

UACC MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 2022

1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions

At 7:02 PM UACC President Tyler Robinson opened the meeting. UACC Zoom host 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 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. 30 persons were in attendance of all or part of the meeting. See Attachment 1 for attendance log.

2. Approval of the May 4, 2022 Meeting minutes

Al Milspaugh moved to approve the May minutes. Tyler Robinson seconded the motion. UACC members voted to approve the amended May 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 Steve Zemke 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 House Representative Ivy Spohnholz- First, Representative Spohnholz introduced her new legislative aid Maya Narang. Then she discussed her work with the bills dealing with tele-health in Alaska and dental health care. She also discussed her work on the Budget Audit subcommittee focused on how to resolve where to deposit \$1.5 Billion of Oil industry taxes, such as the constitutional budget reserve. This will allow for a clean audit.

c. David Dunsmore for State Senator Bill Wielechowski – started by discussing the following:

- State on line checkbook bill, supported by Bill, was signed into law w/o Governor's signature. It provides searchable website on the State finances.
- Bill supports a bill that allows for \$75,000 in residential property tax exemption.
- Governor vetoed state funds that could have provided funds for solutions to the homeless situation, including long term housing.
- The anticipated PFD payout for 2022 is \$2,500.
- Voters need to recognize changes to precincts and polling places. .

d. Alex Schroeder for State House Representative Andy Josephson-

- Alex discussed bills Andy has been working on, including those related to workers compensation, highway construction, higher education, defined benefits for front line workers, amending eviction rules in condos, and raising salaries for State

attorney's.

- Alex also noted that, if Andy is elected to a new term in the House, he will no longer be representing the UACC due to the recent redistricting.

e. Candidate Forum

1. Andrew Gray for State House- Stated that he grew up in a conservative family but is now a Democrat. He is a physician assistant and works for VA and National Guard. Has been involved in the Navigation Center issues and is an active member of the Campbell Park Community Council.

2. Gerran Tarr for State Senate- She has been 5 term Representative for District 19. Running for Senate in newly formed District J. She has worked at University since 1998, therefor is familiar with our issues. She stresses working alongside constituents to improve our neighborhoods, to improve public safety and address homelessness, offer more recreational opportunities for adults and kids, and improve quality of life.

3. Forrest Dunbar for State Senate- Forrest noted that he is supportive of issues important to UACC including affordable housing, parks and trails, and funds for the reconstruction of 42nd Avenue. He indicated that if he wins he would be part of bipartisan coalition to get things done for Anchorage and the State.

- f. Anchorage Assembly person-Forrest Dunbar-** said that as co-chair of the Assembly budget committee, the Assembly has received the 120 day budget memo from the Mayor's office which details the Mayor's budget priorities. He also noted that the alcohol and bed taxes have provided a \$11 M surplus. The Mayor's office indicated they want to use the surplus fund for covering increased Municipal fuel costs, and repairing Sullivan Arena. Forest priorities would to deal with the housing issues in the city first.

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

Assembly on Aug 9 approved budget for \$50 M in ARPA funding. Homeless and child care support were a large percentage of the funding. Also included were funds for affordable housing construction. Mayor vetoed \$17 M of the funding dealing with homeless care, but the Assembly later overrode his vetoes. Assembly is looking at the \$75 K tax exemption, particularly in lieu of the dynamic of the mill rates going down, but assessments going up. His led to residential taxes going up but commercial taxes going down. He feels the tax exemptions considered by the Assembly would particularly benefit the \$200-400K residential house range. Other important Assembly actions included a vote against making the city clerk an elected position, as they felt the position currently works well and they don't want to politicize the position. There was a question about what the new construction is east of the Tour of Anchorage trail, just before the underpass south of MLK Drive. Pete replied that this is being done by the Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA). This is land the city exchanged to the ASDRA land for the Tozier Track property on Tudor Drive. The Tozier Track is now city owned property, and was scheduled to be part of business/residential development, but that proposal has fallen through, and there is no current development proposal for the plot.

- h. Anchorage Assembly-person Felix Rivera-** discussed the following points:

- The Homeless Plan progress update is on the Muni homepage. There is some new

information available there.

- Administration closed the Sullivan Arena on end of June, with no emergency shelter plan particularly for the upcoming.
- The Assembly did a short term response plan to this closing, with outreach to community partners.
- The Assembly proposed \$11.8 M in ARPA funds for purchase of structures for unhoused persons.
- Thru August the Administration did not do work needed to develop a plan for dealing with the homeless situation. In response the Assembly formed a task force that meets 2X per week to deal with immediate needs.
- Finally today, the Assembly received a plan from the Administration that purports to meet shelter needs for 350 unhoused individuals. They will be examining.

g. **President Tyler Robinson-** presented information on the AMATS 2023-26 design studies. Indicated that there are a several projects affecting UACC on the list. First was corridor demand study for Tudor and Northern Lights, second was Folker and Dale Street upgrade design studies, and third was a non-motorized bridge over Lake Otis Parkway on the Campbell Creek trail. Barbara Garner had question about what was happening with 42nd Street and why it wasn't on the list. Forrest Dunbar injected that 42nd Avenue is on the Municipal bond for funding and these projects are on the AMATS funding list which are Federal funds. Tyler Robinson will send Barbara the web link to help clear up the confusion.

5. New Business

a. Tudor Elmore Navigation Center and Shelter Update from Mayor's Office if in attendance (no one showed up).

No one was available from the Mayor's Office was available for this presentation. In lieu of that, Tyler reported on activities related to the Shelter. He indicated that the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) approved the Conditional Use Permit for the temporary shelter in August. He gave testimony at the permit hearing. He noted that it was poorly attended, as notice only went out to residents that were within a 500-1000 foot buffer around the proposed site. He felt this was not acceptable. Tyler testimony emphasized that if the facility is completed, an annual monitoring report is essential. This should be at a public meeting, with results reported to all residents affected by the facility, not just around the immediate area. The city also needs to establish and get public approval of what type of data is required to understand and react to impacts that occur on-site but more importantly off site. We need information on operations, not just site construction details, and it appears the Administration is just to be looking at what happens "inside the gates". He said that there will be a Community Advisory Committee formed with neighborhood representative. Further, he asked for a Mayor's Office presentation at our October meeting.

Forrest Dunbar provided additional information. He indicated that he "Navigation" Shelter construction and operation timeline is in crisis. The timeline for construction is way behind schedule. By late Nov/Dec it might be ready to house 75 individuals on emergency basis, but would not provide any services other than shelter. He also felt that by late January to February might be fully operational as an emergency shelter, but most likely not able to provide any navigation services. Forrest felt that it should be called a

homeless shelter rather than a Navigation facility as these services are not being planned for this year. Forrest also said the Mayor continues to not look at using the city owned former Golden Lion property as a treatment center. The Mayor's Office does not also have a plan at this time to look at other structures to provide emergency shelter so some Assembly members are hesitant to provide additional funding needed to complete the Tudor Shelter. Ivy Spohnholz asked if there is a entity that will operate the Tudor Shelter if it is constructed. Forrest replied that there is not one and no information on who would provide these services has come forward. Pete Peterson also said that there is no info on the operation side and there is no information on whether there are any interested parties in providing that service.

Paul Stang suggested that UACC develop a resolution to the Mayor that they take immediate action to develop an actual operation plan for the Tudor facility before construction is finalized. On discussion of this action the following comments were given:

- Steve Callaghan noted that construction cost continues to spiral upward, and we need to know the actual cost. Also, he felt that a poorly executed Homeless shelter could impact area property values.
- Jason Delozier suggested that the Assembly should consider not proving any additional funding for the Tudor Shelter, and just say a bad deal is a bad deal and not allow construction to proceed. He also felt the City should consider using the Sullivan Arena again this winter on a emergency basis.
- Forrest Dunbar replied that the administration is asking for more funding and will likely blame the homeless situation on the Assembly if the project is not completed. He again spoke to the fact that the Tudor facility would not function as a Navigation facility but would just be a emergency shelter this winter if constructed.
- Jason Delozier suggested that if a resolution was developed it should ask the city to fully define the cumulative effects of the shelter and they take responsibility for dealing with these consequences of these effects.
- Ivy Spohnholz agreed that identifying the operations of the facility should be the emphasis and that baseline data is needed to understand the consequences on neighborhoods from running this facility. She used an example of the safety issue of unsafe pedestrian crossings on the busy Tudor and Elmore roads.
- Tyler Robinson felt that resolutions to the Mayor may not be very effective.
- Adam Lees suggested that the UACC Executive Council could put together a resolution.
- Paul Stang suggested that the UACC put together and a companion opinion piece to Anchorage Daily News detailing the points in the resolution.
- Formation of a UACC Tudor/Elmore sub-committee should be considered, and will be up approval under the next agenda item.

After this considerable discussion, UACC made the following motion in relation to the proposed Tudor/Elmore homeless shelter and navigation center:

1. That the MOA collect baseline data to inform the requirements for its annual operating report on shelter impacts and outcomes;
2. That the MOA share its operating and programming plan for the navigation center with UACC, including the budget and staffing plan;
3. That the MOA make invitation prior to completion to form the shelter advisory

committee, to include a UACC designee;

4. That the MOA share its plan to address inevitable offsite impacts, to include adjacent commercial, residential, institutional, and recreational areas, on both south and north side of Tudor Road;

5. That the MOA clearly identify the MOA department and specific staff contact that will be responsible for shelter operations; and

6. That the UACC will advocate this position and request for MOA responses as deemed appropriate.

Paul Stang moved to pass this motion, with point number 6 as an amendment, Barbara Garner seconded. The motion was passed by UACC with no objection. Al Milspaugh volunteered to help format the resolution.

b. Establish a UACC Tudor Elmore Navigation Center and Shelter Committee

President Robinson presented the idea that the UACC needed to establish a subcommittee to deal with the issues of the Navigation facility and provide representation on the Community Advisory Committee. Ivy Spohnholz moved that the UACC establish such sub-committee. Adam Lees seconded the motion. Krista Scott volunteered to Chair the Committee. Krista or Tyler Robinson would represent the UACC if when the Community Advisory Committee is created.

c. UACC Meeting Discussion on Zoom, In-person, or Hybrid Options

Tyler discussed that UACC is looking into all three options. UAA has offered meeting room that might have hybrid (both in person and zoom simultaneously) and Executive Board will look at this opportunity. For now the meeting will remain as a Zoom, but there might be option for hybrid. Mark Fink stated that he would prefer in-person meetings as it provides opportunity to get to know people better. Al Milspaugh said he likes Zoom meetings as they provide opportunity for the most people to attend because of the convenience.

6. Old Business-None

7. UACC Information Reports

A. UACC Board and Committee Reports

- **Parks and Recreation-** Steve Callaghan reported on the Volunteer day at Folker Park. He noted that Phase One of the Folker Plan is completed. He said the completed reflexology path looks good. Also of note is that the University Lake trail has been recently re-rocked to remediate muddy spots. Barbara Garner reported a couple items. The first was that use of Folker Park by local residents is being jeopardized by inappropriate use of the park by homeless men. She and others feel threatened by their presence, and are hesitant to use the park. Second is she is working with Providence Horizon House to see if the Alaska Mental Health property north of Folker Park can be incorporated into the park. She would like to follow up at the October meeting.
- **Safety-** Al Milspaugh gave his fall safety tips. He said winter is approaching and now is the time to winterize to avoid potential injury when winter does arrive.

B. FCC Representative Report- Al Milspaugh noted that it was reported at the FCC meeting that the Fall Job Fair will be held at the Loussac Library on September 23rd from 11-4.

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

- 222 • Al Milspaugh said that Barbara or others should report threatening to APD every time
223 it occurs, so APD can devote the needed resources to the situation.
224 • Ian Blake noted that the APD 311 line was a good resource to report these issues.

225 **9. Adjournment:** Al Milspaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Adam L seconded. The meeting
226 was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:00 pm.

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230 /s/ Tyler Robinson
231 Tyler Robinson, UACC President

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234 Attachments: 1). UACC September 2022 Attendance Log
235 2). Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes, UACC Community Council, September 7, 2022
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238 **Attachment 1- September 7, 2022 Attendance Log**

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Name	Affiliation
Al Milspaugh	Vice President
Steve Zemke	Secretary/Treasurer
Tyler Robinson	President
Steve Callaghan	Parks and Rec Subcommittee Chair
Krista Scott	Executive Board Member at Large
Mark Fink	P&Z Subcommittee Chair
Paul Stang	Immediate Past President
Annie Collie	Member at Large
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson	Visitor
Representative Ivy Sponholz	Member
Assembly-person Pete Peterson	Visitor
Assembly person Felix Rivera	Visitor
Assembly person Forrest Dunbar	Visitor
Maya Narang-Ivy Spohnsolz Aid	Visitor
David Dunsmore-Andy Josephson Aid	Visitor
Susan Klein	Member
Mary Lu Harle	Member
Barbara Garner	Member
Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Ida Marie	Member
Barbara Garner	Member
Kate Bisson	Member
Ian Blake	Member
Adam Lees	Member
Jason Delozian	Member
Daniella Delozian	Member
Besse Odom	Visitor
Andrew Gray	Visitor
Garan Tarr	Visitor
Alexander Schroeder	Visitor

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Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes
University Area Community Council
September 7, 2022

Finalized Budget

On June 28th, Governor Dunleavy signed House Bills 281 and 282, the two appropriation bills containing the operating, capital, supplemental, and Mental Health budget. Some of the vetoes include:

- \$4 million (of \$5 million total) for childcare assistance
- \$4 million (of \$5 million total) for Housing Trust to address homelessness
- \$62.5 million for school major maintenance
- \$4.3 million to Food Bank of Alaska for the pilot produce box program
- \$1.4 million for senior and disability services
- \$1.8 million to hire more Criminal Division attorneys and staff
- \$673,700 to assist in finding Missing Persons
- \$22.5 million for statewide deferred maintenance
- \$2.6 million for Technical Vocational Education Program
- \$52 million to refill the college scholarship fund
- \$27 million for University of Alaska deferred maintenance
- Salary increments for Court System employees
- \$89.3 million to fully fund public employee pension and retirement liabilities

Some of the items in the adopted budget:

- \$200 million for the Port of Alaska in Anchorage
- \$57 million in one-time grants for K-12 schools.
- \$300 million deposited into the constitutionally protected section of the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- \$2.5 million for pre-kindergarten programs
- \$30 million for University of Alaska programs
- \$13.5 million to University of Alaska operations
- \$2.2 million retention bonuses for Public Defender Agency and Office of Public Defenders.
- \$4.3 million grant to Food Bank of Alaska
- \$5 million for new prison system positions
- almost \$3.5 million for bonuses for front line social workers
- \$33 million to boost wages by 10% for personal care assistants paid through Medicaid

- \$3.4 million for retention bonuses in Dept of Law criminal and civil divisions
- \$1 million for study of Clean Water Act 404 permitting
- \$700 million to forward-fund education for FY 24
- \$420 million paid for "Energy Relief" check, paid for out of savings and general fund.

The Inflation Reduction Act

On August 16th, President Biden signed the Inflation Act of 2022 into law. The comprehensive law seeks to address the ever-increasing tax gap. For example, the law allows Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices and can also lower health insurance costs. In addition to healthcare provisions, the law also includes tax, environmental, energy, and transportation provisions. Furthermore, the main goal of the act is to create clean energy jobs, make the tax code fairer, revitalize American manufacturing, and lower health care cost.

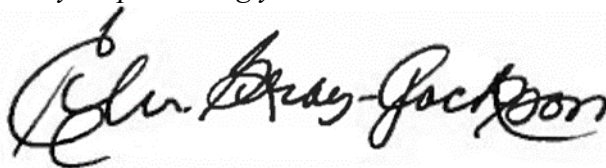
Bill Updates

This past session was very successful, and I was pleased to see two of my bills pass and signed into law. There were also many other bills I co-sponsored that also passed.

- Senate Bill 7: State Trooper Policies and Public Access
- Senate Bill 222: Extend PT & Occupational Therapy Board

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

Always representing your interests!



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