

UACC MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 2022

1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions

At 7:02 PM UACC President Tyler Robinson opened the meeting. Zoom Host Mike Grunst 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. President Robinson emphasized that speakers should try to limit their time as time-frame are tight for the meeting tonight. Questions are to be held until the end of the meeting or detailed in the chat for answers. Contact information will also be available in the chat for more details. 40 persons were in attendance of all or part of the meeting. See Attachment 1 for attendance log.

2. Approval of the April 6, 2022 Meeting minutes

Krista Scott moved to approve the April minutes. Mike Grunst seconded the motion. UACC members voted to approve the amended April minutes by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

President Tyler Robinson introduced tonight's agenda. Mike Grunst moved to approve the agenda as written, with Susan Klein seconding. The UACC voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

4. Informational Reports-Reports from Public Servants

a. **State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson** - For details on Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's information presentation see her written report to UACC under Attachment 2.

b. **State Senator Bill Wielechowski** – started by discussing the following:

- A 2nd reading of the State budget bill is before the House
- The Bragaw extension is not included in the budget at this time
- Budget includes \$5M each for a homeless housing trust and affordable child care.
- There is currently \$3 to \$4 Billion in surplus, which in Bill's opinion should be put into savings as the budget is built on \$80 a barrel prices.
- Proposed Dividend is \$2,500 on a 50/50 split
- \$3.6 B in Federal funds of Capital improvement funds coming to Alaska, this will create many jobs and may create strain on current workforce,

- Call or email Bill for details on these matters.

c. **State House Representative Andy Josephson-** was not available for tonight's meeting.

d. **State House Representative Ivy Sponholz-** She discussed the following:

- The operating and capital budgets passed the House and were sent on to the Senate on 4/9
- There will be a town hall meeting on April 16th focusing on the people experiencing homelessness situation, lower income housing opportunities, and discussion on mental health crisis centers, with Providence Hospital proving service in lieu of API. Mike Grunst commented that Fairbanks 24/7 crisis hotline handled 98% of situations for a cost of \$275 K per year.
- Finally, Rep Sponholz said that her bipartisan bill (Co-sponsored with David Wilson R-Wasilla) HB 265, providing access to health care information, passed 38/1 in the House and is on to the Senate.

e. **Mayor's Office Representative, Portia Noble-** said that applications Art and Community grant proposals are currently open. She will put information into chat for application process. May 5th will be the city wide cleanup. SWS will provide free disposal passes. The city will be hosting a Refuge Welcome day, Saturday May 7th from 12 to 4. President Robinson asked that the city or the school district look into capturing some of the Federal infrastructure money to fund ASD pool reconstruction or rehabilitation funding.

f. **Anchorage Assembly-person Pete Peterson-** discussed the following points:

- Stated that the 2022 elections were certified and that 2 new Assembly members were sworn in.
- 4/28 will be a special budget funding Assembly meeting and next week the Assembly may consider an override vote on Mayor's budget vetoes.
- He has a proposed a resolution on the Tudor/Elmore Navigation Center, limiting it to 150 person normal capacity with no more than an additional 50 surge capacity.
- Budget includes \$1.2 m for spruce bark beetle remediation projects, which he feels is a good start.
- Assembly meeting will vote on 5/10 to confirm Sarah Price as the Assembly Youth member.
- This meeting will also take up how to distribute the ARPA funds.

77 **g. Anchorage Assembly-person Felix Rivera-** discussed the following
78 points:

- 79 • The Homeless Plan progress update is on the Muni homepage.
80 There is some new information available there.
- 81 • There will be a work session on Monday 5/9, from 1-3 PM at City
82 Hall to discuss the Navigation Center construction plan and decision
83 on funding to be taken up at the 5/10 Assembly meeting.
- 84 • \$200-400M Port of Alaska funding is in the State Capital budget bill,
85 with a little less in the Senate version.
- 86 • Felix indicated that the \$50 M ARPA funds may be available for the
87 grant proposals for housing and child care proposals as discussed
88 previously by Portia Noble.

89 **h. Anchorage School Board (ASD) Member Carl Jacobs-** said that:

- 90 • Dr. Jharrett Bryantt has been selected as the next ASD
91 Superintendent.
- 92 • The list of graduation celebrations is available of the ASD website
93 and he will provide a link in the chat.
- 94 • The ASD Board has been re-ordered with Margo Bellamy as
95 President, Carl Jacobs as Vice President, Dora Wilson as Clerk, and
96 Kelly Lessens as Treasurer.
- 97 • Mayor has vetoed the funding for police officers by the Municipality,
- 98 • He has no information on funding for ASD pool repairs, but
99 indicated the Municipality pays for operations, and UACC should
100 contact them.
- 101 • He indicated that the ASD is continuing to look at the opportunity to
102 use electric buses and will keep the UACC informed on the efforts.
- 103 • Finally, he indicated that the ASD Board members rotate around
104 community councils and this will be his last UACC meeting.
- 105 President Robinson thanked Carl for his service to the UACC.

106 **4. New Business**

107 **a. Tudor Elmore Navigation Center and Shelter Presentation and Question** 108 **and Answer –DOWL, LaQuinta Chmielowski.**

109 Before the start of the presentation Tyler introduced the one page document
110 (see Attachment 3) that was sent to DOWL so they could have a list of the
111 UACC concerns before the presentation. Alexa Johnson, Mayor Bronson
112 Chief of Staff was on hand to give a presentation on the current overall sys-
113 tem the city envisions for responding to people dealing with homelessness.
114 The vision is one of a network of MOA and private entities that promote the

four pillars for dealing with homelessness 1) prevention and diversion, 2) housing and support, 3) public health and safety and 4) advocacy and funding. The city is trying to reach Functional Zero through their efforts, where more people find housing that are looking for housing, and the supply of housing meets the demand for housing. There are four categories for supportive housing; veteran, family, youth, and single adult. The city would be looking to fund coordinated housing, which is to match unhoused people with the appropriate housing. The 2020 GAP analysis done by the city indicated that there are 3,000 units needed to meet the needs, and we are far away from meeting that goal, but the is to reach Functional Zero in 2 years. Ms. Johnson indicated that before 2020 the city response to homelessness was just camp abatement and did not provide any other services. She indicated now the city was in process of proving services to move toward Functional Zero, with commitment toward on Housing First. She indicated tht the City is committed to a low barrier shelter to meet the first three pillars for dealing with homelessness. She indicated that the Tudor Navigation center is planned as a temporary shelter, and would be closed after Functional Zero is achieved.

Next there was a presentation of the design specifications and site selection criteria for the Tudor/Elmore site. The Boutet Company was awarded a contract to examine 78 proposed sites were for the navigation center. They recommended 5 sites to go forward. President Robinson questioned if the city code was followed in the selection of the Elmore/Tudor site, why this process of winnowing down from 78 to 1 was not shared with the public.. Adam Trombley indicated that city code does require a Conditional Use Permit, but does not require a formal site section process, and that the city supported navigation center cis only allowed in B3 or PLI zoning. The Tudor site was selected due to proximity to medical services, close to bus services, and longer distance from residential neighborhoods.

This discussion was followed by an overview of the current Tudor/Elmore proposal. A photo of a sprung structure and schematic of the building was shared for information. Design criteria for the structure included provisions for communal dining, overnight accommodations, treatment and counseling, food services, building support and storage, and other site amenities.

Saxton Shearer, Muni Director of Operations and Maintenance, indicated that Hickel Construction got the bid for the construction of the Tudor/Elmore Navigation Center as they were the only bidder that could meet the expedited timeline. The work under the contract is being done concurrently to meet the expedited schedule. Also, he indicated that the schematics previously presented would have to be amended if the proposed capacity was reduced to 150

persons as previously discussed at this meeting. He also said that Hickel Construction is looking to outside sources for the “Sprung Structure” and looked at 5 vendors for the structure, with a low bid of \$61 per square foot. The actual spaces that meet the design criteria have not been defined as yet. The structure will have to meet the MOA safety standards, and there will be accommodation APD enforcement within the center.

Permitting, Schedule, Public Involvement, Long Term Vision Discussion. Adam Trombley indicated that the wetland permit planning was substantially completed under the municipal planning process that was done for the discontinued ASD bus barn relocation proposal, but will require a modification of that permit. The building permit schedule is outlined as: 35% design in April, 65% design by May 10, CUP application by May 30, P&Z approval by Aug 8, and project complete and in operation by Oct 30 and for the winter season. As for the Condition Use Permit process, Mr. Trombley said that there will be a series of community engagement meetings (and this is one), there will be an application submittal review by the Muni departments, then a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), and then a P&Z meeting to approve the permit.

Next followed a discussion of Muni response to the June 30th closing of Sullivan Arena as a navigation center and where the clients may go. Alexis Johnson and Joe Garace indicate that the 2 hotels are available to house 131 couples/roommates, the Sockeye Inn can accommodate another 61 with double occupancy, and the Aviator Hotel provides for another 25 rooms. There was no discussion whether this is enough to accommodate the people experiencing homelessness currently using the Sullivan Arena. Saxton Shearer did say planning for a bigger long term solution is underway by the Municipality and information can be found on the municipal website.

Joe Garace noted that a \$2.5 M budget would be required for operations of the navigation center and a traditional RFP would be used to solicit bids. This RFP has yet to be developed. President Robinson that specific operation questions still need to be answered, such as how to deal with the situations as developed around the Sullivan Arena, and how to operate it. Pres Robinson and Paul Stang stated that process is convoluted and that seems like Muni is forging ahead to build the structure and then will try to figure out how to operate it in an efficient and humane manner.

Question and Answer Section

- Mike Grunst asked what other entities, either public or private have been consulted, and if so and have their specific concerns and com-

ments been addressed and incorporated into a mitigation plan. Saxton Shearer indicated that they have worked with the State and within in-house Muni agencies to discuss pedestrian hazards on Tudor and Elmore, and ways to reduce fire risks in adjacent woodland areas.

- Barbara Garner made a comment that diesel fumes from the adjacent ASD bus barn will create a potential health problem for clients at the Navigation Facility and health impacts could be expected. These should be evaluated and mitigation measures would be included in the CUP process.
- Tyler Robinson asked how the UACC questions sent to the Municipality will be dealt within the CUP. Ms. Chmielowski indicated that need to provide services within the structure, with Recreation, APD, and ambassadors present.
- Representative Sponholz asked that the Muni provide information on what specific entities have been contacted. She also felt that the operational RFP needs to include a behavioral health treatment process, and that behavioral treatment experts need to be hired to implement the plan.
- President Robinson asked that a long term plan actually be developed before the structure is built. He felt that the Community Councils were asked to comment on construction of a temporary or permanent structure, but with an unknown plan for how to operate it, it makes meaningful comment difficult.
- Ms. Chmielowski indicated that the UACC comments have been received and will be incorporated into the process. As indicated there will be another Public Assembly meeting on May 19th, from 5:30 to 7:30, at Loussac Library to discuss progress on the permits. The plan is to submit the CUP on May 30 and have a hearing before the P&Z on August 8th to approve or modify the permit.
- Katy Bisson questioned how the building design contract is already awarded before the CUP is actually approved. Adam Trombley replied that the CUP and the wetland permit approved before actual construction on the project is done. Sexton Shearer noted the Muni could order the needed material, but wait for the CUP to be approved before actual construction is underway. Pres. Robinson noted that this seems to hold a high degree of risk.

- Pres. Robinson asked if there is any one site that the people can go to to see the progress on the project. City official indicated that there is not one currently, but they will put one together. *Update: link to site is <https://moanavigationcenter.com/>*

b. UAA Master Plan Update-Ryan Buchholdt, UAA Representative

Mr. Buchholdt indicated that UAA has been working on the Master Plan Update for about a year, and are planning for completion by fall of 2022 to present to the Board of Regents. The Plan includes a mission statement and vision to transform the lives of UAA students. It starts by acknowledging the indigenous first peoples of the region whose land the UAA campus now occupies. UAA is now in process of year long Stakeholder engagement, with the community, students, and faculty. What has been heard is need to increase density, so as to concentrate on student learning and engagement. The current campus is a long spline, and the plan uses this as a metaphor for a river of knowledge and engagement for students.

Some of the concepts within the plan are: 1) Identify and engage the Alaska Native programs and move them upfront on the campus to honor their presence; 2) Promote public and community access by providing “wayfinding to the front door”; 3) Community collaboration and engagement to attract industry, government, and native organizations; 4) Celebrate the richness of the campus being located on the Chester Creek greenbelt with trails, paths and corridors; 5) Increase vibrancy of the condensed campus through consolidation by getting rid of satellite buildings such as Eagle River, 7th Ave, and Diplomacy Building and leasing UAA owned spaces at University Mall and Bragaw; 6) Look at buildings and cluster the programs to promote centers of excellence; 7) enhance the community spirit at the residential campus, 8) Increase student experience in the “spine”, and 9) deal with the need to maintain and renovate the many 40 to 50 year old building across campus.

Paul Stang noted that the “spine” plan should include an emphasis on how to get students safely across UAA Drive, such as the underground passageway that was previously proposed through the CIP process. Mike Grunst noted that he agrees with the spine concept, and it could promote UAA as being a jewel of the city, and there is a need to bring more community support to the institution. Ryan replied that an example was the UAA Health Department providing community support during the pandemic helped reinforce UAA importance to the community. The 2025 Plan talks about UAA being a trusted partner in the community. Ryan hopes that steady and stable funding in the future will help make this happen. Travis asked how the

267 UAA has collaborated with other entities and integrated their visions with the
268 plan.

269 **6. Old Business-None**

270 **7. UACC Information Reports**

271 **A. UACC Board and Committee Reports**

- 272 • None- As per normal procedures there will be no summer meetings,
273 and UACC will meet again next September. Tyler noted that Executive
274 Board may need to meet this summer if need arises.

275 **B. FCC Representative Report-** Al Milspaugh deferred comment due to
276 time constraints.

277 **8. Public Comments/Open Dialog-**

- 278 • Felix Rivera gave thanks to Tyler Robinson and Steve Callaghan for
279 their input on the Tudor/Elmore Navigation Center process and asked
280 them to keep pushing to get answers to UACC questions, particularly
281 ones that pertain not just to construction but how to operate.
- 282 • Barbara Garner noted that there will be a cleanup ay for Folker Park in
283 late May, and the Anchorage Baptist Rescue Mission will plant the gar-
284 den beds in early June. June. It will be noticed on FCC site.
- 285 • Katie Bisson said that UACC needs to get support for the East High
286 Pool. Senator
- 287 • Wielechowski has some information on funding for pool renovations.

288 **9. Adjournment:** Mike Grunst moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Stang second-
289 ed. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

292 **Tyler Robinson**

293 Tyler Robinson, UACC President

296 Atch: 1. UACC April 2022 Attendance Log

297 2. Sen Gray-Jackson's Notes, UACC Community Council, March 2, 2022

298 3. UACC Executive Board Questions for DOWL Presentation 5/3/2022

299 **Attachment 1. May 4, 2022 Attendance Log**

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Tyler Robison	President
Steve Callaghan	P&R Chair
Krista Scott	Member at Large
Mark Fink	P&Z Chair
Kate Bisson	Member
Paul Stang	Past President
Mike Grunst	Member at Large
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Senator Bill Wielechowski	Member
Representative Ivy Sponholz	Visitor
John LaMantia	Member
Assembly-person Pete Peterson	Visitor
Assembly person Felix Rivera	Visitor
ASD Rep Carl Jacobs	Visitor
Mary Lu Harle	Visitor
Barbara Garner	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Susan Klein	Member
Joanie Nardini	Member
Ryan Buchholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Ian Blake	Member
Brenda Clayhin	Member
Cory Young	Visitor
Kathleen Bryant	Visitor
Amanda Hult	Member
Joanne Kell	Member
Jason Delozian	Member
Daniella Delozian	Member
Portia Noble	Member
Alexis Johnson	Visitor
Kim Mahoney	Visitor
Saxton Shearer	Visitor
Mary Weiss	Visitor
Joe Garace	Visitor
Jack Fowler	Visitor
Adam Trombley	Visitor
LaQuinta Chmielowski	Visitor

Attachment 2. Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes

My Senate Bills on the Move

SB 7 State Trooper Policies: Public Access. Was heard in H-JUD on 4/25/22. Bill will now go to the House floor for a vote.

SB 80 Public Schools: Mental health Education. Passed House Finance on a vote of 7-4. Bill will now go to the House floor for a vote.

SB 222 Extend Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Board. Was heard in House Finance on 4/20/22. Bill will now go to the House floor for a vote.

Other bills on the move

On April 12, the Alaska State Senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 111 "Alaska Reads Act". This bill seeks to expand universal, voluntary Pre-K and other early learning services, establishes a statewide K-3rd grade reading intervention program, and codifies support for virtual education.

The bill creates four new programs:

- An early education program.
- A comprehensive reading intervention program.
- A school improvement reading program.
- A virtual education consortium.

Budget

On April 9th, the Alaska House of Representatives passed the proposed operating budget (HB281) by a vote of 25-14. The bill is in Senate Finance and will be on the floor for a vote with amendments soon. Senate Finance has finalized the Capitol Budget which will be on the floor for a vote with amendments then passed to the House for consideration.

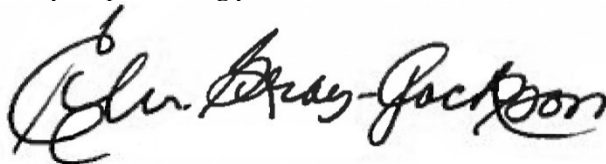
Community events:

We were invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Alaskan Veterans Museum, which has been closed for several months due to COVID. The event marked their grand re-opening. If you have not had the chance to visit the museum, I highly suggest that you do. The museum is in the Sunshine Mall at 411 West 4th Ave.

In addition to this event, I also attended the open house for Alaska Adoption Services. During the event, I was able to learn more about the mission and work of Alaska Adoption Services and how we all can help support families in need.

Email: Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov, Ludmila.Diaz@akleg.gov or Besse.Odom@akleg.gov

Always representing your interests!



Interim: 907 269-0174 Session: 907-465-4930

Attachment 3. UACC Executive Board Questions for DOWL Presentation

Assumption is that the presentation will detail the physical plan, number of beds, schedule, entitlement process, permit process, operating information, etc.

What is the cost of the facility to build?

Can you generally detail the operating plan – hours of operation, services on site, staffing on site, any rules for clients, security?

Please explain why a public facility site plan selection was not pursued.

Please describe the conditional use permit process and timing as it relates to the actual building of the facility. (Include the permit number and a link to its location on the website)

What is the general plan to provide services to clients on site, as well as to/from the site and should those individuals not choose to stay at the facility? E.g., what are the detailed plans for meals, sleeping, childcare, pet care, laundry, medical and mental health services, a multiple-person de-tox unit, counseling, case management, job-placement, sanitation and security for this facility.

What is the operating budget for the above scope? What is the annual cost, and how is this operating budget funded?

What Municipal department will have primary oversight of the facility? Do they have experience overseeing similar operations?

What is the proposed and designed life-cycle for the building and what is its disposal plan? (I believe sprung-steel are considered temp structures, NTE 7 years).

- At the federal level sprung-steel structures are not used because they are not considered real property. Are there any procurement restrictions for temporary structures for the municipality?

One of the conditional use permit approval criteria relates to acknowledging potential adverse impacts and how the project and project operations proposes to mitigate those impacts.

- Researching Sullivan and Brother Francis, what are the anticipated adverse off-site impacts that the project team has identified?
- What are the hours of operation? And what hours can clients come and go at will? Can clients stay on site during the day?
- We are concerned that the risk of fire would increase substantially. We agree with Samantha Emerson's Letter to the ADN Editor of 6/23/21: The proposal puts this huge facility

“into the most densely forested area in the City. This will inevitably result in a mass influx of camps, and dangerous costly fires, into these immense green spaces . . . We already have numerous wildfires in this area each year, started by such camps. Just two years ago, a fire started near the same corner as the proposed site, tore through the woods, forced evacuations and threatened lives.” We also do not support the Municipality shifting \$3.5 million in funds earmarked for spruce bark beetle kill mitigation funds for the construction of homeless facilities. We need this mitigation to greatly reduce fire hazards.

- Given the proposed location on a trail and in a heavily wooded area, who in the MOA is responsible for camp abatement, trail security, proactive vegetation clearing, trash removal, and wildfire prevention? What is the plan? The MOA clear cut a very large portion of the park woods directly south of the Sullivan Arena in reaction to the homeless camps that had been set up there. So, that section of the Chester Creek Trail now looks terrible. How will you avoid the accumulation of trash, garbage and human waste as well as the desecration of the woods and subsequent clear cutting of the woods behind the proposed Navigation Center?
- Has the transition team or new administration studied or taken into account the impact on these areas and potential conflicts with the hundreds, perhaps thousands of daily users of the multi-use trails, including dog walkers, hikers, bikers and skiers? We would like to see the results of such a study. We have already seen an impact on the multi-use trail and neighborhoods bordering the Sullivan Arena, with groups of people congregating and some camping in nearby wooded areas.
- As Parks and Rec, Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services and potentially other Muni departments are affected by the operation of the Navigation Facility/Homeless Shelter, to what degree are their budgets increasing to handle the impacts?
- How do clients arrive or leave the facility? Is there transportation provided? By whom?
- Can you describe outreach to institution neighbors to date, including UAA, APU, ANMC, ANTHC, Providence Medical Center? What have their comments been and what impacts have you identified? What specific steps are being taken to address and mitigate those impacts?
- Will an EMT technician be on-site 24-7 to handle medical and psychological issues? How will you prevent clients from just walking the short distance to already overcrowded emergency rooms whenever they desire?

What other sites were identified during the selection and the permitting process and what criteria was utilized to select this site over others?

- Besides being zoned PI, how does this facility fit with the recommendations DOWL made in the 3500 Tudor Rd Master Plan project?

Since June, 2021, the UACC has been asking for the Muni to do a thorough assessment of the experiences gained and the success and failure lessons learned by using the Sullivan Arena as a homeless shelter. We feel that is critical to improve the chances of success in the future. Will you please write such a report?

In sum, we have heard that previous shelters have not been adequately run because the MOA has not been involved as owner, funder, or operator. Why do we think this will be different?

The Mayor said that he wanted the Navigation Center/Homeless Shelter up and running by July 1st because the Sullivan Arena is to be emptied by June 30, 2022. Yet reports from the Muni staff indicate that the Navigation Center won't be operational until Fall. What are the facts?

Tudor rd is considered an arterial road and is maintained by the state of Alaska, what are their concerns regarding the plan and what are the mitigation plans to address those concerns?

Elmore is considered a feeder road and is also maintained by the state of Alaska, what are their concerns regarding the plan and what are the specific plans to mitigate those concerns?