

Campbell Park Community Council  
Minutes  
June 15th, 2023 7:00 pm  
Via Zoom and in-person at  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cay Room

**I-III. Call to order, approval of agenda, and approval of minutes**

Chair Harary called the meeting to order at 7:03 . The draft minutes were approved as submitted.

**IV. Old Business**

**a. Final Determination on Skipping July 2023 Meeting.** The meeting approved the motion not to meet in July.

**V. New Business**

**a.** Council members discussed possible alternatives to daylight saving time.

**VI. Reports**

**a. FCC Kevin Fimon** Contrary to normal practice, the FCC has scheduled a July meeting for the 21<sup>st</sup>. The agenda includes reviewing applications for the manager position and reviewing other changes in FCC procedures.

**b. Housing and Homelessness Committee** No report

**c. CPCC Chair Jordan Harary** No report.

**d. Legislature - Senate**

**Sen. Forrest Dunbar** described bills he sponsored: SB 77 providing additional property tax exemptions, particularly to encourage housing construction, and a blight tax on damaged properties not being repaired by owners. SB 56 makes Alaska performance scholarships more accessible for more institutions and vocational education in particular. SP104 increases funding for Alaska Legal Services Corporation, which provides civil legal services to survivors of domestic violence.

**Sen. Gray-Jackson** - No report.

**e. Legislature - House**

**Rep. Andy Josephson** discussed recent activities and the bills he introduced relating to dementia, timber harvesting, fentanyl and other drugs, competency and involuntary commitment, and increasing the penalty for committing an assault in the presence of a minor. His bill on defined pension benefits for first responders was relegated to a subcommittee. A copy of his June report to constituents is appended to these minutes.

**Rep. Andrew Gray** The house and senate passed his bill to require providing photo identification to all prisoners upon their release from incarceration.. His bill to create a state wide short term rental registry and limit rentals is attracting much attention and discussion.

**f. Mayor's Office.** No report.

**g. Assembly**

Felix Rivera No report.

Meg Zaletel No report.

**h. School Board** No report.

**i. JBER** No report.

**j. Non-agenda item: Sanctioned Camp Site Location:** Between the reports by Andy Josephson and Andrew Gray, Council members discussed a suggestion from guests on the Task Force on Sanctioned Camps: Community councils, including CPCC, should nominate a location within their boundary that would be suitable for a homeless shelter, in lieu of the Muni selecting a shelter location. Suggested locations might include parking lots with access to electricity. The purpose would be to place shelters in multiple locations, rather than in one or two locations. The chair suggested we accept this challenge as a homework assignment.

**VII. Next Meeting:** August 17th, 2023, 7:00 pm, via Zoom and in person at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cay Room.

**IX.** The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

## Related documents

Andy Josephson report dated June 21

## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While my office settles in to the rhythm of the interim, I thought I should take a minute and give you a brief update on what we've been up to in the four weeks since we returned to Anchorage

I've been busy this month designing my annual newsletter for my district, writing op-eds, as well as attending conferences and conventions:

- In late May, I went to the Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, where invited speakers discussed the current state of renewable energy initiatives in Alaska and the larger role they may play in the future.
- In the following week, I attended a convention put on by the Alaska Professional Firefighters Association, along with Senator Cathy Giessel and former State Representative Chuck Kopp, where we discussed the path forward on restoring defined benefits for first responders.
- I also was on a panel for a meeting with the Downtown Rotary, with Representative Cathy Tilton and Senator Giessel, where we gave attendees a briefing on session wrap-up and fiscal policy.

Looking ahead to the rest of this summer, I plan on holding several constituent meet-ups around the district and doing some door knocking to check in. If you need to get ahold of me, please don't hesitate to give my Anchorage LIO office a call: 907-269-6577. You can also email me at Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov. Your feedback is important to me!

## Highlights from Legislative Session

The 2023 legislative session had some big wins for our caucus, as well as some disappointments. Though being in the minority presented many challenges in my efforts to pass my bills, **I was very proud to have**

**had a substantial impact on both the budget and on regular legislation.** My main committee assignment was House Finance, and between that committee and the House Floor I led the fight to pass many amendments to increase funding to important state programs. Here are a few of the legislative amendments worth highlighting:

Restore public notice to timber sales in HB 104

- Tailor HB 66 (the "Fentanyl bill") to be reasonable while also being tough on crime
- Reduce the sunset date for the Board of Direct Entry Midwives in SB 55 to 2 years

Here are a few of the budget amendments worth highlighting:

- \$50,000 for Dementia Awareness
- \$1.1 million for an IDD Waitlist cost assessment tool (in conjunction with Rep. Will Stapp)
- \$10,000 for Campbell Lake signage
- \$100,000 for increasing recruitment in the State of Alaska workforce (in conjunction with Rep. Delana Johnson)

Always in the spirit of constructing a balanced budget, I also voted for initiatives to cut funding from politically charged programs, such as at the Division of Elections and the Department of Law. Additionally, the Senate version of the budget (the one that passed and was sent to the Governor) contained many of the budgetary items that my caucus and I fought for on the House side. For those of you who like budget cuts, **the state even (technically) decreased the Operating Budget by \$1.157 billion from last fiscal year!\***

A lot happened over the session and I am sending out a newsletter to the district that describes what happened in more vivid detail. **If you have any specific inquiries, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at 907-269-6577.**

*\* before Governor vetoes. Those have been released and are reported, in part, below!*

## On the Subject of Vetoes:

On Monday 6/19, the governor announced his line item vetoes to the Legislature's proposed Operating Budget through a press release, taking no questions from reporters.

The vetoes totaled \$200 million in unrestricted general funds. Here are some of the major highlights:

- Cut \$87.5 million in one-time K-12 schools spending, cutting the \$680 per-student increase proposed by the Legislature to \$340.
- Cut \$1 million that the Legislature budgeted for public radio grants.
- Cut a \$140,000 increase in grant funding to the Alaska Legal Services Corp., which provides legal help to low-income residents.
- Cut \$375,000 for the Department of Corrections, Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Transportation to each hire a human resources technician to "address agency recruitment challenges."

- Cut \$750,000 of a \$1 million increase in funding for re-entry housing.
- Cut \$3.5 million out of a \$5 million increase to the Head Start preschool program.
- Cut \$3.1 million in capital spending on road projects on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Anchorage area.
- Cut \$10.4 million of the \$30 million in capital spending that the Legislature budgeted for major maintenance grants for schools.
- Cut \$35 million in maintenance and renovation capital projects at the University of Alaska's three main campuses.
- Cut A \$30 million deposit into the Community Assistance Fund, which sends grant funds to municipalities around the state to support government services.

It should go without saying that I am very unimpressed with this governor's approach to developing a "pro-family" state. I stand alongside my colleagues in condemning these cuts and call upon the Legislature to override these vetoes. The budget we initially developed was sustainable, with a reasonably sized PFD, adequate funding for schools and deferred maintenance, much-needed capital projects, and it even left us with a \$85.2 million dollar surplus. What do these vetoes accomplish? How are we supposed to build Alaska into an attractive place for young families if we continue to eviscerate funding for education and the very social safety nets that create the foundation for a thriving middle class? Once again, the governor has chosen to balance our budget on the backs of Alaskans who are most in need.

Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to reach the 45 vote threshold to override these vetoes. We could likely muster up 31 votes today. I don't know where the remaining 14 votes would come from with the current composition of the Legislature. It doesn't give me any pleasure to report this news, but I do my very best to deal in political realities. Nevertheless, the fight continues, and **I will steadfastly advocate for responsible and balanced spending that will benefit this generation and the next.**