these requirements. She also discussed the Muni's TIP's process. She indicated that it will be open for 30 days, with multiple categories. The Muni will work with community councils to populate the list with their priorities, using the proper criteria. Tyler Robinson wanted to know if UACC CIP priorities would be carry over to the TIP list. The indication is that they would if meet the TIP criteria.

VIII. Anchorage Assembly-person Forrest Dunbar- reported that the Muni is pursuing a \$600 M request for reconstruction of the Port of Anchorage. He also noted that on this next election there will be no Eagle River Advisory vote or a vote on making the Municipal Clerk an elected position. On the bond side he noted there would be one that allocates \$500K to traffic calming projects. Also discussed was that he proposed that the Elmore/Tudor Homeless facility should have a capacity of no more 150 beds, except for a 50 person surge capacity in cases of emergency. The Assembly did not approve this limit

and went with the 200/100 capacity limits.

IX. Anchorage Assembly-person Pete Peterson- noted that April Municipal Election ballots should be out in the mail by March 15th.

X. Anchorage School Board (ASD) Member Carl Jacobs- He said the ASD has come to a tentative agreement with the teachers union. This should be ratified at the February 22nd meeting. He said that this is the last day for the ASD Superintendent survey. Also, the ASD 2022-23 budget proposal is out, and that it emphasizes increased reading and math proficiency. Finally the spring lottery application for 2022-23 charter schools is out. All this information is available on the ASD website. For more information on these topics Carl provided links to this information in the chat.

XI. UAA Representative Ryan Buchholdt- UAA Rep Buchholdt noted UAA is in session, with most classes being held in person.

5. Old Business- DMV sharing Confidential Information- Al Milspaugh's information request about why the DMV is providing this information and how it can be changed was discussed by Senator Wielechowski. He indicated that the PFD database was been changed to not include physical addresses to address some of these privacy concerns. He also indicated that the DMV does not sell information to anyone. Also, State Statute 28.10505 does require disclosure of some information to the public, but only for safety purposes.

6. New Business and Public Comment

A. Election of UACC Officers, At large Members- Tyler Robinson and Annie Collie

President Tyler Robinson presented a list of candidates for UACC Executive Board Positions that had been nominated at the January meeting. These are listed below: Of note is that Susan Klein withdrew her nomination for Member at Large position, and Melissa Heuer withdrew her nomination for FCC Alternate. In addition Krista Scott was nominated at this meeting for a FCC Alternate position. Mike Grunst with second from Al Milspaugh moved to close nominations and approve the below slate of candidates. The motion was approved by unanimous consent of UACC members.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominated</u>
FCC Delegate:	Al Milspaugh
At Large Members	Annie Collie Mike Grunst Melissa Heuer (withdrawn)
FCC Alternate (2 positions)	Mark Fink Susan Klein (withdrawn) Krista Scott (Nominated)

B. Confirmation for UACC FCC Committee Chairpersons-Tyler Robinson

President Tyler Robinson presented a list of chairpersons that occupy the current UACC standing committees. These chairpersons are considered part of the Executive Board. Of note is that Krista Scott resigned from her role as the Planning and Zoning Committee chair and Mark Fink was nominated to replace her as P&Z committee chair. Al Milspaugh

with second from Krista Scott moved to approve the below slate of chairpersons. The motion was approved by unanimous consent of UACC members.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>
Parks and Recreation	Steve Callaghan
Planning and Zoning	Mark Fink (nominated) Krista Scott (withdrawn)
Community Safety	Al Milspaugh

C. UACC Project Nominations: State of Alaska: Capital Projects List ((UACC list attached); 2023 Transportation Improvement Program(TIP): Tyler Robinson

The Community Council Surveys | 2022 Community Projects list was presented. The top 7 projects have received priority ranking by the UACC in previous years. With the due dates for entry being February 15th decision to use the UACC ranked CIP projects is appropriate for this meeting. The question was called that these projects should continue as UACC priorities in ranked order for the 2023 CAPSIS and TIP programs. There was no objection to the question, so the projects continue as the UACC priority. Tyler also requested help in evaluating the projects to the TIP (the 7 CIP list projects) and determining which one project in the Road Improvement District that was dropped out, and where in these lists this project should be reinserted.

Additional discussion centered on whether any new projects should be entered on the survey. This made for a decision needed tonight on any additional projects. Krista Scott suggested that the Council consider a proposal for the Anchorage School District to replace their bus fleet from the current diesel buses to electric ones. Representative Sponholz suggested that the council consider adding a project that addresses pedestrian safety at the intersection of Northern Lights and Bragaw.

On the electric bus discussion, Ryan Buchholdt, Tyler Robinson, and Mark Fink noted that ASD must support and be partner in the proposal. Pete Peterson said that he is not aware of a proposal from ASD that looks at converting the bus fleet to electric. Barbara Garner stated she feels that such conversion could solve the problem associated with diesel fume emissions associated with warming up diesel school buses during periods of atmospheric inversion in her Folker Street neighborhood. Mike Grunst noted that the GSA is starting to convert to electric vehicles. He feels the \$450 K per bus is a good solution and is viable in the long run. Krista Scott moved to include the E bus proposal in the TIP. Mike Grunst seconded the motion. During discussion of this motion Meg Zaletel indicated UACC would need to be more specific on what TIP criteria they would fit under. Mark Fink felt that the ASD should be the entity to present this proposal rather than the UACC. There were questions about what system would be the right funding method for such a request, and then how to populate the appropriate database. Tyler Robinson amended the proposal to say that our Community Council supports the conversion of the ASD school bus fleet to E buses. That the UACC would reach out ASD to support them in making this a priority.

Discussion on providing solutions for pedestrian safety at Northern Lights/Bragaw intersection also occurred. There appeared to be agreement that there are safety concerns in providing safe pedestrian crossings at this intersection, particularly with East High border-

ing the northeast corner. There was some concern that prioritizing such a project could be used for justifying a buildout of UMED Northern Access project.

7. UACC Information Reports

A. UACC Board and Committee Reports

- i. Planning and Zoning Committee-** Krista Scott discussed the UACC response to P&Z Case 2022-0010 Reinvestment. Krista discussed comments had been prepared as response to the Muni Draft 4A Standards. She had requested further comments be forwarded to her for inclusion. Having received none. She will then submit our comments to the Muni on behalf of UACC.
- ii. Parks and Recreation Committee-** Steve reported that there was not much new information to report from last meeting. Folker Park will have signs, benches, and some exercise equipment installed this spring/summer. Steve noted that the University Lake Dog Park and the Lake Otis grade separated crossing are on the UACC priority list for the CIP.

Susan Share reported on Goose Lake Park activities. She said that Anchorage Waterway Council has installed 8 signs around Goose Lake in an attempt to educate park users about the problems with dog feces and water quality. Barbara Garner noted that she has recently observed numerous piles of dog feces on and adjacent to Goose Lake. Susan indicated this signage is a start, but will require further education and particularly enforcement to mitigate this problem.

- iii. Safety-** Al Milspaugh said he will forgo safety tips due to time constraints.

B. FCC Representative Report- Al Milspaugh again said he will forgo a report due to time consideration. President Robinson felt that that the FCC should develop one page descriptions on the various project ranking processes, and how Councils can input their project priorities into these processes. This could define where the Councils put their efforts to make them more effective.

- .H Public Comments/Open Dialog-** President Robinson started by discussing the convoluted Homeless Shelter development process. He said that normally public facilities go through a site plan selection process. But he felt that the Muni is going directly to a conditional use permit process so they do not have to adhere the site selection processes. With the Conditional Use Permit they do not have to evaluate impacts to the area. This may lead to construction being started before any design is out for review.

Meg Zaletel replied that Tyler should email Assemblyman John Weddleton to get the proposed designs that are currently before the Assembly for approval. She acknowledged that the shelters could be built through the Emergency Conditional Use Process. Paul Stang noted the UACC letter to the Assembly and Mayor on our opposition to a large 200+ person navigation facility at the Elmore/Tudor site. He also pointed to UACC requests for information on the Sullivan Arena navigation facility operation, for its impacts to the adjacent area, and lessons learned from this large facility have not been answered. Meg Zaletel also noted that the Homeless Coalition has a presentation on the input to the process. She included a link to this presentation in the Zoom chat. Steve Callaghan noted that most developers hire a company to pursue the necessary permits but this has not happened here. He also stated that though sprung structures are designed to be temporary, they tend to become permanent structures. Krista Scott felt that permit requirements should reflect BMP's and lessons learned from previous current homeless facilities. Mike Grunst cautioned that problems with Homeless facili-

ties can also be from failure of case managers and social workers not always be with the inadequacy of the structure.

Tyler concluded this discussion by saying he wanted to email the Mayor's Office and the Assembly asking them not to abandon the Site Plan Selection Process, and they need to take into evaluation the effects of all proposals on the neighborhoods affected.

Tyler also requesting help in evaluating the TIPS and to look at the project the Road Improvement District project that dropped out of the CAPSIS system. Mike Grunst volunteered to assist Tyler in this endeavor.

Finally, Barbara Garner also indicated that on the 42nd Avenue project in the CIP list the AWWU water lines would need to be replaced before the road can be rebuilt. So much coordination between the transportation department and AWWU needs to happen.

8. **Adjournment:** Mike Grunst moved to adjourn the meeting. Krista Scott seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:30 pm.

Signed

Tyler Robinson, UACC President

Attachments: 1). UACC January 2022 Attendance Log

2). Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes, UACC Community Council, January 5, 2022

Attachment 1- February 2, 2022 Attendance Log

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Tyler Robison	President
Steve Callaghan	P&R Chair
Annie Collie	Member at Large
Krista Scott	FCC Alt
Joanie Nardini	Member
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ryan Buchholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Paul Stang	Past President
Mike Grunst	Member at Large & Zoom Co-Host
Mark Fink	FCC Alt & P&Z Chair
Melissa Heuer	Member
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Vistor
Susan Share	Member
Susan Klein	Member
Peggy Kugel	Member
Barbara Garner	Member
Mary Lu Harle	Member
ASD Rep Carl Jacobs	Visitor
Representative Andy Josephson	Visitor
Representative Ivy Sponholz	Member
Senator Bill Wielechowski	Visitor
Assembly-person Pete Peterson	Visitor
Assembly-person Forest Dunbar	Visitor
Assembly person Felix Rivera	Visitor
Assembly person Meg Zaletel	Visitor
Elise Sorum-Birk	Visitor

Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
February 2, 2022

Happy Black History Month Everyone!

I want to take a moment and reflect on this month-long celebration of Black History Month. I was honored to see the passage of Senate Bill 40, an act establishing the month of February, each year, as Black History Month. This month honors and recognizes the contributions that African Americans have made in Alaska and the United States.

Ranked Choice Voting

On January 19th, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that Alaska's new ranked-choice voting system and non-partisan primaries are legal and can be used for the 2022 elections.

How does Ranked Choice Voting works?

In each race, voters will rank their choices in order of preference. The top four candidates who advanced from the primary election will appear on the General Election the ballot. If voters would like to vote for a write-in candidate, they may do so and include that candidate in the ranking. For a candidate to win, they must receive a majority (50% + 1 vote) of total votes cast. If no candidate receives most votes in the first round of counting, more rounds of counting continue until a candidate reaches a majority.

How are votes counted in Round 1?

Only the vote for your 1st choice candidate is counted.

- If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, that candidate wins.
- If no candidate wins in Round 1, the counting goes to Round 2.

How are votes counted in Round 2 and subsequent rounds?

The last place candidate from each race in Round 1 is eliminated and their supporter's 2nd choice selection is allocated to the remaining candidates on the ballot. This vote redistribution process continues until one candidate reaches over 50% of the votes or until there are two candidates remaining and the candidate with the most votes, wins. In each round of counting, each voter gets one vote. You can find additional information at <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/>

Committee Membership

I continue to sit on the following committees:

- Alternate [Senate Comprehensive Fiscal Plan Working Group](#)
- Member [Senate Health & Social Services \(Fin Sub\)](#)
- Member [Senate Commerce, Community & Economic Dev \(Fin Sub\)](#)
- Member [Senate Community & Regional Affairs](#)
- Member [Senate Labor & Commerce](#)

State of the State Address

On January 25th, 2022, Governor Mike Dunleavy gave his fourth State of the State speech. A few of his speech's highlights are:

- How he envisioned Alaska as a state that is a leader in renewable energy.
- He sees Alaska finally developing its vast stores of natural gas on the North Slope.
- He also called for the settling of the dividend issue.
- The Governor spoke of the redistricting plan what is currently under litigation, and where 59 of the Legislature's 60 members face election this year: including himself.
- The Governor spoke of his administration's handling of the pandemic, as its goal is to make sure our healthcare system is strong and that we have the tools available for each of us to take care of ourselves.
- Governor Dunleavy talked about how oil prices in the recent months have been among their highest levels during his administration.
- Dunleavy also urged lawmakers to prove to Alaskans wrong who think nothing will get done this is an election year.
- Speaking of his vision, Governor Dunleavy said that that "The test is going to be, how serious is that vision and is the administration going to put the work in on being here in the Capitol for the next 90 days, guiding us through and working with us."

Always representing your interests!



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