

UACC MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2022

1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions

At 7:02 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. President Robinson emphasized that speakers should try to limit their time as timeframe 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. 30 persons were in attendance of all or part of the meeting. See Attachment 1 for attendance log.

2. Approval of the March 2, 2022 Meeting minutes

Mike Grunst moved to approve the March minutes. Al Milspaugh seconded the motion. Paul Stang moved to amend minutes on line 148, page 4 by replacing "something" with "sometimes". UACC members voted to approve the amended March minutes by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of the Agenda:

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

4. Informational Reports-Reports from Public Servants

- a.a. **State Senator Bill Wielechowski** – started by discussing his activities on the Finance Committee dealing with the State Operating, Capital, and Mental Health Trust Budgets. He noted there are 87 amendments to the proposed \$4.7 B Operating budget and it's still yet to be passed by both House and Senate, and will likely require going to Conference Committee to get to final passage. The Governors Capital Budget is \$1 B, with \$800 M in Federal funds. It includes deferred maintenance and school debt bond reimbursements. This Friday the committee will take public comment from South Central residents at 1PM. One may also email their comments. Senator Wielechowski also noted the Alaska Superior court decision on AK redistricting Board's creation of a State Senate seat from East Anchorage and Eagle River to be an unconstitutional gerrymander and requires them to redraw. Finally he stated there was no movement on funding for the UMED (Bragaw-Elmore) Northern Access Extension. Unless this is included in a State Bond proposal, this project is deferred at this time..
- a.b. **State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson** - For details on Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's information presentation see her written report to UACC under Attachment 2.
- a.c. **State House Representative Andy Josephson**- discussed his legislative bill that proposes to reform the AK Permanent Fund Board. He also discussed his proposed bills that deal with AK Export Authority, the Higher Education Investment Fund, an update Workmen's Compensation rate schedule, hate and anti-discrimination legislation, re-establishing limits to campaign contributions, and increasing pay rates for State Attorneys to increase retention.

a.d. **State House Representative Ivy Sponholz-** mentioned she is involved with the Operating Budget is on the House floor for discussion. Her Telehealth bill is before the Finance Committee. She said that US Senator Murkowski is in Anchorage on April 16th from 10 to 4 PM at the Dena'ina Center to discuss grant proposals for the Federal Build Back Better Act Funds available for the State. School District funding and Rural Electrification are among the categories that can be included. Also, a town hall will be hosted by Representatives Wilson and Sponholz and Senator Wielechowski at East High on April 16th.

d. **Anchorage Assembly-person Forrest Dunbar-** reported that the Assembly will be taking action on April 26 on the proposed \$9 M in funding for moving forward on the exit strategy for the Sullivan Arena mass care facility. Funds would be a combination of Cares Act, Alcohol Tax, and maintenance dollars. Forrest also noted that the Anchorage reapportionment maps would affect the UMED district somewhat. The area east of Piper Street north of Tudor would go to the East District. The UMED district would still have 4 assembly members, 2 from Mid-town and 2 from East Anchorage. He included a link in the chat to the final reapportionment maps.

e. **Mayor's Office Representative, Terrance Shanigan-** said that the Administration's proposal for the Homeless situation would be announced later this week or early next week. The numbers served and the costs for the various facilities will come out in writing. He mentioned that the \$800 K that has been appropriated, only \$50 K has currently been spent. President Robinson again iterated that the permitting of the facilities, including the Tudor/Elmore navigation center site needs to go through the normal Municipal Conditional Use Permit process. Included in this should be an analysis of the increased response required for Police and Fire which should be informed by like data that was collected around the Sullivan and Brother Francis Shelters. Terrance iterated that one of reasons for moving forward is the need to do camp abatement, and due to the "Boise" decision the city needs to have adequate shelter capacity to do any abatement. President Robinson also state that funding building costs is only part of the solution, funding operating costs through this administration and subsequent ones is an even bigger challenge.

f. **Anchorage Assembly-person Felix Rivera-** discussed the Assembly's efforts to address the Homelessness situation. He discussed the status of the facilitated collaborative process committee implementation strategies which was was updated on March 31st. This update is available on the Assembly website at :

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Committee%20on%20Homelessness.aspx>

The process deals with implementation of the client / community focused approach for exit from the Sullivan mass care facility. He discussed the proposed outcomes for: 1) a single adult navigation facility, 2) for special populations housing, 3) substance abuse treatment and housing, 4) for permanent supportive /workforce housing, and 5) the Sockeye Inn Complex Care housing. He noted there will be an Assembly April 22nd work session to further refine this process. Tyler Robinson asked that the Assembly support the requirement that the Municipal Conditional Permit Use process be adhered to before approving the proposals.

g. **Anchorage Assembly-person Pete Peterson-** discussed the status of the Anchorage Police Department body cam procedures. He indicated they are currently

in negotiation with the police union.

h. Anchorage School Board (ASD) Member Carl Jacobs- said that the search for the next ASD Superintendent is down to three finalists. He said that it has been a good process, and the board will meet next week and should have a final decision in ten days. Also noted was that current school board members Lessons and Bellamy are ahead in the polls and appear heading for re-election, but the District wide construction and maintenance bond is trailing and appears will not pass. Tyler Robinson questioned whether District has plans to move the District bus fleet toward e buses. He noted that the current use of diesel buses has created an unresolved air quality problem. Also noted was that the previously mentioned infrastructure development forum hosted by Senator Murkowski may provide an opportunity to apply for competitive grants for electrifying the ASD bus fleet. Tyler will forward information on this forum to Carl so he can move it on to the ASD administration. Tyler questioned who within the ASD administration the UACC can reach out to discuss this process. For more information on these topics Carl provided links to this in the chat.

5. New Business

- a. Anchorage Equal Rights Commission, Presentation-Maria Husa** Not present.

6. Old Business

- a. Tudor Elmore Homeless Shelter, Action to Approve UACC position- Municipality of Anchorage Invited- Tyler Robinson**

Tyler introduced the one page document (see attachment 3) which outlines why following the normal conditional use permit process is essential. He indicated that it is a document prepared by the Executive Board and it would represent the UACC position on how the Municipal Administration and the Assembly need to follow the normal Anchorage Municipal Permit processes for design, construction and operation of the proposed Tudor/Elmore Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center. The letter urges and Assembly and the Administration to follow the municipal procedures in place so that the proposed facility and long term operating plan can be properly evaluated. There should be an expectation that public meetings and input on any conditional use permit proposal are required. Planning and Zoning Commission Approval of the Conditional Use Permit resulting from this process would also be required so that details on the physical design, planning objectives, facility staffing, ongoing operating plan, and how the facility operations intend to drive positive outcomes for clients and mitigate impacts to surrounding areas are articulated. Administration of the Conditional Use permit into the future, where if the conditions identified in the permit are not met then the permit would need to be amended or revoked should also be established through the process.

Paul Stang with second by Mike Grunst moved to approve the document as written.

President Robinson then opened the floor for discussion on the motion. The following points were made:

- Mike Grunst said that he appreciated efforts the Muni has made to address the homeless situation, but felt that the mega shelter approach is on the wrong path. He felt the process needs to be more transparent. Feels the one page letter fits the bill on the UACC position and supports its adoption..

- Paul Stang felt the document was well written and complements the 7/21/2022 UACC position letter to the Administration and Assembly. He felt that mega shelter battle has been lost. Though the 1000 bed facility was defeated, he felt that the 330 bed surge capacity shelter was still mega. He supports UACC approach for the document.
- Katie Bisson supports the document. She noted that there has to be accountability built into the permit process. She acknowledged that the closing of the Sullivan mass care facility has created a problem, but the solution to the closure needs to be the right one, not one that just replicates the problem in another area.
- Steve Callaghan noted the process is being rushed and what results may be a temporary facility that morphs into a permanent regardless of the impacts. He was also not sure how a “sprung structure” would work. Getting approval as a temporary structure when the intent is actually to build a permanent one which constitutes a build and switch scenario.
- Tyler Robinson noted that not establishing purpose through the CUP process may allow the Municipality to expedite the approval process. Not necessarily resulting in positive outcomes.
- Barbara Garner noted that the Municipality may face legal action in the future if they do not follow normal processes. She used the example of the defeat Government Hill Bridge proposal as an example of what happens when processes are not adhered to.
- Ryan Buchholdt indicated that adherence to the CUP process is important, and doesn’t feel that good outcomes will result from a rushed process.
- Mark Fink called for the question on approval of the document.

The motion passed by vote of 14 votes for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Then followed a discussion on how to distribute the document. Discussion centered on need to develop a media piece to the Anchorage Daily news for public distribution. It would then be forwarded on to the Mayor’s Office and the Assembly. Next adjacent Community Councils (Basher/Airport Height/ Campbell Park/others?) should be contacted for support. There was further discussion on how to get the Muni to commit to a CUP process before they commit big dollars on April 26th to specific proposed solutions. Pete Peterson noted that he proposed to limit the shelter capacity to 150 clients, but this was voted down by the Assembly. Mike Grunst felt that the Assembly and Administration needs to put together an comprehensive spreadsheet showing shelter capacity and what the goals are for each facility. Tyler noted one of the biggest problem is that the documents prepared by the Committee on Housing and Homelessness do not discuss the operational costs of the facilities either in the present or the future, resulting in no objective way to analyze potential impacts to neighborhoods.

b. Bragaw-Elmore Extension-Update- Paul Stang and Tyler Robinson

Paul Stang discussed the evolution of the extension proposal. He indicated that Mayor Tom Fink proposed extension in the late 1990’s. In 2013 Mayor Dan Sullivan got State Capital Budget funds to construct the extension. There was significant East Anchorage opposition to the proposal, but this opposition was ignored. With public outcry changed to the proposal was changed to mitigate some of the potential impacts to recreation and wildlife habitat in the area. Changes included enhancements such as providing for multiple use paths and pedestrian access over the road. Further site analysis of the Right of Way showed a very deep organic peat layer and subsequent cost of road construction was calculated to be signifi-

cantly higher. To meet budget constraints all enhancements were eliminated. The continued opposition toward the project by the East Anchorage Community Councils helped convince then Mayor Berkowitz to strip out the funding for the project and put it toward the budget challenged Port of Anchorage reconstruction.

Forward to 2022, there was a proposal to include \$22 Million for construction of the extension in the FY 2023 Capital budget. Paul felt that this is not a good cost estimate due to the very deep layer of peat the road would need to traverse, and this might require a bridge or other very expensive construction techniques. Barbara Garner noted that a bridge might not be practicable, and needs extensive engineering analysis before a cost proposal should come forward. Another factor is that Federal Infrastructure funds may not be used for the project as it is not in AMATS. On February 6th all major parties felt the road should be built. Ryan Buchholdt noted that UAA support, which owns much of the proposed ROW, is conditional on meeting resource objectives. The project is not currently included in the State FY 2023 Capital Budget, though it might be considered in State bond proposals this fall.

7. UACC Information Reports

A. UACC Board and Committee Reports

- i. **Parks and Recreation Committee-** Steve deferred to committee members for reports. Susan Share noted that there are still huge piles of sand impacting the beach areas at Goose Lake left by Polar Plunge activities last December. Steve Callaghan indicated he will get with Steve Rafuse of Parks and Rec to discuss the matter. Barbara Garner reported that there will be cleanup activities occurring at Folker Park this May.
- ii. **Planning and Zoning Committee-**Mark Fink indicated that UACC comments on the TIPS proposal are due on May 3rd. He will look at them to see if need further comment from those previously completed.
- iii. **Safety-** Al Milspaugh deferred comment due to time constraints.

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

8. Public Comments/Open Dialog-

None

9. Adjournment: Al Milspaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Paul Stang seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

Tyler Roninson

Tyler Robinson, UACC President

Attachments: 1). UACC April 2022 Attendance Log

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

Attachment 1- April 6, 2022 Attendance Log

Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Tyler Robison	President
Steve Callaghan	P&R Chair
Annie Collie	Board 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
Representative Andy Josephson	Member
Assembly-person Pete Peterson	Visitor
Assembly-person Forest Dunbar	Visitor
Assembly person Felix Rivera	Visitor
ASD Rep Carl Jacobs	Visitor
Susan Share	Member
Barbara Garner	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Marguerite Iverson	Member
Ryan Buchholdt	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Ian Blake	Member
Besse Odom	Visitor
Chelsea Ward Waller	Visitor
Michelle Schmidt	Member
Tim Easlery	Member
Bryan Silva	Member
Jason Delozian	Member
Terrence Shanigan	Visitor

Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
April 6, 2022

My Senate Bills on the Move

SB 7 State Trooper Policies: Public Access. Was heard in H-STA and moved out on 3/31/22; next committee hearing in H-JUD.

SB 80 Public Schools: Mental health Education. Senate passed bill on Monday, April 4th by a vote of 13-1 with five senators absent.

SB 157 Health and Personal Safety Education. Scheduled in S-EDU on April 8

SB 222 Heard in S-STA on 3/23/22 and held in Rules scheduled to be voted on by the Senate soon.

Department of Health and Social Services Split

[Executive Order 121](#) to split the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services into two Departments has taken effect.

- The split will occur on July 1.
- The cost to implement the split is estimated at around \$2 million.

The proposed Department of Family and Community Services would contain:

- Division of Juvenile Justice
- Office of Children's Services
- Alaska Pioneer Homes
- Alaska Psychiatric Institute

The proposed Department of Health would contain:

- Division of Public Health
- Division of Behavioral Health
- Division of Healthcare Services
- Division of Senior and Disabilities Services

Special Election to Replace Rep. Don Young

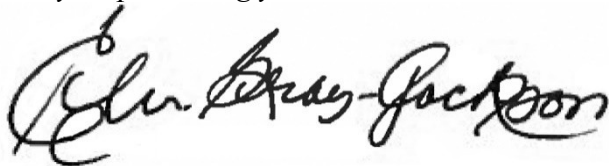
- The special primary election will be held on June 11th.
- The special primary election will be conducted with vote-by-mail ballots.
- Alaskans must be registered to vote by May 13th.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to ask all Alaskans to come together and stand against sexual assault in our homes and communities, commit to keeping our citizens safe, and to increase support to victims and survivors of sexual assault. Sexual assault awareness month was officially recognized for the first time in 2001.

Governor Dunleavy submitted legislation ([SB 241 HB 414](#)) to the Alaska Legislature on April 4th which appropriates the initial funding anticipated to be received by the State of Alaska from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Some of the highlights follow:

- \$560.2 million in additional federal funds for surface transportation, rural water and wastewater programs, veterans services and cybersecurity grants.
- \$37.4 million for federal weatherization programs and the Alaska Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- \$28 million for investments in modernizing the electric grid, developing clean hydrogen and a research demonstration facility for Alaska's substantial reserves of critical and rare earth minerals
- \$5 million to stand up the State of Alaska Infrastructure Office to coordinate and consolidate efforts with all recipients of IIJA funds
- \$4 million to construct housing for teachers and public safety personnel in rural communities not connected to the road system
- \$2.5 million to the Alaska Federation of Natives to continue the navigator program, a joint effort with the state on securing all funding available in the IIJA legislation

Always representing your interests!



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

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

Ludmila.Diaz@akleg.gov

or

Attachement 3-Commentary: Homeless in Anchorage – the Mayor’s Proposed Plan Circumvents Planning Policy

On March 15, the Anchorage Assembly appropriated \$800,000 to advance the design of a 330-bed capacity homeless shelter and navigation center near Tudor and Elmore Roads. In a related action, the Assembly approved another \$7 million in mass care shelter operations. The actions are part of the administration’s proposed strategy to stand down temporary shelters put in place by June 30, including the Sullivan Arena that currently serves as a 500-bed temporary homeless shelter.

The only way to meet the exit strategy timeframe is to ignore or bypass Municipal code that requires a Public Facility Site Selection and Conditional Use Permit in advance of obtaining a building permit to begin construction activities.

A public facility site selection is required when a “facility has the potential for significant impacts on surrounding properties.” At a capacity of 330-beds, the proposed homeless shelter is significantly larger than the size of the Brother Francis Shelter’s approved 240-bed capacity. To date, no formal public site selection process has been undertaken, nor is one planned.

Further circumventing Municipal code requirements, the administration seeks to obtain a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) concurrent with a building permit. A CUP is granted prior to the building permit - the Planning and Zoning Commission must find the proposed use meets the conditional use criteria. When questioned, the administration responded they would permit the structure as a temporary structure allowed in the zoning district, and subsequently pursue CUP authorization.

A building for an undisclosed temporary use does not require a CUP, but a homeless shelter does. In short, the only way for the administration to meet their proposed schedule and obtain a building permit is to obscure the intended purpose of the facility while sidestepping policy compliance.

The first step of a CUP is to provide a thorough application that details the physical design, planning objectives, facility staffing, ongoing operating plan, and how the facility operations intend to drive positive outcomes for clients and mitigate impacts to surrounding areas. At this time, the University Area Community cannot take a position on the proposed facility as no proposal to specifically detail the Municipality’s commitments to the success of shelter operations has been presented.

If done properly, the conditions of approval will be clearly documented and captured in the public record. For a publicly owned and operated project, such a step is logical prior to committing tens of millions of public dollars to build it and millions of annual operating dollars in future costs. Those commitments will be with us long after one-time capital funding is exhausted and the Mayor and Assembly members have completed their terms in office.

On behalf of the University Area Community Council Board

Tyler Robinson, President