

# **UACC MEETING MINUTES**

**December 6, 2022**

## **1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions**

At 7:05 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. 27 persons were in attendance of all or part of the meeting. See Attachment 1 for attendance log.

## **2. Approval of the November 2, 2022 Meeting minutes**

Steve Zemke presented the minutes as written. He asked for comments or revisions. Receiving none Steve asked whether there were any objections to approving the minutes as written. The minutes were approved 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 Susan Klein seconding. The UACC voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

## **4. Informational Reports-Reports from Public Servants**

- a.A.State House Representative Andy Josephson-** Andy indicated that this was his last UACC meeting due to redistricting. He thanked all and said to give him a call anytime we had a concern. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh presented Representative Josephson with a UACC Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service to our council.
- a.B. Besse Odom for State Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson -** For details on Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson's information presentation see her written report to UACC under Attachment 2. Senator Grey-Jackson will also not be serving our UACC Council due to the re-redistricting. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh presented Senator Grey-Jackson with a UACC Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service to our council.
- a.C. State House Representative Ivy Spohnholz-**Maya Narang noted that Representative Spohnholz did not run for re-election so will also not be representing our UACC area. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh presented Representative Spohnholz with a UACC Certificate of Appreciation for her years of service to our council.
- E. Anchorage Assembly person-Forrest Dunbar-**discussed the latest Assembly business pertaining to the city snow removal budget, brother Francis Shelter funding, mobile crisis team, and the Girdwood housing development proposal. He also noted that this will be his last meeting as he will be resigning from the Assembly and will not represent the East Anchorage area in the State Senate. The Assembly will appoint a representative by January 10 and this person will represent the area until election in April. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh presented Assemblyman Dunbar with a UACC certificate of appreciation for his years of service to our council.
- F. Anchorage Assembly person-Meg Zaletel-** discussed such items as Port of Alaska funding options, mobile crisis team makeup, and the status of the Homeless Coalition

work.

**G. Anchorage Assembly-person Pete Peterson-** said that after review of the latest election proceedings the Assembly had passed Title 28, which amends Municipal election ordinances reflecting minor changes identified by the review.

**H. State Representative elect Andrew Gray-** introduced himself as newly elected representative for our area. He said that Maya Narang will be his legislative aid, who comes over from departing Ivy Spohnholz staff. He also said that affordable housing will be a priority. He indicated that his area contains four community councils. It was noted that after re-redistricting our Community Council falls within Senate District J and House District 2.

**I. UAA Representative Ryan Buchholdt-** noted that UAA finals week are upcoming and graduation commencement will be December 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that enrollment is starting to recover and this spring and is flat or slightly improving for first time since 2015. Kim Mahoney discussed the Urban Forest Proposal for the portion of campus north of Mallard Lane. There is a work group to develop a forest plan and UACC member Susan Share is on this group with their first meeting planned for Friday.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) new development update.-**

They noted they were founded in 1949 and are currently a 501C3 non-profit organization. Their purpose is education and advocacy for dog sledding, cultural preservation of their sport, and development of junior leadership. The plan for their “new” property south of the intersection of Diplomacy and MLK Drive is to construct the trail-head and parking for the 20 miles of ASDRA trails that would start here. There will also be some short dog sled loops (year round use) constructed on this property. There will also be a 2400 ft<sup>2</sup> clubhouse/event center on top of a garage and maintenance area to facilitate operation of the ASDRA activities. A large chain link fence has been installed along the MLK bike path and along the Tour of Anchorage trail as a safety issue to keep sled dog teams separated from other recreational users. There is also a 70 foot Right of Way for the Tour of Anchorage running through the property.

### **B. Nominations for January UACC Officer Elections. President, VP, and Secretary/Treasurer-**

President Tyler Robinson noted that these 3 positions are now open for nomination. Persons can be nominated at this meeting, by sending in a nomination to Annie Collie UACC member at large (at [Anniecollie@gmail.com](mailto:Anniecollie@gmail.com)) by the January 4, 2023 meeting, or by nominating them at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other position nominations such as Member at Large Positions or FCC Representative will be taken up at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with election occurring at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Annie Collie Nominated Tyler Robinson for 2023 UACC President and Al Milspaugh for 2023 UACC Vice President. No other nominations were received for these two positions. Both members accepted their nomination. Al Milspaugh nominated Steve Callaghan for Secretary/Treasurer. He indicated he would accept if no other nominee came forward. Current long term Secretary Steve Zemke indicated that he would decline a nomination for the 2023. UACC Vice President Al Milspaugh presented Secretary/Treasurer Steve Zemke with a UACC Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service to our council.

### **C. UACC Resolution 2022-03 to support Russian Jack Bike Trail project consistent with Russian Jack Master Plan (Attachment 3)**

For background on the project proposal that is supported by the UACC Resolution 2022-03 Carl Batreal described the project as occurring in the Northeast side of Russian Jack Park which include the old girl scout camp area. Volunteers with Alaska Trails will work with Youth Employment in Parks crews to build beginner and intermediate level mountain bike

trails in this east Anchorage park. The design will include a special skills development area, a first for Anchorage and something that the local cycling community needs. The trails will also be designed to appeal to those who ride BMX and dirt jump bikes. Perimeter trails will be two way, with interior trails one way. Alaska Trails will be responsible for the maintenance of the trail system. With its connections to the Chester Creek trail and greenbelt system, and supported by a 2022 Master Plan, Russian Jack's new mountain bike trails will complement existing Nordic ski trails.

The UACC motion presented supports this project and recommends that it advance to construction in 2023. Mike Grunst moved to approve resolution 2022-03. Susan Klein seconded the motion. There was no further discussion on the discussion on the resolution.

**The Resolution was approved by vote of 14 for, zero opposed, and zero abstentions.**

**D. Providence Behavioral Health Crisis Center, Renee Rafferty**

Renee Rafferty along with John Bush and Laureen Anderson explained the purpose of the crisis center that develops a plan and deal with person in mental crisis and focuses this care outside of the hospital. They would have 12 short term (less than 24 hours) chairs as well as having longer term options. This short term model has been shown to be effective in promoting client mental health. They are partnering with Alaska Mental Health Authority and the South Central Foundation. Looking at a \$8 M retrofit of the old API building and another \$1 M to fund the short term facilities. They will be working closely with Providence Hospital psychiatric ward, which will still provide at least seven beds, as well as with the APD mobile crisis team

**E. UACC Resolution 2022-02 to Support Anchorage Cemetery Bond Proposal, Susan Klein**

Susan introduced the UACC resolution 2022-02 (Attachment 4) that supports the requests by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to place an area-wide bond for those projects on the Spring 2023 Municipality of Anchorage Area-wide Ballot. During discussion noted that there was some confusion about who would pay for it. Pete Peterson noted that Eagle River Assembly reps indicated they did not want to pay for it, but UACC came to an understanding that the cemetery would be paid for by the community of Girdwood and the area wide designation just refers to the full faith in credit provision that if Girdwood would default on the payment the overall Municipality taxpayers would be responsible. After discussion, Susan Klein moved to approve Resolution 2022-02, Al Milspagh seconded Susan's motion.

**Resolution approved by UACC- 12 votes for, 0 votes against, 1 abstention.**

**F. Community Council Boundaries, 10-year Review, survey available before 12/23/22**

Tyler Robinson noted that the document about changing Anchorage Community Council boundaries is available at the Anchorage FCC website under the Notices Tab and is titled:

[22NOV ASD Report to Community Councils.pdf](#)

One can also go to the Municipality of Anchorage website, under Departments and Planning: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/CommunityCouncilBoundariesReview.aspx>

President Robinson indicated that this review may be taken up by our Council at a future meeting.

**G. Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Title 21 Changes Summary (Attachment 5)**

President Robinson presented the topic.. He referred to the summary paper he had put together on the topic. This paper contains links to the Planning department documents on the ordinance changes. The comments to the changes need to be in by 12/20/2022 so are

pertinent for this meeting. Tyler's paper summarized the six major changes proposed to the existing ordinance.

Tyler felt that there needed to be UACC action in this meeting or it would be left to individual member testimony. Tyler indicated due to his personal job responsibilities that associated the involve aspects of this ordinance he felt that he had a conflict of interest and turned the meeting over to Immediate Past President Paul Stang to chair. Discussion followed on the 6 points, centered primarily on the elimination of the owner occupancy requirement.

- Adam Lees questioned the removal of the owner occupancy requirement as he felt it did not meet the original ordinance intent of in-fill housing. Removing the owner occupancy requirement might just create more 's and BnB' s rather than actual new residential housing;
- Krista Scott noted that current BnB' s need to be owner occupied and this sets up a duel standard;
- Mike Grunst noted that this might be a way for triplex and fourplexes to add more housing units which he felt was a good idea;
- Susan Klein felt that removing owner occupancy may be a bad idea and had concern over the increased height allowance which may create undesirable neighborhood shading. She also had question about the ADU size allowance, though it was noted that the buildings may only occupy a certain percentage of the lot;
- Steve Callaghan also noted that certain other requirements for ADU's such as need to have separate entrances may limit proliferation of ADU's.

Mike Lees than moved that UACC should oppose the ADU ordinance changes. After some discussion about whether UACC opposes all of the changes, the motion was amended to UACC supports the majority of proposed changes to Accessory Dwelling Unit zoning regulations. The exception is that the UACC does not support the removal of the requirement for the landowner to reside in either the principal dwelling unit or the ADU as his or her primary resident.

**The count of UACC members was 8 votes for, 0 votes against, 2 abstentions.**

It was agreed that Vice President Al Milspaugh will sign the resolution and that Mike Grunst will testify before the Planning Commission. President Robinson returned to chair rest of meeting.

#### **6. Old Business-None**

#### **7. UACC Information Reports-None**

#### **8. Public Comments/Open Dialog-None**

9. **Adjournment:** Paul Stang moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Zemke seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent around 9:24 pm.

### **Signed**

Tyler Robinson, UACC President

- Atchs: 1). Attendance Log  
2) Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes  
3). UACC Resolution 2022-03  
4). UACC Resolution 2022-02  
5) Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Title 21 Changes



## Attachment 1- December 6, 2022 Attendance Log

[illegible]

## Attachment 2- Senator Gray-Jackson's Notes

- The election is over, the final numbers are in, and I'm honored to be re-elected to the Alaska State Senate to continue representing the people of District G and Alaska. Public service is my passion, and it's an honor to be able to continue my journey after so many years working for you. I look forward to being sworn-in on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The 33rd Legislative Session will be the best. The best because Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have listened to you and have committed to working together to get things done. As you know by now, we will have a Bi-partisan Senate Majority with nine Democrats and eight Republicans. I'm also honored that I will be part of the Leadership Team chairing the Legislative Council Committee. I will also continue to be a member of the Labor and Commerce, and Community and Regional Affairs Committees. In addition, I anticipate being on the Labor and Workforce Development, Health, and Commerce, Community and Regional Affairs Finance Sub-Committees.
- The Senate Majority will focus on lowering Alaska's high energy costs, improving education, and revitalizing Alaska's economy.
- My priorities will be *establishing a comprehensive and sustainable fiscal plan, public safety, infrastructure* and, of course, a focus on *Education* and doing the right thing for our children.
- Below are bills that I introduced during the 31<sup>st</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislatures that I will pre-file to be introduced during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature which begins on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Chokehold Ban
  - Use of Force Registry
  - Mental Health in Schools
  - Home and Community Based Waivers
  - Juneteenth Paid Holiday
- New Legislation
  - Poll Worker Pay Increase
  - Charitable Healthcare
  - Dementia Month
  - Officer Certification through Training to include de-escalation and cultural training
  - Charitable Healthcare

- Senate District G no longer has the University Community Council within the District. It's been an honor to join you all every month. Please let me know if you ever need my assistance in the future.
- December is HIV/AIDS Awareness Month. December 1st was World AIDS Day and the theme per HIV.gov is "Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV." In 1988 World AIDS Day was first observed to unite and help end HIV as well as remember those lost to HIV/AIDS related illnesses.
- December is also Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and this hits home because in Alaska our hours of daylight are limited, and we see the increase of SAD. Alaska sees 10% of its population affected by SAD. It is important to keep an active routine, practice self-care, and don't hesitate to ask for help or talk about the issues from SAD.

*Happy Holidays!!*

*Always representing your interests!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elvi Gray-Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elvi" being the most prominent.

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

Email: [Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov), [Besse.Odom@akleg.gov](mailto:Besse.Odom@akleg.gov),  
[Harlyn.Andrew@akleg.gov](mailto:Harlyn.Andrew@akleg.gov)

### **Attachment 3**

## **UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC) RESOLUTION 2022-03**

### **SUPPORT FOR RUSSIAN JACK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS**

**WHEREAS** the Anchorage Municipal Charter Part, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; **and**

**WHEREAS** Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of lands within their boundaries; **and**

**WHEREAS** Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP) is centrally located, shared and enjoyed by all east Anchorage neighborhoods, and is one of Anchorage's oldest and most popular parks; **and**

**WHEREAS** the recently updated (2022) Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan designated approximately 45 acres of hilly terrain, on the northern side of the park, for the development of mountain bike trails; **and**

**WHEREAS** the project helps activate the northern half of RJSP and brings accessible mountain biking trails to a significant number of residents and youth; **and**

**WHEREAS** the non-profit Alaska Trails is working with the Municipality of Anchorage to build beginner and intermediate level mountain biking trails to implement the updated RJSP Master Plan; **and**

**WHEREAS** the funding for the project will be raised by Alaska Trails and will be constructed by Youth Employment in Parks and professional trail builders; **and**

**WHEREAS** the project will utilize many existing trails, will avoid wetlands, use ADF&G recommendations on wildlife corridors, and will ensure safe trail crossings; **and**

**WHEREAS** the specific project plan will be reviewed by the Parks and Rec Commission prior to construction.

**NOW THEREFORE** the UACC hereby resolves:

That the Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trail Project is consistent with the updated Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan and the UACC supports the advancement of the project for construction in 2023.

**Resolution Vote:** For: 14    Against: 0    Abstain: 0

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

**Signed**

Tyler Robinson, President, UACC

**Attachment 3**

**UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC)  
RESOLUTION 2022-02**

**SUPPORT FOR AREAWIDE BOND PROPOSAL FOR CEMETERIES IN  
GIRDWOOD, EAGLE RIVER AND ANCHORAGE**

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of lands within their boundaries; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, Community Councils may support actions by other community councils as well as the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) that are also of interest to the University Area Community Council; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 voters in Girdwood voters passed an ordinance allowing the GBOS powers to tax property owners to establish and maintain a cemetery in Girdwood by an unprecedented 68.7% in favor; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the GBOS established a committee, The Girdwood Cemetery Committee, which pursued the goal of establishing a cemetery whose meetings are open to the public and which reports regularly to the GBOS; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, public land was chosen from several offered sites from the Municipality of Anchorage's Heritage Land Bank after extensive public process; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the GBOS expended public funds for the environmental study which proved the suitability of the chosen site; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, communication and consultation has been maintained with the Director of the Anchorage Memorial Park and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board since 2002; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, a design and construction cost estimate was created for a multi-phase development plan for the establishment of the Cemetery in 2019; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Daily News reported in 2020 that the Anchorage Memorial Park had space for public burials for five more years; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has reached out with community councils in Chugiak and Eagle River who expressed their wishes to establish a cemetery in the northern part of the Municipality of Anchorage, has shared information, participated in their public process, and has helped coordinate efforts toward that goal; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee has also coordinated efforts with the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to help promote needed improvements for the Anchorage Memorial Park; **and**,

**WHEREAS**, through the coordinated efforts of the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board, a bond proposal is being developed to fund the establishment of a cemetery in Girdwood at an estimated cost of \$5M, a cemetery in Eagle River and for renovations and improvements at the Anchorage Memorial Park.

**NOW THEREFORE** the UACC hereby resolves:

To support the requests by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, the Girdwood Cemetery Committee, the Eagle River and Chugiak Community Councils, and the Municipality's Memorial Park Advisory Board to place an areawide bond for those projects on the Spring 2023 Municipality of Anchorage Areawide Ballot.

**Resolution Vote:** For: 12 Against: 0 Abstain: 1

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022.

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Tyler Robinson, President, UACC

## **Attachment 5 - Accessory Dwelling Unit Changes in Zoning Code**

[ADU presentation](#)

[Staff report](#)

[ADU project web page](#)

Assembly public hearing is scheduled for 12/20/2022

### **Summary of Changes:**

- You do not have to live in the main house on your property in order to rent out the ADU. You can rent both your main house (which is currently allowed) as well as your ADU.
- The ADU can be up to 900 square feet in size, or 40 percent of the gross floor area of the main structure, whichever is larger. In Chugiak-Eagle River, ADUs can be a bit larger, up to 1,000 square feet.
- You can build any number of bedrooms that you can fit into an ADU, though this will be practically limited by size.
- Your ADU can be the same height as your house and have the same setbacks.
- You do not have to provide a separate parking space for the ADU.
- ADUs can be added to any existing use, for example a duplex or fourplex, not just a single family home. Think of it like what is allowed in zoning plus one.