

**Fairview Community Council
General Membership Meeting
Hybrid-Central Lutheran Church and Zoom
September 14, 2023
7:00-9:00**

Roll Call: The following members were present: Allen Kemplen, James Thornton, Daniel Volland, Sharon Chamard, Cliff Groh, Karen Gonne-Harrel, Ron Aleva, Maria Crawford, Lindsey Hajduk, Denise Janson, Stacy Shubert, Kelly Ittenbach

Elected Officials:

Daniel Volland: Pilot program to test police body cameras, learn the software. Will order dash cams as well. Once comfortable using them, all officers will be using them. The rollout has been frustratingly slow. Myself, members Riviera and Martinez are working on an ordinance that would specify some policy that we'd like to see as far as body cameras, policy direction. We don't want to hold up the process. Like to see clear reporting, more specific about when footage needs to be released to the public. Whole point is transparency and accountability. At Tuesday's meeting, we elected the inaugural board that will manage the MOA trust fund instead of the sole treasurer. Myself and Riviera are working on the legislative services team. Included no or more barrier shelter as well as medical providers providing triage in camps. Celebrated a new Providence Behavioral Health Center, a walk in health clinic to serve public. Want to have mobile crisis and intervention team available 24 hours. On Tuesday, assembly passed ordinance changing the way public naming is done in Anchorage. Like to consider indigenous element or natural elements versus just names. MTP comments open until October 9th. Can go to AMATS 2050.com. In order for projects to be approved, they need to be on Stip? and Tip? Emergency shelter: did not approve Elmore project: cost: (can't trust the numbers- stories keep changing as to how much money has been spent). \$220,000 mitigation around some of the camps. More police presence in camps. Health Department has put out RFI to house folks. Covenant House will see increase of 25. South-midtown area: evaluated former Solid Waste facility. Meets clean slate criteria. Need numbers still. Encouraged by progress. Administration and assembly aligned not to use the Sullivan Arena.

?: mobile crisis team on one data system, health crisis team on another data system. Neither one have full police presence. As we are building this up, that data sharing is going to be important. As we are building non congregate shelters, access is important. Any way CSS can help with that or the resource center or other programs available so folks can have easy access.

Dan: midtown location being looked at for: warming shelter, non congregate shelter, and navigation center. Passed \$5 million appropriation for resolution that warming shelter would not be a part of the congregate shelter. Challenging to operate at that scale as we saw last year. Access to services is key. Also, passed a grant to offer to Anchorage Affordable Land Trust for conversions of vacant and abandoned properties to be converted to affordable housing. They will match funding as well.

Karen: If you remodel a duplex, can you actually house two families in there?

Dan: Don't know if all those properties will be used for permanent housing. Maybe some transitional housing. Lake House is permanent housing.

Ron: Attended Rogers Park and Midtown meetings. They stressed that they lost millions in taxes. I'm in tax foreclosure myself; my business can't operate safely and efficiently there. We can get in a tax free zone until crisis of illegal camps leaves our area. You're tying our hands economically, yet we're still being punished with taxes. And when you can't pay 'em, there's a 20% penalty. During COVID, you suspended the personal property tax. Berkowitz gave more time to pay taxes, and I think we're being choked economically. By reporting to police, insurance companies track crime ridden neighborhoods and my insurance policy went from 32 pages to 97. My rate multiplied 6 times. Would you consider relief?

Dan: I would consider it, but I don't have a solid answer for you now. It is something Chris and I have talked about. It's something we would have to talk to the department of law about. We would need good data about the impact. Some folks could claim discrimination.

Allen: It is something the council requested to the assembly that an impact area be designated. When you have mass facilities, you have an impact.

Dan: Don't disagree, but needs to be go through law department.

Sharon: Talked to Tasha Hawks from Mountain View yesterday and she said their community council inventoried boarded up properties and they counted 630 in Mountain View. I think we should do that as well.

Dan: Great idea. A lot of talk in state level about could you penalize properties not in use? Conversation happening about converting commercial properties into residential.

Sharon: Might be good to just go with residential properties that need rehabbing.

Dan: Yeah. That's the low hanging fruit. We're trying to explore all the options to this housing crisis.

James: I have total faith that working together with the administration and the assembly we can make this happen. What if we can't be expedient enough to make this happen? What do you think we can do to make sure the Sullivan Arena and Rec. Center don't get used again?

Dan: Sullivan is off the table. They are moving forward with operations contract. Last resort is the rec. centers. Only way to use rec. centers is if the mayor declares an emergency.

James: Did you know a bunch of people just quit from the rec. center in the last few weeks with no notice?

Dan: I did.

Karen: What is the difference between a mobile crisis team and a mobile intervention team?

Dan: Great question. A mobile crisis team (activated when someone is having a mental health crisis) is under the fire department, and mobile intervention team (responds when concerned about violence) is under the police department. We like to see integrated model. Both trained in de-escalation.

James: Any update to cameras at the rec. center?

Dan: No update, other than money has been spent.

Allen: Would like to note we had a meeting at the rec. center a few weeks ago and they were wiring the multi-purpose room for cameras and security system.

Maria: Wondering if you able to find any information about the monthly APD reports that should be delivered to assembly members?

Dan: No update. In my stack to follow up on.

Maria: Last time a shooting occurred, police said to ask assembly. If there is another direction I need to go to find that data, let me know.

Dan: I can ask that to be added to our next agenda of the public safety committee, if I don't hear back from chiefs.

Representative Cliff Groh:

Commented on transportation process and progress. Agree with Dan Volland - I agree with safer streets for bicyclists, pedestrians, and trying to move bills faster. Thought some decisions made to go for expensive interchanges, and not improve safety for residents not good. Homelessness: obviously a big problem for Anchorage. Affects my district. Looking at a along with police next month focusing on downtown neighborhoods and also looking at homeless camps that we have. Main response to homelessness under our current set up with the municipality and not the state.... Big supporter of stable funding to deal with problems like homelessness. Also, better transportation. Another big problem in my district is substandard housing. Met with Alaska Finance Housing Corporation and will do ride along with them later this month to look at some of their improvement projects but also to plan out which parts of the district have substandard housing. There are some upscale streets, but some also that are essentially the last stop before homelessness because of sub quality of housing. Also attended Alaska state housing summit recently trying to find ways to improve housing and homelessness. Another issue is schools: funding has been held flat for years and a little known fact is that in Alaska there are many unusual things. All the checks for educational staff are written by the school district. The bulk of the money comes from Alaska. Trying to increase funding for K-12 education. The governor vetoes half of the what we could get through. I push hard for additional revenues for our state. I introduced legislation to raise taxes on... and also a tax on high earners. I co-sponsored a bill that would put a 2% tax on folks earning above \$200,000. In case you are concerned, the first \$200,000 are tax free. It's the amount above \$200,000. Our state needs revenues and that would raise revenues for our state. Finally, another way to reach out to people to bring me concerns, or questions, I am having a free milkshake with Cliff every Saturday at least until November 4th at the Lucky Wishbone. From noon - 2 pm. 1st milkshake's on me.

Allen: Does that include a double milkshake? (It does). I would like to point out that one of the issues we have is the number of individuals that come from rural Alaska from unincorporated boroughs. The state of Alaska is the responsible entity for the unincorporated borough. The fact that Alaska is not dealing with housing in the unincorporated boroughs means that these individuals are forced to come into Anchorage. There is a connection.

Cliff: I agree. I'm a big supporter for what the state provides municipalities. I'd also add that there are many reasons people end up in Anchorage homeless. One reason people come here is because there are more services here. One reason is people come here for medical services and they get stuck here for whatever reason.

Allen: I just want to make that connection. Many homeless come rural areas from and unincorporated areas. If you have time to advocate for the state to take a more pro-active role in meeting the needs of the homeless, it would be appreciated.

Presentations:

Will Webb, project manager from Kinney Engineering, gave AMATS transportation presentation on 4th Ave signal and lighting upgrades from Cordova to Ingra streets. Muni has been working on signal upgrades west of Cordova for a few years and now this is the segment to the east. 2018 reconnaissance study was done throughout all downtown. It was determined that 4th Ave most in need of improvement as well as miscellaneous sidewalk and curb ramps throughout east Fairview. Finish design in 2024, and construction will begin 2025. Would like input...comments and concerns.

? : Would be a great time to put more brown place signs around west Fairview on the street lights or something like that.

Allen: Will: Are you familiar with our signature street signage?

Will: Not the Fairview ones specifically.

Allen: 4 different sub icons : north, west, east, and south. This project falls within the purview of north Fairview. It would be great if the project could acknowledge that. Also important to recognize 4th Ave crosses neighborhoods, not just downtown. We have signature colors for our pedestrian lighting. Match signature colors for Fairview.

Will: Good to know. Very helpful to know more complexity to this project.

Allen: What is the situation for the lights at Gambell and Ingra? Will they be pedestrian activated?

Will: They will operate the same as they do now. Pedestrians get the green light with every signal. They are pre-timed signals.

Allen: When is the next time to look at the design?

Will: Will get that ironed out in the next two weeks, but not sure. Will be in touch.

Allen: I will send you signature signage design.

Committee Reports:

Lindsey from Neighborworks Alaska: gave presentation about different projects they are working on. Culmination of last year's air quality survey. Many participated and had air monitors at home and businesses. When we did this study, we were looking at particulate matter PM2.5 (very fine particles). Associated with asthma, lung infections, and can cause public health impact. Wanted to focus on transportation, because vehicles are a source of this kind of fine particulate matter. Wildfire smoke, pollutants and dust that we put on our roads also a source for pollutants. Set up air monitoring study about April last year until May this year. Partnered with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and the health department. Used same air monitoring device that Fairbanks did from their Wood burning smoke study. 15 monitors throughout the district. Not finding levels that were a problem. No health hazards were found. Generally during the day, higher particulates were found. Winter was worse as well. 10th and Ingra had relatively higher readings generally.

Many different contributing factors. We recommend continuing to collect data, and we can build on this data.

?: How did the study come about?

Lindsey: Fairview community council saw this grant in 2020 or 2019. We partnered together to make a stronger application to do quite a few different things. Build an action team, get more community members engaged, and bring people together around the Ingra corridor. EPA said they had additional funds, and so we wanted to do this study because of the connection to public health and knowing that communities that are located by giant transportation corridors often have higher rates of asthma and many other impacts.

Karen: I was interested in noise pollution. Is there something we can do in the future like this study? Allen has been collecting noise data from his Merrill Field study, but that's very local. Can we study Gambell, Ingra, 15th?

Lindsey: It would be a different kind of study- different devices-different process, but we can look at a few different studies.

Allen: I would like to note I will continue to be an advocate of us quantifying the degree to which our neighborhood is impacted excessive noise. In health literature there is a pretty strong case for humans experiencing systemic harm with regular exposure to noise. We need money to do study and we don't have it. Look for opportunities for grants.

Lindsey: This small grant has come to a close, but we should be ready to start our reconnecting communities grant.

Homelessness:

Allen: We still have homelessness. Committee hasn't met, so no report. Ongoing issues in north Fairview. Assemblyman Volland cited a new medical health facility. Hopefully can be made better. Impact on adjacent property managers.

Denise: Might want to comment on group putting the community councils together for the call to action because of homelessness. Isn't that one of their biggest concerns?

James: Midtown brought up these concerns at the assembly meeting and then they followed up and created a group?

Allen: It's under the President's report, but I'll do it now. So, the downtown community council and midtown have been raising concerns through the assembly. Assemblyman Constant tasked councils (especially Sylvia with the downtown council) to organize the councils to get together to put together a call to action. Sylvia has taken the lead - we've had one meeting already. Dialog started. One key thing is how to frame the issue. Agreed that it's all about the common good. Rights, obligations. Have to have citizens promoting the common good for all. Another meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Will be a facilitator for the meeting. I think we'll have a more robust report at next month's meeting. Several councils participating.

James: I didn't hear Northstar listed as council participating? Not as active?

Allen: Don't know why they aren't included. Not vocal enough?

James: Might want to reach out to them.

Allen: I'll ping Sylvia to see if she's reached out.

Community Gardens:

No progress on that. We are preparing an information packet for the mayor's office. State grant administrator says no problem. When you have the agreement in place, let us know

and we'll complete the agreement and get it over to the federation. My understanding is we are not going to lose that state grant; it's just going to take some time. I don't know what's going on with the Parks department under the Bronson administration, but there's a lot of turmoil. It's affecting us.

Merrill Field:

We have implemented the Orca sky cam - set up a camera pointed up at the sky to record movement in the skies. It notes all aircraft, date and time, and records it. Instances and number of times aircraft using the gravel strip are violating departure procedures. Have complained to airport advisory commission this summer, and they said they needed data. So we're collecting data. We'll put the data in a report of violations, and we'll cc the FAA, assembly people, and we'll see if we can get some accountability.

Grant Implementation:

Challenge Grant: This is for the Anchorage Parks foundation and 20th Ave and Woodside Park. We're putting in 5 trees and putting in two log planter boxes. First one going in on Sunday if anyone wants to help.

EPA EJ Grant: closed out.

U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Grant: We're just waiting for Washington D.C. to sign off on the final documents and then we'll be up and running.

Public Safety:

Maria: Wanted to mention my email is in the chat for anyone wanting to participate in the safety committee. Right now it's Sharon, and Denise and I. I was trying to get data so that we would have a baseline so we can talk about what we're noticing and where we want to focus our energies for right now. Hope to have more next meeting.

Standing Reports:

Allen: I've already given my standing report.

Quarterly Treasury Report:

Sharon: Presented report. From June to August: Income from block party is \$2131. Includes beer, T shirt sales, tabling fees from the block party as well as a \$500 donation to the general fund. \$300 of this is a donation to the community garden fund. Expenses were \$455 which included \$90 for an unusual expense: James Trany Trust (light up Fairview electricity reimbursement), Emma Hill -block party entertainment (\$50), and \$315 in block party permits to the MOA. Assets include: I have two checks I didn't cash by the end of August for tabling fees from the block party. They should be assets. \$2519.30 in the general subaccount, \$1013.24 in the community development subaccount, \$484 in the beautification account, and \$1226 in the block party 2023 subaccount. We have \$10,933 in the "Toward a better Fairview" subaccount, and \$261.08 in petty cash. Liabilities were \$250 for "Power Play" - block party stage and sound. We have an uncashed check for this. Also expecting a \$500 check for traffic permitting from the block party. It usually comes sometime in the fall.

Allen: One thing for next time is for the Challenge grant which is 50/50 that we have as a liability. We did get the cost for what we're paying the contractor: \$7000. Will be split 50/50

between the parks foundation and the council so we'll have a big chunk of that, so we'll have a big withdrawal from the "Better Fairview" account.

Sharon: good point. It's not just money have: it's money that has been donated specifically for particular projects and one of them is the Challenge Grant which is going forward.

Community garden: hopefully next year. The best thing will be to draw down that account - that's what it's for. Next quarterly report will have that all in it.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Karen: Resolution to compensate individuals impacted by homeless shelter: damages, legal. Lay it on the table and finalize it.

Allen: Gist of the resolution is regarding mass cold weather shelters, small scattered site shelters, and sanctioned camps. FCC requests that the administration pass an ordinance that allows for a way to determine offsite area boundaries around all homeless shelters and camps, and be it resolved to provide a path for businesses and individuals to seek restitution and compensation due to the negative loss of business from off site impacts in the identified impact area around a homeless shelter. This will go to the Homeless committee.

Denise: Do we know anything about the meeting about the Fairview rec. center with the colder weather?

Allen: It's my understanding they have implemented winter hours because of staffing shortages. A number of people have quit; they are looking for people. Consider working there. Rec. center plays an important role in our neighborhood. The mayor has to declare an emergency before they can convert that into a shelter. If members are concerned about rec. center hours, a resolution should be considered to send to the director and parks and rec. commission and the mayor to let them know about our concerns.

Maria: I would second that. Very concerned about what's happening at the rec. center. Shocking about what's happened. Only one staff member who has stayed and that's because their contract doesn't end until December I believe. I wasn't sure whether my reading program was going to be continued: things were so up in the air. This Wednesday none of the new staff seemed interested in meeting any of the people coming into the rec. center to see how and why people are using the rec. center. I'm concerned about some of the behaviors and how users are being treated.

Allen: Are you making a motion?

Maria: Yes please.

Allen: Are you requesting the president write a letter expressing the council's concerns ?

Maria: Yes, about the availability and perhaps they would like to have a presence with the council and building bridges with the new leadership team there.

Allen: So there's a motion on the table. Anyone want to second that motion?

Denise: Second

Allen: Any discussion?

James: I just want to say how important this facility is to our kids and community and we see and appreciate you Maria. Keep pushing.

Denise: And how disappointing it was they house homeless there and the Sullivan and we were so grateful when they opened it back up and we were back to normal and now we're not back to normal.

James: I think we're getting cameras now and whoever's facilitating that could be why they left- that would be my guess. I know a construction project can be really cumbersome. \$150,000 for how many cameras? I can see how it rolled out and it's really sad. Let us know what we can do.

Stacy: online question about what training rec. workers get?

Allen: I'm not familiar with the training.

Karen: How many staff are left there?

Allen: I think Maria said one.

Karen: That's what I thought and I wonder if it's a safety issue for that staff?

Allen: That's why they went to winter hours because they don't have enough staff?

Karen: Normally there's two staff there and if I was suddenly left as the only staff, I would not want to be there.

Sharon: There is a security guard there though.

Maria: The staff with the most experience at the Spenard Rec. center also left, so it's not just our rec. center, there's been a mass exodus as a reaction to the behavior that has been happening.

Allen: motion approved. Maria, could you write up a draft that lays out the issues as you see them?

Maria: Sure.

Community Comments/Concerns:

Stacy: Fairview Trunk or Treat October 19th in the chat at Fairview Elementary. 5:30-7 pm.

Maria: With all the upheaval at the rec. center, I didn't want to overload Derek to continue cobweb carnival or trunk or treat. Can I connect with Fairview Elementary staff to see if we could have both events. If anyone is interested in organizing, let me know. Not sure if we're going to continue these events.

Karen: I was watching children walking to school, and they walk in the street. Maybe time to talk about snow removal and ways to make it safer for kids to walk to the bus stop after last year's "snowgeddon."

Allen: It would be appropriate to have someone from street maintenance comment.

Denise: Maybe October, November?

Meeting adjourned at 8:43.