

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 @ 5:30pm – 7pm

632 W. 6th Avenue, Room 155

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Welcome & Introductions
Participants: Mike Ward, Andrea McCormick, Richard Irwin, Trevor Bailly, Doug Farris, Tommy O'Malley, Emma Fisher, Melinda Gant, Larry Michael, Margo Bellamy, Amber McDonald, Kristine Bunnell, Kyle Lavey, Jason Herr, David Hall, Loki Tobin, Chris Constant, Christy Terry, Radhika Krishna
- **Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda**
Additions/changes to the agenda made: Tommy O'Malley requested to be added to the agenda under Announcements regarding Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery. Doug Farris requested to be added to the agenda under New Business regarding the Bear Paw. Kristine Bunnell requested to be removed from the agenda under New Business regarding Downtown surveillance cameras.
Richard Irwin made the motion to approve the amended agenda. David Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed. Agenda is approved
- Approval of October meeting minutes
Richard Irwin made the motion to approve the October 5, 2022 meeting minutes. Doug Farris seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting minutes for October 5, 2022 are approved.
- **Reports: 3minute limit**
 - **Assembly Report** – Chris Constant and Daniel Volland n/a
 - Chris Constant reporting - Assembly meeting next week on Wednesday – due to election on Tuesday
 - Budget Hearings on the agenda – need public testimony on the budget. Public can send in e-mails or sign up for phone testimony by Monday at 5pm or show up and testify on Wednesday.
 - funding request from the port of Alaska asking assembly to give them the authority to spend a revenue bond almost \$100 million for the North extension.
 - Charter amendment to send to the voters a proposal to dedicate Marijuana tax money for early childhood education or possibly for a childcare trust fund.
 - New funding - SEMT funds –Fire Department has made themselves eligible to bill medicare for ambulance transportation. The medicare reimbursement is available now.
 - Conversations over whether to fund a Mobile Intervention Team – APD versus a Mobile Crisis Team – AFD or to create a fusion of the two.
 - Homelessness – emergency cold weather shelters have been set up. Focusing on housing.
 - Golden Lion – assembly is pushing for temporary use of it.
 - Navigational Center – assembly voted it down
 - Limited ability to abate – APD can abate if it is an emergency, short term crisis
 - Proposal for Cameras – As per Chris Constant, 'I do not support broad surveillance as a principle. Cameras broadly deployed to surveil the public in public spaces is against the Alaska Constitution. The proposal had other components that would be supported. Businesses networking with one another with their own cameras would be a better idea.'
 - **Senate Representative Report** – Tom Begich n/a
Trevor Bailly reporting –Senator Begich is in Kotzebue working on suicide prevention. Reminder voting in 6 days. Early voting is available at the City Hall from 8am-6pm
 - **House of Representative Report** – Zach Fields n/a
 - **Mayor's Office Report** – n/a

- **Anchorage Police Department** – n/a
- **Anchorage School Board** – Margo Bellamy reported
 - Last school board meeting – engaged in budget planning efforts. Live streaming conversations.
 - Administration is making recommendations. School Board has not had a chance to look at them yet.
 - Everything is online. Goal – to have a draft by middle of December.
 - Looking at reconfigured middle schools making them 6-8 grades
 - Considering reconfiguring immersion programs
 - BE Smart – safe storage of guns
 - If all administration was cut out of the budget it would save only \$5million
- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Larry Michael – Radhika Krishna
 - Radhika Krishna introduced as the new director of ADP. Was formally Community Development Manager at Anchorage Community Land Trust.
 - Working on the budget currently. Looking to approve budget by early December
 - Trick or Treat Street event was successful.
 - Tree lighting coming up on the Saturday after Thanksgiving
 - First snowfall today. People out snow clearing Monday – Friday 7am – 7pm
 - ADP's last meeting October 27 – focused on reviewing programs/events over the summer. Summer Market was profitable.
 - Business Alliance- asking businesses to commit to developing all of Anchorage
- **Our Downtown Update** - Kristine Bunnell
 - Everyone invited to 1st Friday from 6-9pm. Daniel Volland, Tom Davis and Kristine Bunnell will be giving an overview of Downtown Code Updates.
 - Downtown Code Update Public Meeting 1 – Friday, November 4, 2022 6pm – 9pm. Short presentation at 6:30pm Anchorage Museum: November First Friday. Catherine B. Reynolds Room 625 C St, Anchorage, K 99501
 - Downtown Code Update Public Meeting 2 – Wednesday, November 9, 2022 6pm-8pm. Short presentation at 6:30pm Pioneer School House 437 E 3rd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501
 - Lunch and Learn at the Pioneer School House on November 8th
 - If a business would like a presentation contact Kristine. Planning Manager MOA Planning Department P: 907 343-7920 E: Kristine.bunnell@anchorageak.gov
 - The Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing will be on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Assembly Chambers of the A.J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street, Anchorage.
- **JBER** – Joy Boston n/a – announcements sent in to be posted
 - Veterans Day - Individuals interested in registering for access on Veterans Day should call (907) 552-6910 between the hours of 8 to 11 am and noon to 4 pm.
 - Exercise – During the week of Nov. 14th, people who live and work on or near the installation may notice increased air traffic, emergency vehicle activity, sirens, loudspeaker announcements, alert notifications and longer wait times at the gates during the exercise.
 - Star Lighting – On Nov. 25th at approx. 8am the star on the mountain is scheduled to be turned on. This year is unique as our JBER team will not need to transverse the mountainside to “flip the switch.” Repair work was recently completed to be able to power the star from the installation.
 - JBER Hiring – We have several jobs available on JBER. For detailed information about current openings and how to apply visit <https://jberlife.com/jobs/>.
- **ACDA** – Melinda Gant
 - Presentation on Wednesday November 9, 2022 at the museum at 9am. Will include parking updates
 - Kick off for “A City of a Million Lights” – started installing holiday lights. 7th Parking Garage will have a large Christmas Tree
 - Waiting on approval from Public Works for adding additional swag lights

- RP closed for transit October 26. Evaluation being done to see if it would be conducive for them to move the main hub from downtown to midtown.
- Project Anchorage - city wide group. Will give recommendations to the city on what they want to move forward by January.
- Anchorage Economic Revitalization and Diversification (AERDC) Committee - pushed forward two recommendations to the mayor.
- Install project on Transit Center windows on 6th Ave. by Nov 14 – Parking Mobility theme depicting different forms of mobility
- D St plan for redevelopment. Includes Block 102 project.
- Coalition applying for \$1 million grant for future Brownfield money
- Moving forward on real estate housing study for 2023
- Participating in a redevelopment project at the Aviator Hotel to support the redevelopment downtown
- Mt. McKinley building 733 4th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska – Concept Study – (hand-out given) looking at potential for workforce housing with ground level commercial space.
- **Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness** – Terria Ware – n/a
 - MASH Representative** – Emma Fisher and Kyle Lavey
 - Reporting on Guest House – Emma Fisher
 - 150 people are currently housed at the Guest House
 - Each room has a microwave and mini fridge supplied. Tenants are able to add appliances.
 - United Way has talked about a grant to provide slow cookers.
 - There are two communal kitchens. One on the first level and one on the 4th level. They have a stove and a dishwasher. 30-40 tenants have access to a communal kitchen.
 - Wanting to get a tier one grant to expand the communal kitchens because they are pretty limited.
 - Downtown Hope Center reiterates concern over those people housed in the Aviator and especially those from the Guest House walking down to the DHC in the winter. There is a very steep slope between 4th and 3rd Ave. Many people walking from the Guest House have mobility issues.
 - ADP offered to try to coordinate to clear the sidewalks between 4th and 3rd.
- **Continuing Business:**
 - **Guest House Memorandum of Agreement (Draft)** – Sheldon Fisher, MASH, reported
 - No MOA to present at this time
 - Guest House is a project that is sponsored largely by Rasmussen and Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. It's intended to be workforce housing. 1st Presbyterian Church is the owner. MASH is functioning as the operator.
 - Rasmussen wanted to produce a plan for the Guest House. A plan will be coming forth soon.
 - MASH is interested in hearing if there are any issues or concerns. Please contact them.
 - **Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides n/a
 - No updates
 - **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka n/a
 - No update
- **New Business:** 6-minute limit
 - **Bear Paw** - Doug Farris, Downtown Coalition of Concerned Citizens
 - Rumrunners on 4th and E had to surrender their liquor license in 2012
 - Bruce Burnett, owner of Bear Paw Restaurant, stepped up & offered to open up his restaurant at that location.
 - Conditions and restrictions were placed on the liquor license. Business would operate as a restaurant, not as a nightclub and close by 12am
 - Latest license renewal in 2021 stated that the restaurant would operate on both floors and close at midnight

-Downtown Coalition of Concerned Citizens were made aware of event held on November 22 which included a DJ playing music well past midnight. The very definition of a nightclub
-Downtown Coalition of Concerned Citizens would like to have a formal record with the DTCC of this infraction and our (DCCC) opposition to any type of late hour nightclub operation at that location
-Let the minutes reflect our opposition to the Bear Paw operating outside the restrictions.
-Stated by Chris Constant, "The operator was operating in a time that was outside of their license operation hours."

- **Presentations:** (6minute limit (3minutes to speak / 3 minutes for questions)
 - **Revive Alaska Community Services – Introduction and program presentation** – Prince Nwankudu -n/a
- **Announcements / Neighbor Comments** (2minute limit)
 - Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery - Tommy O'Malley
 - Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery is running out of space. At current pace there will be no public space available in seven years.
 - Working for 20 years on establishing a municipal cemetery in Girdwood. Girdwood Cemetery cost - \$5 million dollars. It would be tied into trails and include a park.
 - Chugiak Eagle River Cemetery (CER) cost - \$3million dollars.
 - Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests the Municipality of Anchorage place an areawide bond for those projects on the Spring 2023 Municipality of Anchorage Areawide Ballot.
 - The bond would also include restoration and repair of the Anchorage Cemetery
 - Chugiak Community Council passed a resolution to support the CER
 - Girdwood would like a resolution of support from DTCC
 - Cost of bond proposition would be around \$10-\$11 million. Cost for average home of \$350,000 value would be between \$9.00 - \$12.00 a year for the next 20 years.
 - AlaskaSense and DHC – just had their yearly meeting reviewing their MOU. The relationship is stellar. This is a statement about how our community can function and work together even if your perspectives are different.
 - Larry Michael – couple of months ago asked DTCC body for support for event Spotlight on 3rd and Gamble. Thank you for your support. We had sponsors; 3rd St. Radicals, ADP, AKHR, Alaska Music, Pastry Truck from DHC, Asian food. Had 60-70 people attend. Successful event. Brought attention to the area, possible new partners. Highlighting the history of the area.

ADJOURN MEETING

Doug Farris made the motion to adjourn the meeting. David Hill seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at: 7:20pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Andrea McCormick

Secretary of the Downtown Community Council