

AHCC Meeting - 19 October 2023

See recording for more details on any topic

**Attendees**

Residents:

Chelsea Ward-Waller (President)  
Jena Ferrarese (Secretary)  
Emily Weiser (Board Member at Large)  
Carolyn Ramsey (Vice President)  
Brita Mjos (Committee Chair)  
Tyler Boyes (Committee Chair)  
John Whitlock (Board Member at Large)  
Amber Morris  
Amanda Moser  
Kate Yenik Ksok  
Jeff Arnold  
Jamie Nyquist  
Anthony Rhinert  
Becky Robbins  
Sheri Whitethorn  
Genevieve Mina (also State Rep)  
Paige Coatney  
Larry Hayden  
Ed Brewer

Guests:

Carl Jacobs - Anchorage School Board  
George Martinez - Anchorage Assembly  
Daniel McKenna-Foster - Muni Planning  
Forrest Dunbar - State Senator  
Felix Rivera - Anchorage Assembly  
Meg Zaletel - Anchorage Assembly  
Zak Hartman - MOA Traffic  
George Martinez - East Anchorage Assembly member  
Phil Cannon - Mtn View CC President, guest attendee

## **Call to Order, establish quorum, introductions**

### **Approve October 2023 Agenda**

Moved by A. Moser, seconded by E. Weiser; approved by consent

### **AHCC Executive Board Elections**

Amber Morris, nominating committee chair and sole member

Nominated so far: President - Chelsea Ward-Waller; VP - Caroline Ramsey; Secretary - Jena Ferrarese; At Large - Emily Weiser; At Large - John Whitlock

(all currently serving in those roles)

Call for additional nominations - none responded

Motion to approve slate moved by A. Moser, seconded by K. Yenik. Approved by consent.

### **Assembly/Legislative/School Board Reports and JBER**

State Senator Dunbar - Anchorage State congressional delegation met with Assembly, School Board, and Native Village of Eklutna (Eklutna river restoration); SB77 Blight Tax bill support resolution passed by Assembly; Veterans' poppy legislation; PFD questions, reach out to his office; he will be at AFN this weekend; trying to get AIDEA to fund bonds for housing (broader view of AK economy)

State Representative Mina - food security bill; will be on Talk of AK to talk about SNAP backlog on Oct31; bill on emergency response systems and improving them; Filipino (Filipino-American?) History Month events; Snow Summit is tomorrow

Assembly Member Zalatel - Mayor's budget came through at the beginning of October: \$12million below tax cap, cuts by "labor savings" by not funding vacancies and assuming those positions won't be filled, more budget details. The Assembly will take up budget amendments Nov 9. Bonded capital improvement programs are on the radar. Bond for public restrooms (\$12.5 million, no less than 25 public restrooms) will have a public hearing Nov 7.  
meg.zalatel@anchorageak.gov

Assembly Member Martinez - alternating with K. Bronga for District 5. He says the Mayor's budget is "betting against ourselves." Housing action week - Oct 30- Nov 4; Housing Summit on Friday Nov 3 at UAA Student Union; email if can't make it. Trash can art is happening again.

Assembly Member Rivera - check out anchoragehousingaction.org; body-worn cameras will begin deployment on Nov 13th; eventually 2 per week to get through 350 cameras means not anytime soon for full deployment; homeless shelter update: Alex is full, Aviator is ~50% capacity, SWS is not yet online, plan will update as needed; housing and homelessness financial tracker on Homelessness focus page on Assembly page

(<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/FOCUS-Homelessness.aspx>, about halfway down the page there are two buttons in the center)

Assembly Member Volland - Housing week; triplex and fourplex initiative; transportation committee inaugural meeting; Chief Medical Officer position review

School Board Member - reading proficiency; student attendance is rising; working on more parent/PTA involvement; working with American Lung Association to overhaul tobacco policy; Base Student Allocation explanation; he can help coordinate getting a presentation/update from the AH Principle and/or PTA for the CC meeting

### **Resolution in Support of Speed Studies and Traffic Calming**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QGmOoCi8JUKMKoIMVwk1hU3KiV8yx9rU/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110528794035060424095&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Zak Hartman gave some background: How a speed bump is born: 1) someone asks for it (resolutions from Community Councils are very helpful here), 2) Traffic department does a speed study, 3) they use data, proximity to schools, lack of sidewalks to prioritize list, 4) design and build. Usually speed cushions are the top choice. Usually takes 2+ years from request to construction.

They're behind on the project list so they're still working on the backlog, rather than proactively calming other streets. Other options than speed cushions: speed monitoring signs, chicanes, mini traffic circles. \$500k annually = 12 speed humps. NECC got some capital budget state funds specifically for them, which is helpful if a neighborhood has a priority but it's not at the top of the citywide list.

Kate points out Glenn Hwy changes (eg interchange) might make speeding worse in our neighborhood.

Discussion of locations listed in our resolution, with a subset in bold for priority.

Move to approve Amanda

2nd Emily

In favor: 14

Abstain: 1

Against: 1

### **Municipal Planning Department update (D. Mckenna-Foster)**

Not much housing being permitted this year (interest rates and costs are high). Planning Dept is informing Assembly initiatives as needed. There's a working group on how to get more community input on streets and how they can serve the community.

**Federation of Community Councils (FCC) report**

Report from A. Moser - Working on hiring new FCC manager but first reevaluating that position and how the FCC serves the community. Budget is a limiting factor and insufficient for suitable/competitive manager salary, so they're working on that. Also want to provide better training to CCs on tech, meeting rules, etc. Want to put out useful content to empower CCs to be effectively involved in community decisions.

**Community concerns**

AH Elementary fall festival this weekend.

Carolyn: can AHCC donate fruit for the festival as per usual? Yes, Chelsea will handle that.

**Motion to adjourn** - made by Amanda, seconded by Carolyn; no objections; adjourned 8:32pm.