

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

632 W. 6th Avenue, Room 155

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Welcome & Introductions

Participants: Silvia Villamides, Jason Motyka, Melinda Gant, Daniel Volland, Chris Constant, Robert Good, Christy Terry, David Hall, Buzz Rohlfing, Greg Wahlman, Mark Griffin, Brad Coy, Andrea McCormick, Michelle Hodel, Robin, Jason Herr, Radhika Krishna, Mike Robbins, Mike Ward, Richard Irwin, Kristine Bunnell, Lindsey Heyduk, Kyle Lavey, Mark, Doug, Emily Weiser, R.D. Holton, J. Novinska, Ana Fisk, Remington Purnell, Larry Michael

Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda:

Daniel Volland requested that the Anchorage Fire Department speak first on the agenda. Mike Ward asked to be added to the end of the agenda. Mike Ward made the motion to approve the agenda. David Hall seconded the motion. The agenda is approved.

Approval of March meeting minutes:

Mike Ward made the motion to approve the March 1, 2023 Anchorage Downtown Community Council meeting minutes. Daniel Volland seconded the motion. Motion passed. March 1, 2023 meeting minutes approved.

Reports: 3minute limit

Assembly Report

-Chris Constant – the shelters have closed and every corner of our district is a mess. Recognizing the fact that I have no good answers.

-Attended meeting on homelessness and the consensus is that it is completely broken right now, but it is also an opportunity. Wish I had good news, but only have bad news.

-Aggressively funded outreach shelter services

-Muni is struggling. Have work staff shortages

-Executive Meeting on Friday to be briefed on various legal cases

-Daniel Volland – for the last three years the Sullivan has been used. Our frustration is that we have been working on this and aren't further along with a permanent low barrier shelter location.

-What are we going to do with emergency shelter?

-Forming two different task forces.

-API and other agencies want to help. Urgent needs and long term needs.

-Appeal to the state for help. Anchorage can't handle the burden of this alone

-Pursuing federal funds

-Another task force looking at extension camping, dignity villages, tiny home communities

-Town Halls, one Community Council President from each district, coming together to discuss and help with solutions. Committed to come up with a permanent location or locations for low barrier shelter in Anchorage by November 1st.

-Finite resources. Alcohol tax revenue eaten up in crisis mode in regards to homelessness. Voters also wanted to see the funds used for; prevention of domestic violence child abuse, early education

-Some of the Alcohol tax revenue was dispersed to various projects such as; Providence for behavioral health system, matching grant for reconnecting Fairview project, Graffiti Busters etc.

Senate Representative Report – Loki Tobin n/a

House of Representative Report – Zach Fields n/a

House of Representative Report – Cliff Groth n/a

Mayor's Office – Michelle Hodel

-1st quarter budget revisions.

Proposed \$3.6 million under tax cap with property taxes.

No cuts to Public Safety, added to Police and Fire budgets.

Included \$750,000 for repairs to Golden Lion.

\$1 million extra towards snow plowing.

-Mayor made 2 veto decisions

Mayor supports Municipal-wide housing study of short-term rentals, but this is not a legal appropriation
Mayor vetoed

Mayor supports the efforts in advancing the Holton Hills development agreement. He vetoed this amendment to furnish needed budget to fund this position within the Mayor's office.

-Golden Lion: working with the Anchorage Assembly to provide housing for low-income residents and those experiencing homelessness.

-Sullivan Arena demobilized as homeless shelter. Anchorage Health Dept. and shelter contractors to provide one month extension for persons with substantially impaired mobility. Service providers working to place many people in other facilities.

Homelessness: Mayor feels the government works best when both branches are on the same page.

The Mayor and the Administration have a variety of proposed options which include: Navigation Center, pallet housing, and former ASD relocatables.

-Downtown Public Safety: Downtown Patrol Team: 2 APD officers, 2 Anchorage Health Department outreach staff, 6-8 Parks and Recreation Healthy Spaces staff and Anchorage Downtown Partnership. This team has been activated as of May 1.

ADP= 15 staff who perform security, outreach and business contacts.

MOA staff will not be performing law enforcement. They will be providing: increased presence downtown, talking with residents and tourists, contacting APD through 311 or 911 if observing illegal activities. APD can contact Mobile Intervention Team as needed.

-AFD Academy begins this Fall, with 15-18 cadets.

-APD Body cameras: APD is moving forward with the purchasing process to secure cameras and get them on officers ASAP.

Two academies held per year.

-Anchorage Port. Mayor traveled to Washington DC to discuss Port of Alaska.

Administration had meetings with: Alaska Congressional Delegation, other Congressional Leaders, and federal agency heads.

-Mayor and his administration are dedicated to securing more federal funding.

-City Cleanup. Annual Citywide Cleanup will happen in the month of May

To register your team please go to: citywidecleanup.org

Pick up orange bags at designated locations including Fred Meyer.

-Community Councils. Mayor supports and desires to work with all community councils to improve Anchorage.

Community Council Survey Link: Each council can help by: responding to the MOA Community Council Survey, prioritize capital projects for their area and keep that list up to date for use in future years.

The survey is located at: <https://www.muni.org/communitycouncilsurveys/homepage/>

Deadline to complete survey is June 15, 2023.

Anchorage Fire Department – AFD Captain, Greg Wallin

-President, Silvia Villamides, had requested information from AFD regarding the number of service calls. AFD Captain was not aware of the request but will forward the request on. Will have the information at next meeting.

-5 fire fatalities in Anchorage – all with no working fire detectors. New modern detectors are now available

-Barbeque and grilling safety – all done outside and away from combustibles, don't leave grill unattended

-wildfire season is coming up. Call burn hotline prior to having a recreation fire on your property

-Pulse point – started in February. App that can be downloaded. For citizens that have training for CPR. Alerts when someone near you is in need.

-AFD Open House – Saturday, May 20th. 10:00am-2pm AFD Training Center

Anchorage School Board – n/a

Anchorage Downtown Partnership – Radhika Krishna

-Summer Event Schedule: City wide clean up May 9th 4-6 PM Town Square Park E Street. First New Sunday Market Town Square Park May 21st.

-Moving to a seven day a week schedule for summer. 7am - 7pm shifts

Our Downtown Update – Kristine Bunnell

-The Downtown Plan books are now completed and available

-Community Council Boundary Project is ongoing. South Addition proposes to move Bootlegger Cove into the DTCC area. Input from DTCC regarding this proposal is needed. Please email comments to Silvia Villamides, President of DTCC at: downtown.c.council@gmail.com

-Downtown Streets Engineering Study received grant from AMATS.

-Downtown code has 2 amendments: allow for buildings on southside of Town Park not to exceed max height of 200'. Allows for multi-family units.

-No new service parking allowed downtown.

JBER – Joy Boston

-Exercise Northern Edge is coming May 4-19 with additional personnel and aircraft visiting JBER. For aircraft-related or other noise complaints you believe are generated from JBER equipment or personnel please email: jber.pa@us.af.mil

-iSportsman is the app to recreate on military lands. Annual permits (Jan 1-Dec 31). Required for everyone 16 years and older. Cost: \$10 for general permit. \$5 for folks over age 60 or with greater than 50% disability. <https://iber.isportsman.net>

3rd Avenue Radicals – Larry Michael

-3rd Avenue Radicals participation in city-wide cleanup Sat May 20th 9-11am covering East Downtown area.

Alaska Railroad – Christy Terry

-Open House Saturday May 6 Railroad Day celebrating our Centennial Birthday. Short rides from Winchester Lagoon and back. Plenty of free parking available.

-First Friday- Centennial exhibit at the Museum. Railroad exhibit extended through Feb. 24.

-Passenger train start daily service May 10.

Performance Arts Center – Jason Herr

-Continuing with Broadway Alaska -kickoff in August.

-Refreshing interior spaces.

Continuing partnership with UAA & ASD.

“Hamilton” tickets are available to the public for purchase May 10.

· **ACDA** -Melinda Gant

-Chamber of Commerce developed a Community Care Kit. Posted detail information on their website. Contact Tasha Swann @ (907) 677-7103 for more info.

-Block 96 Project to be completed in August.

-Coordinated work on a Housing Summit, more info to come.

May 12 12-1PM Designer Luncheon at ACDA office.

· **Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness**

MASH Representative: Kyle Lavey

-Coordinating processing for SSI going slow-2-4 mo.

-SNAP on site 2nd and 4th Friday of each month, the processing is backlogged.

-Working towards flowerbeds and hanging baskets for beautification.

-Agreement with Henning to provide food at the café inside the Guest House lobby.

· **Continuing Business:**

Extend the meeting: Melinda Gant made the motion to extend the DTTC meeting time. David Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting time extended.

Draft Resolution 2023-02-01 Protected Bike Lane Pilot Project – Emily Weiser & Brad Coy

A RESOLUTION (2023-02-01) IN FAVOR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED BIKE LANES IN ANCHORAGE WHEREAS, a “protected bike lane” is an on-street bicycling facility that is separated from motorized traffic by a vertical barrier, such as posts, planters, or concrete barriers; WHEREAS, unprotected bike lanes appeal only to people that are confident cyclists—10% of people in the US—while about 50% of people would like to bike but are unwilling to use facilities that are not physically protected from motor vehicles¹ ; WHEREAS, protected bike lanes are comfortable for bicyclists of all ages and abilities and thus increase the number of trips taken by bike¹ ; WHEREAS, active transportation, including bicycling, improves physical and mental health, thus improving individual quality of life and reducing the need for public health services, which more than offsets the cost of building a protected bicycle network¹ ; WHEREAS, the presence of a protected bike lane improves safety for all traffic modes by acting as a “calming” mechanism, slowing cars and reducing fatalities for people traveling by motorized vehicle, foot, and bike² ; WHEREAS, protected bike lanes bring more customers, who also spend more per trip and visit businesses more often than drivers, thus increasing revenue for businesses on the route³ ; WHEREAS, the presence of high-quality cycling infrastructure, such as protected bike lanes, benefits homeowners by increasing the value of their home⁴ , WHEREAS, supporting non-motorized transportation

improves equity, reduces transportation costs for individuals, reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, reduces traffic congestion, and is a more space-efficient and cost-effective use of public dollars than supporting motorized transportation; WHEREAS, an increase in the mode share of non-motorized transportation is necessary to meet the goals of the Alaska Statewide Long-Range Transportation Policy Plan; Municipality of Anchorage goals as stated in the 2040 Land Use Plan, 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Non-Motorized Plan, Climate Action Plan; and goals of the Fairview Neighborhood Plan and the Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan. WHEREAS, the main road corridors in Anchorage that provide access to businesses and services are equally important for both motorized and non-motorized traffic, but prioritize motorized traffic while providing minimal accommodation for non-motorized traffic, and thus are not welcoming or usable for most people who would like to travel by bike; WHEREAS, alternate routes for bicyclists are often not available, as many low-traffic streets in Anchorage are not through-streets and thus not part of a usable bike network; WHEREAS, protected bike lanes would provide best-practice facilities for Anchorage bicyclists along important corridors that provide connectivity for the bike network and access to businesses and services; WHEREAS, A Street, E Street, and G Street are in our Community Council area and are important corridors that should better accommodate bicyclists; WHEREAS, temporary projects are useful to test, fine-tune, and demonstrate designs that have not yet been implemented as permanent facilities in Anchorage, including protected bike lanes; WHEREAS, temporary protected bike lanes would also be useful to inform ongoing or upcoming projects to reevaluate the design of Anchorage roads, including the Seward-Glenn Mobility PEL Study, the A/C Streets Corridor Plan, and Fireweed Lane Rehabilitation; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Downtown Community Council supports the implementation of temporary protected bike lanes on Anchorage roads, including Gambell Street, A Street, Fireweed Lane, E Street, and G Street, in June–August 2023.

-Melinda Gant makes a motion in favor of the implementation of temporary protected bike lanes in Anchorage. Jason Motyka second the motion. Motion passed.

-Mike Robbins makes a motion to amend the above approved resolution to include Kristine Bunnell's language mentioned in the Downtown Plan, including Jason Motyka's work, and to include a letter reflecting the DTCC's position. Mike Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed.

·Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update - Silvia Villamides

- Licenses as follows:

Orso – License renewal

Glacier Brewhouse – License renewal

Kumagoro – License renewal

49th State Brewing – License renewal

Voyager Inn – License renewal

Whale's Tail – License renewal

Fletcher's – License renewal

Tequilla 61 License renewal

-Mike Ward made the motion to approve the renewal of license for the above-named establishments. David Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed. Renewal of license approved for above named establishments.

-Next meeting (telephonic) May 17, 2023

·**Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka

-\$3,373.10

-Next 30 days Jason Motyka will investigate what it will require for DTTC to have its own equipment for Zoom meetings. Audio/Visual equipment – Buzz offered to lend to the DTCC, laptop – Ana Fisk, Brown Jug, donated, OWL, Zoom account – Radhika Krishna will look into free account

·**New Business – Presentations: 6minute limit**

·**Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program** – Neighbor Works Alaska – Lindsay

-Strengthening neighborhoods through community led initiatives, specifically, Fairview. Focusing on the Gambell/Ingra corridor and how they connect to the Seward and Glenn Highways.

-Planning workshop in conjunction with DOT May 18 at 4:30-6:30 Fairview Rec Center.

Extend the meeting: Melinda Gant made the motion to extend the DTTC meeting time to 8:00pm. David Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed. The DTTC meeting time is extended to 8pm.

·**MOU (Renewal) Between Covenant House Alaska and Anchorage Downtown Community Council**
– Joe Hemphill n/a

·**NACTO Resolution** – NECC Marc Grober

-Jason Motyka made a motion to accept the NACTO Resolution to be read into the record. David Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed. Clarification: Both Resolutions presented are to be considered and read into the record.

Downtown Community Council

Resolution Supporting the adoption of National Association City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Guidelines and Affiliation with (NACTO)

WHEREAS, bicyclists and pedestrians in Anchorage are underserved, and

WHEREAS, injuries to bicyclists and pedestrians continue to mount in Anchorage, and

WHEREAS, The Assembly has just passed modifications to Title 21 that encourage bicycle parking, signaling an increased interest in bicycle transportation, and

Whereas appropriate planning and design are critical to reducing pedestrian and bicyclist injuries, and

WHEREAS, technology and equipment have improved over the past decade to enable bicycles as a viable alternative mode of transportation in Anchorage year-round, and

WHEREAS, AMATS staff have indicated that the only body that can in fact adopt the NACTO design standards is the Municipal Assembly,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED; this community council encourages the Anchorage Assembly to adopt NACTO guides, especially with respect to Bicycle and Pedestrian design per the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/>, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED , this community council encourages the Anchorage Assembly to become a NACTO affiliate.

Resolution No _____

Downtown Community Council

Whereas the Downtown Community Council finds the appended proposed resolution previously submitted to the Anchorage Municipal Assembly well founded, and

Whereas the Assembly has failed or refused to act on the proposal, and

Whereas it is past time to take effective action to reduce death and injury in our transportation network, and

Whereas adoption of the proposed resolution will be an important step in that direction,

Now therefore this council recommends that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly adopt the appended resolution, and

Be it further resolved that this council recommends the MOA Administration act in support of this proposed resolution, including the Traffic Department, and PM&E, and

Be it further resolved that this council solicit other councils to act as this council has.

Whereas, the Assembly signaled an interest in “changing gears” with respect to management of municipal transportation issues with the intent of placing increased focus on ensuring that non-motorized users have safe and equal access to our transportation infrastructure in 2020, and

Whereas, this signaling comes on the heels of an ever increasing toll of death and injury resulting both from the Municipality’s failure to adequately enforce the current law and its inability to design and deploy adequate Municipal transportation infrastructure, as well as the increasing outrage expressed by the public over this situation, and

Whereas the NTSB has made it clear that we need to change the way we design our transportation infrastructure in order to make it safe for non-motorized users [see, National Transportation Safety Board, “Bicyclist Safety on US Roadways: Crash Risks and Countermeasures,” Safety Research Report (Washington, D.C.: NTSB, November 5, 2019), <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Pages/DCA18SS002.aspx>, <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Pages/SafetyStudies.aspx>, <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1901.pdf> and National Transportation Safety Board, “Reducing Speeding-Related Crashes Involving Passenger Vehicles,” Safety Study (Washington, D.C., 2017), <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Pages/DCA15SS002.aspx>, <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Pages/SafetyStudies.aspx>, <https://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1701.pdf> , and

Whereas, Municipal transportation planning staff have, for the better part of a decade, indicated to those advocating for changes in infrastructure to ensure pedestrian and bicyclist safety, that the NACTO design standards would be “incorporated in the Municipality’s approach to transportation design”, and

Whereas, AMATS staff have indicated that the only body that can in fact adopt the NACTO design standards is the Municipal Assembly, and

Whereas, multiple Assemblymembers have indicated that they are more than willing to consider any proposed Assembly action in committee for the purpose of determining whether such action should be presented to the Assembly at large but since 2022 when asked so to do have not, and

Whereas, the current non-motorized plan adopted by AMATS does not reference NACTO’s Designing for All Ages and Abilities and AMATS Policy Committee members while initially arguing they should be addressed in the NMP now argue they should be considered by the Assembly through the community councils,

Now, therefore, having reviewed the NACTO guides with respect to Bicycle and Pedestrian design (<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/>), and specifically having reviewed and cited with approval the portion thereof entitled, “Designing for All Ages and Abilities”, the Assembly hereby adopts the NACTO “Urban Bikeway Design Guide”, as extended and clarified by “Designing for All Ages and Abilities (like ways adopted), and

It is further resolved that the Municipality shall seek affiliate membership in NACTO.

-Melinda Gant made the motion to amend the NACTO Resolutions to align with the Downtown Plan that has already been adopted by the DTCC. Mike Robbins seconded the motion. Motion passed

Great Streets Facade Improvement Loan Program – Mike Robbins

-Loan program available to businesses and buildings in targeted zoned areas, downtown area is included.

-The purpose is to come along beside business owners to help them redesign their façade.

-More information available on ACDA website: www.acda.net

Announcements/Neighbor Comments: 2minute limit

Mike Ward – Holtan Hills Resolution Support Issue

-Mike Ward proposed changes in DTCC bylaws so that a process regarding resolutions brought before the DTCC will safe guard against misuse.

-President of DTCC, Silvia Villamides, will talk with Chris Constant, Daniel Volland, and Darrel Hess to advise how to rewrite bylaws to safe guard the resolution process from misuse.

ADJOURN MEETING

Mike Robbins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Irwin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 8PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Andrea McCormick

Secretary of the Downtown Community Council