

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 @ 5:30PM – 7:00PM

632 W. 6th Avenue, Room 155

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

• **Welcome & Introductions:**

Participants: Mark Butler, Silvia Villamides, Mike Ward, Jason Motyka, Andrea McCormick, Chris Jones, Matt Shultz, Chris Constant, Daniel Volland, David Hall, Jim Renkert, Kristine Bunnell, Loki Tobin, Mary Rohfling, Mike Robbins, Portia Erickson, Ron Alleva, Russ Reno, Tom Begich, Trevor Baily, Zach Fields, Jim Winegarner, Owen Hutchinson, Felix Rivera, Tiera Ware, Harriet Drummond

• **Board Elections:**

Mark Butler facilitating: Slate distributed. Request for any other nominations. Matt Schultz added to slate as Member at Large. Slate approved – unanimous consent.

President: Silvia Villamides, Vice – President: Mike Ward, Treasurer: Jason Motyka, Secretary: Andrea McCormick, Members at Large: Chris Jones, Richard Irwin, Matt Schultz

• **Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda**

Mike Robbins made the motion to approve the agenda. Mike Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed. Agenda is approved.

• **Approval of August meeting minutes**

Russ Reno Made the motion to approve the August 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Mike Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed. August 3, 2022 meeting minutes have been approved.

• **Reports: 3minute limit**

○ **Assembly Report** – Chris Constant and Daniel Volland

- (Daniel Volland) - Health Policy Committee meeting –discussion around how to use alcohol tax to support community partners with funding for a year.
- Public Safety Committee meeting - discussed APD body worn camera policy.
How to procure the necessary technology
APD in negotiation with the police union about policy elements involving body worn cameras.
- Joining AMATS policy committee as an alternate.
Want to help make our infrastructure safer for multiuse travel in the urban core.
Looking at TIP Program (Transportation Improvement Program) 2023-2026 – want to make non-motorized travel / mobility safety a priority.
- Upgrade for 5th & 6th added to TIP as a 5th year project, not yet funded but if a project drops off this will go to the top of the list
- Complete streets study from the A & C couplet, Tudor to 3rd – how to make it safer.
- Housing Homelessness Committee – program from the administration was presented today. The administration has brought forth the idea to use two recreation centers – Fairview Rec Center and the Spenard Rec Center as a shelter option
Administration is stating they will “turn these on” September 29.
- The assembly’s convened task force will be presenting their findings on Sept. 21
- (Chris Constant) in reference to the administration’s plan – it is stated on their plan and still on the website as of this afternoon that the option using the Rec centers, is to be used if plan A is not approved.
- At our next meeting - will be celebrating Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month – September 15-October 15.
Also, recognizing Welcoming Anchorage and Welcoming Week 2022

- Resolution drafted – for restoration of Eklutna River, in conjunction with Native Village of Eklutna and Eklutna Inc.
- Marijuana licensing – renewed all licenses – working on changing licensing from yearly to every two years to match the alcohol licensing.
- On the agenda – confirmation of three department heads; parks and rec director, office of management and budget, municipal attorney
- Ordinance – reinvestment focus - how to seek federal and private support for areas that are deteriorated
- Question before us; Should we send a question to the voters about dedicating the marijuana tax to early childhood education?
- Shall we raise the allowable residential property tax exemption up to \$75,000 which state law was changed this year to allow?
- Downtown Partnership levies are on the agenda – before assembly this week
- LED – this issue isn't yet resolved. They have until October.
- Concern over administration's plan for addressing homelessness. Don't see a plan for a way out of the use of the emergency facilities, the rec centers. I'm trusting the work of the task force.
- **Senate Representative** – Tom Begich
 - Will ask Mayor's office for clarification of the plan and for an explanation of why those two facilities have been upgraded to being the first choice. Look below under Mayor's Office Report – for a response to this. The mayor's office will also send a response in writing to Senator Tom Begich.
 - READS ACT -implementation of this education step – fully engaging partners in that process, including our indigenous organizations, teacher groups, parents, community members and others are being involved in that process.
 - Early Childhood Education – within the next 5 years all pre-K will be able to enroll in early education. This bill increases the Base Student Allocation (BSA) \$30 per student. This state level bill will cover the cost.
Teacher housing is also addressed in this funding
Indigenous cultural education also included
 - Currently on Governor's Advisory Council on – Opioid Remediation – money coming into the state for this. Forming a trust fund for this money to go into perpetuity
 - Suicide prevention awareness this week
- **House of Representative Report** – Zach Fields
 - SB 9 - Alcohol rewrite of alcohol bill – protected bars and breweries. A good thing for bars, breweries and public health
 - Duck Race – passed – fundraising for nonprofits
 - School Bond reimbursement – restored 4 years of school bond reimbursement. Allowed to use capital projects – eye on Inlet View School
 - Worked on funding to complete the Long Trail - connecting Coastal Trail to Ship Creek
 - I and L added to corridor study Title 4 – would like to clean it up and let the parking places be altered
- **Mayor's Office Report** – Portia Erickson
 - Clarification of mayor's plan. Mayor has been working with community partners and talking to different community members.
The proposed rec. centers are still 3rd and 4th choice.
The relocatables are still the primary choice.
The reason not able to say the relocatables are happening right now is because the individuals donating them haven't given an exact date.
There is still city code that needs to be changed which means working with the assembly.
 - Concerns about sheltering – met with police officers, municipal manager and DTCC board members in the mayor's office.
 - Wanting to work with the assembly and coalition.

- Anyone is welcome to set up meetings with the mayor – open door policy
- ARPA – fund transferred for Guest House
- Revitalizing Anchorage – quarterly job fairs, 70 people employed by the end of the last one
- Lousaac Library – Golden Days – for seniors
- 2nd half of property tax due Sept. 30. On the 3rd floor or mail it i
- **Anchorage Police Department** – n/a
- **Anchorage School Board** – n/a
- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Larry Michael n/a – sent a message
ADP has hired an executive director
- **Our Downtown Update** – Kristine Bunnell
 - Hearing public Draft will come out. One more focus group will go through this. Would like a DTCC member to participate. 3-4 meetings to be held here in this room. Then public hearing of the plan.
 - Many commercial buildings in the downtown area are empty – also other areas in Anchorage. Could these be a possibility for housing use?
- **JBER** – Joy Boston
 - Air Force Recruiting Services’s - Aim High Academy application will open on/about 1 September 2022 for 60-days till 1 November 2022. This is an opportunity for high school students age 16-18 to attend a 3-week flight introduction program that includes up to 15 flight hours. More information at <https://www.recruiting.af.mil/Aim-High-Flight-Academy//>
 - The Post Road gate has ongoing construction and is closed. Please utilize alternate gates. For the most up-to-date information on gate construction please visit <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Units/673abw/673SFS.asp>.
 - The 673d Air Base Wing and Anchorage School District reached an agreement to provide active-duty Airmen as supplemental school bus drivers for the installation starting September 1, 2022.
 - If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us. JBER Community Engagement Jber.pa@us.af.mil 907 551-8996
- **ACDA** – Melinda Gant n/a – Mike Robbins
 - Mike Robbins – Block 96 project is going
 - Employee parking downtown – Current qualifying income limit of \$35,000 or less is going to be raised higher.
 - Going to change out the parking meters – testing them on a whole block now
- **Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness** – Terria Ware, systems improvement administrator for Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
 - The Guest House daily operation per guest, double occupancy, is about \$128 – which includes the room rate of \$50. It included food, and monitoring/human engagement also called case management. This has been a transitional housing program that happened during the summer. The municipality paid for May 1st – the end of August. This program will continue for an additional week or two until the property closes and the new owners take it over.
 - After the new owners take over each occupant will pay rent. 60% are ready to pay. Other residents are being given their rent for only a short period of time 3 months while they get their money resources together, PFD, jobs, paperwork in order.
The rents being paid will pay for the utilities and some monitoring and property management. This is not case managing. This housing will no longer be a program.
This property closes on Monday – MASH – will be the operators – collect rent, make sure of maintenance, will attend DTCC meetings, understand homelessness. Have connections in the community.
97% of the current tenants want to stay. Application process is taking place to fill all the beds.
 - DTCC has requested, through the President to have a signed Memorandum of Agreement from the Guest House

- **New Business:** 6minute limit
 - **Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides
 - Alcohol licenses: 49th State Brewing, Fat Ptarmigan, Anchorage Cider House – owner out of state
 - Marijuana licenses: Peace of Mind - on hold, Cannatest, LLC (test), Denali Dispensaries, LLC , Cannabaska , Pakalolo, Tip Top LLC, Tundra Herb Company LLC
 - **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka
\$3,477.10
- **Presentations:** (6minute limit (3minutes-to-Speak/3minutes-for Questions)
 - **Block 102 (8th & H)** – Jim Winegarner – distributed packet of information
 - Proposed trade of land. ACDA and Heritage Land Bank’s Parcel
Currently there is an empty lot – 8 acres near Tudor and Dr. Martin Luther King Ave. near new crime lab.
 - Mayor asked the governor for this exchange. Governor approved it. Muni land will be traded. Heritage Land Bank giving ACDA land downtown to develop.
 - Brownfield Grant Funds are being used for Environmental Site Assessment
 - 3 block developed area will have at least 10 restaurants and bars at ground level.
 - ACDA seeking a board resolution of support from DTCC
 - **Emergency Shelter Task Force Communications subgroup** – Owen Hutchinson, presenter (End Homelessness Coalition)
 - Felix Rivera – continuum of care. End Homelessness Coalition Aug. 22 meeting twice a week.
 - Making recommendations for emergency shelters – 350 people looking for shelter
 - Subgroup of committee – to look at possible properties.
 - Principles to look at: 24/7 operations, showers, meals, transportation
 - Alex Hotel, Arctic Recreation Center, Barrett Inn, Benson DMV, Americans Best Value Inn, Sherman Williams sight on 3rd and Post,
No site to hold more than 130 people
People impact study – website ACEH.org/task-force Join the process, join the meetings listen to recorded sessions
Sept. 21 presenting to the assembly
Evaluating the mayor’s plan
Operations – low barrier – the most difficult people can come in, receive services and be safely managed
 - Discussion ensued involving homelessness downtown. Robust conversation, had abusive behavior by meeting participants. **This is not acceptable and that is the reason why the council created a decorum or code of conduct for meeting participants to follow;** decorum was violated.
 - **President, Silvia Villamides adjourns the meeting**
- **Announcements/Neighbor Comments:** (2minute limit)
 - **3rd St. Radical Event September 29th** - Jim Renkert
Not able to speak due to immediate adjournment of meeting

ADJOURN MEETING

Meeting was immediately adjourned by the DTCC President due to rules of decorum being violated by two members.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:47PM