

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

August 10, 2023 7:00-9:00 pm

Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and Central Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order at 7:11 pm.

In attendance: Allen Kemplen, James Thornton, Ben Simonds (Sr. Cpt. fire station 1), Nick Kelly (firefighter fire station 1), Joey Crab? (engineering fire station 1), Lindsey Hajduk, Sharon Chamard, Denise Janson, Karen Gonne-Harrell, Ron Aleva, Dave Rittenberg, Daniel Mckenna Foster , Mark Dawson , Stacy Shubert, ? (Fairview Elementary), ?, (rep for Cliff Groh), Zoom: Suzi Pearson, Ryan Yelle (MOA Planning Dept), Keelan Baughman, Bryan Hawkins, SJ Klein, Robes Pierre, Randy Brown (Planner Muni Public Transportation) .

August 10, 2023 agenda approved with no modifications.

No July minutes to approve.

Elected Officials:

Loki traveling and unable to attend.

Rep for Cliff Groh had no notes.

ASD School board: no one at meeting.

Assembly Members: Chris traveling; Dan not available to attend this evening.

Presentations:

Daniel Mckenna Foster? : I'm here to talk about the mixed use R-4A zone. In 2014, this zone was created for Title 21. It's never been used. It's a tool. Currently there is none in Fairview, but talking to the council in case there was to be in the future. We tried to simplify the code:

R-4A: Multifamily Residential Mixed-Use District

1. Purpose

The R-4A district is a primarily residential district intended for high-density residential and mixed-use development, with a minimum gross density of 20 dwelling units per acre and gross densities intended to be greater than 35 dwelling units per acre. This district is intended to implement the land use plan, meet housing needs for the community, establish a pedestrian-oriented environment that helps support transit, and provide the flexibility to integrate residential and non-residential uses.

2. District-Specific Standards

c.

Title 21: Land Use Planning Anchorage, Alaska

Uses which are not counted towards any gfa calculation:

a.

Dwelling Units Required

i. Unless limited by physical constraints or determined otherwise through a Small Area Implementation Plan (SAIP), development in the R-4A district shall include at least 20 dwelling units per gross acre per phase, or on average of subsequent phases.

ii. The overall development site shall include at least 20 dwelling units per gross acre at the completion of all phases unless provided otherwise through a major site plan review, conditional use process, or Small Area Implementation Plan.

Allowed Commercial Uses. A maximum percentage of gross floor area per table 21.04-2 on the development site may be non-residential uses, as provided in i. through ii. below.

i. Non-residential uses may be located in the same building(s) as the residential units or in one or more separate buildings on the development site.

ii. The development site may comprise multiple adjoining and/or adjacent lots. A master fill and grade permit for the entire development is required to ensure the site meets all applicable provisions of this title.

?: If we want to submit comments at a later date or make suggestions, where can we do that or is this the only opportunity?

Daniel: It's kind of the end of the process, but you can contact your assembly member.

Allen: How do these changes relate to the assembly proposal to make major changes?

Daniel: Zoning sets what can be built and how. The community comes up with the long range plan. Our job is to implement that plan. In 2016, the community wanted more mixed usage, but the zoning didn't allow it. So this is an effort to create a zone that would allow it. It doesn't exactly relate to what the assembly is doing now. This comes out of the 2014 plan.

Sharon: What is the geographic unit on which 20 dwelling units would be required? If someone currently owns property that has a lower density than that, and there's a buyer, will they be required to maintain that level?

Daniel: Initially, the code was 35 dwellings per acre. As we moved through the process, we realized that was too much, so they moved it down to 20.

Sharon: In Fairview, a typical lot is 1/6 of an acre, so what would happen if 5 of those units were single family, would that require that the 6th parcel build to the 20 unit density?

Daniel: It depends on the lot size. If someone built now, they would have to build to that density. If in Fairview, first they'd have to re zone. In R-4A, we recommended removing minimum lot size, so people could have some flexibility. For example, the idea is that if you lay water pipe, it's less expensive the more units that share that pipe.

Mark Dawson (new Principal Fairview Elementary School):

Here to advocate for our school. We're trying to get student enrollment up so we don't lose any of our teachers. If you know any students that haven't enrolled yet, please get them enrolled.

My goal is to teach the whole child, not just reading, writing, math, etc. but how do I exist in life? Any talents you have to offer, let me know. I'd love your help.

Karen: We hear about schools being overcrowded, but you're only at 80%...is that because of outreach?

Mark: That's part of it; enrollment of Title 1 schools doesn't really start until after the year starts.

?: They're talking about closing schools throughout ASD because of low enrollment, but I think you're talking about class sizes and if we lose teachers, that affects class sizes.

Mark: We're at 80% of our enrollment goal; I believe there a lot that aren't fully enrolled yet. Hopefully students get enrolled before the 17th.

James: Is there anything that the community council can do to help?

Mark: Social media and anyone you know who can enroll in school to do it before next week.

Sharon: What is the estimate of how many at elementary school age are not registered and why? I work for the University and we have low enrollment, but you don't have to go to university - you have to go to school, so how does this happen?

Mark: Once COVID hit, many went to home school, but now kids are starting to come back. I think we need to extend a hand out and invite these kids to come back.

? garbled...The first week or two of school, we generally have more families come.....garbled.....language barriers are also a problem.

Karen: Under COVID, kids were technically home schooled, but they belonged to a school. I know someone with long COVID and she can't send her kid to school, but she's enrolled in the school she would normally go to.

Mark: As long as they are fully enrolled, they are part of our school.

?: As business owner liaison for Fairview, we should help each other out.

Allen: We're trying to establish an innovation zone. Part of that includes the elementary school. I would like to see the school as a school of choice.

Karen: Do you live in Fairview?

Mark: Not directly, but close by. South Addition.

Committee Reports:

Homelessness: committee hasn't formally met, but there are a lot of issues, especially in north Fairview.

Allen: To the firefighters present in the room: Have you responded to those issues in Fairview?

Ben: Yes. It's a high density area and there are many with health issues, so we are taking care of folks there often.

?: What about the mentally ill people. We had a mentally ill woman at our downtown business that we eventually got to the fire station, but she was about to physically assault us. Are there any other services we don't know about?

Ben: Are we on the agenda to give a presentation? My understanding is that we have a standing place on the agenda.

Allen: No, but if you make a commitment to come on a regular basis, we'll put you on the agenda.

Ben: Our expectation is that we attend. If not, it's because we're on a call. To answer the question, when you call 9-1-1, you'll be immediately switched over to either fire or police, depending on the situation. Potential assault, that's APD. As for mental health, we've seen a growing trend with mental health crises. They tend to be high frequency users. We run 3700 calls a year out of our downtown center, so we're really busy. We have MCT, mobile crisis team. We have started to identify these high call users, and see them even before they have a

mental health crisis. Dispatchers will identify if it is a known user, and then no longer dispatch an ambulance and police, but the MCT unit only. If the MCT decides that the person warrants going to the hospital, then an ambulance is called. The MCT is staffed with an actual therapist with a strong background in behavioral health along with a paramedic or EMT. APD also started a similar program that is more in line with police matters, like assaults. We have seen around 1400 less calls. Did that answer your question?

?: When the MCT comes, is it normal when they come to ask if you know how and where to get services and who they are? In my situation with the woman, MCT came and they asked the woman these questions which she answered, and so they left.

Ben: Yes. If you're able to tell me who you are, where you are, we'd have to leave. It would be like a kidnapping otherwise.

Denise: I'd like thank you for being here and everything you do to keep us safe. It's not an easy job. What is the biggest thing we could advocate for you guys to help you in your job or help for these people? Long term?

Ben: A lot is already being done: bond measures, assembly support. An increase in support of the MCT would be good and increase personnel dedicated to those issues. A community memorandum stating support for this program to the assembly would be helpful. Another part of this is helping those that need long term care.

James: MCT is not 24 hours, and that's a big issues for us.

Ben: They run 16 hours.

James: When we had the warming shelter, we had no resources to help.

?: The solution you're talking about may not lie with this team. They aren't the solution, but short term help. There's the mobile crisis team, and mobile intervention team(MIT): how much do you coordinate your data? Are you guys talking to one another or are you two separate teams tackling the same issue?

Ben: The MIT is APD and it's fairly new. I would hope that they are. Mike Reilly would be able to answer that.

Ron: I was a former volunteer fireman. Do you have access to tents ...garbled...Then you have tents next to each other. I'm not sure if they're building shelter, or a bonfire. It looks the same. It seems like a fire would jump tent to tent. A safety element would be to have these a certain distance away from each other. Fire truck access is a great concern for you and access to the person who is in trouble. Would you take those steps to say this is not safe and tell those people there are rules even for the homeless.

Ben: Just like any call in Anchorage, it's our responsibility to decide our access. We can drive our apparatus through there. There are exits in and out currently. As for the density, government officials are aware of this and working on solutions. Our fire marshal is the actual person that has authority to make changes. It is of concern, and we have had to come up with plans if a fire does happen.

Ron: The point of my questions is rules. I feel that we can avoid these problems if these people have to follow basic safety rules.

Community Gardens:

Karen: I want to make a motion for the council to write a letter to the powers that be so that we can move forward with the gardens.

Allen: Motion passes. I'll write a letter to the mayor.

Merrill Field:

Allen: I went to the meeting of the Merrill Field Municipal advisory commission. They talked about how they are going to spend the rest of the CARES money. They are considering new approach procedures for ILS and higher density aircraft. The neighborhood needs to be aware of bigger safety zones with these changes and what the ripple effects could be. Merrill Field has agreed to partner with us in dealing with trash and homeless camps on their 15th Ave properties and clean them up.

James: Would it be okay for the firefighters to make their standing report before they have to go?

Allen: Do you have a standing report?

Ben: Yes. Two years ago, a bond passed that established two ladder companies: one is going to the Mountain View Fire Station, and the other one is going into Spenard. We have five new fire engines on order, two additional ladder trucks, and five ambulances. By late 2024, early 2025, you should see those on the road. It takes 455 days from order date of fire trucks until you see the order come in. The Hiland Road woodlot remains open. USDA granted us \$4 million to reopen our wild land navigation program. With that, we are going to purchase three new brush trucks. We are bringing on board a full time wild land mitigation officer, who will be looking at ways to prevent wild land fires. Right now we have a fire wise program which helps homeowners to determine what they can do to mitigate wild fires on their properties. We've had a 46% reduction in wild fires in the Anchorage bowl in the past years. Our cardiac arrest survival rate went up from 48% to 57.4%, one of the highest saves in the country. We have great equipment, really well trained work force, and great communicators to help us out. Pulse Point is an App for I Phones that tells you where we are. You can set it up to where you get an alert if someone needs CPR within a 1/4 mile of you, as well as where the IED's are in town if you want to respond. Our chief is community minded and wants us to come to these meetings. Our website also has a lot of useful information as to many things: whether you can burn, where you can burn, what fires are current, etc.

?: Do you provide first aid and CPR training?

Ben: You can contact our training center, but we do provide training at outreach events around town. These are private companies that provide the training, so it's difficult for us to just come to you and train, but call us and we can point you in the right direction.

Dave: Your guys are at our Third Avenue property a lot, and who do I reach out to to support and outreach program for us? Do I contact you or someone else?

Ben: You can contact me.

Grant Implementation:

EPA EJ Grant:

Lindsey: no new report.

U.S. DOT Reconnecting Communities Grant:

Lindsey: We've been supporting many projects around Fairview, especially the "Fairness for Fairview" campaign. Last month, we talked about the air data that we had from all over Fairview, and we'll have a report to share next month. This grant is an effort for Fairview to have community led solutions between the Seward/Glen Highway and the Ingra/Hyder corridor. that divided the community purposefully. Grant being reviewed right now, but we think it will be signed and kick off in the next few months and construction begins in the next few years.

Allen: This was a national, competitive grant and a big deal.

Public Safety:

Denise: We have had no meetings, but we have been looking at areas to have better lighting and put a plan together. Also, is there any plan for a low barrier shelter for this winter?

Dave: No from everything I've seen. There is an RFI to solicit for non congregate sites. Next Wednesday there is a homeless committee meeting on this issue.

Denise: Hopefully we won't have a 400 person shelter again in this neighborhood this winter.

Dave: The real problem is access. IF we're able to find enough non congregate beds, then we won't need a big congregate shelter. I'll be at the meeting next week. Right now it doesn't look like there is a plan for a congregate shelter. Yet.

Denise: What about flying people out?

Dave: There's been a lot of confusion about that - we're not just sending people out of state. They need to have someone on the other end and a place to go.

Denise: This needs to be part of the solution. It's not for everybody.

?: How do folks get into these non congregate shelters?

Allen: You can have that conversation after the meeting.

Lindsey: The mayor had a round table session about using the Fairview Rec. Center as a shelter so we should be ready for that.

Allen: I would welcome a motion from the floor for the president to write a motion that the council is going to be apposed to using the rec. center as housing and as anything other than a rec. center.

James: I'll make that motion and any other additional congregate or non congregate shelter in Fairview.

SJ: Second that, but amend housing to shelter.

Sharon: It needs to be clear we aren't opposed to shelter in an emergency.

Allen: Good clarification. The motion carries.

Standing Reports:

Allen: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Allen: March 18th community workshop report update:

Lindsey: April 29th we had a public workshop. I have handouts. One is the workshop report and the other is the summary report. This was to tie the environmental justice and reconnecting communities grants together. In the workshop, we talked about four focus areas about how to make the Gambell/Ingra corridor safer and more livable for the community.

Block Party: I have thank you cards for sponsors that you can all sign and I want to shout out big thanks yous to: : Senator Loki Tobin, James at Secret Gardens, SJ, Carrs on Gambell (Denise) , Anchorage Community Land Trust, Bear Tooth, HDR and the DOT planning team, Central Lutheran Church, Showdown Alaska Productions, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, AARP, Anchorage Public Library, Creative Lighting & Sound, Neighborworks Alaska, Chris & Maria Crawford, and all the volunteers.

Woodside Park Improvements:

Allen: We're getting closer and talking with plant companies and utilities because of the easements. We'll have trees installed by a landscaping outfit: 7 birch, 8 mountain ash, and 4 spruce along with two planter boxes which will need topsoil and someone to move log planters in place. Talked with AARP and they are having a September event and looking for a hands on project they could participate in and mentioned the planters, so they may help with that.

...Lost transmission...

Ron: ...That resolution should include that the muni buy me out. You are complicit to the destruction of my family and this neighborhood if you don't endorse them buying me out. There's no other use for that property except for social services. Make sure you include that when you write that draft.

New Business:

Allen: Along those lines, I am introducing a resolution proposing support for assisting folks? and homeless individuals in the municipality of Anchorage. It will be referred to the homelessness committee.

Community Comments/Concerns:

Lindsey: There is a small volunteer work party at the Lions Club to put in some gardens and raised beds Wednesday evening next week.

Keelan: School is starting soon and we are happy to show kids around. We also have a free tutor that you can use. For teachers, we will have an event to show teachers how we can help you.

Cliff Groh's rep: Cliff will be at the Lucky Wishbone this Saturday and many other Saturdays to talk to constituents. He will buy you a milkshake and listen to your concerns.

Denise: I'm concerned about the tire slashing on 10th and Fairbanks and 12th and Juneau? Does anyone have follow up on that?

Sharon: I think one of the main concerns was the lack of perceived police response. I'm aware of folks who live across this church who had multiple windows smashed. They contacted the

police and got no response. Then they sent emails to the mayor and police, and got no response. Police officer shortage no excuse for not responding.

Dave: I think it's a lack of proper resource distribution. We asked for foot patrols and we got traffic enforcement.

Denise: Maybe we need to follow up with the captain again and our perception of what's happening.

Allen: The public safety team should get together and exact a request from the CAP team. It helps to have something specific to respond to. The data should illustrate whether we are getting the same services as other parts of town.

James: The amount of services we get here should be way more than other parts of town.

Denise: Assemblyman Volland said to the police officer at the one meeting, "Well you know where the percentage of calls are coming from-Fairview."

Dave: When we had APD here earlier, they have said that they want to start coming to meeting regularly, but they didn't stay until the end, so I would consider proposing a motion to offer the president to write a letter to APD requesting that they make good on that. They say they will come every time, then they don't. Also, the behavioral health task force is holding a summit August 29th at the Mountain View Library to develop specific action items. Might be good for some folks in Fairview to attend.

Lindsey: Health and Safety Fair is tomorrow at the Fairview Rec. Center 12-6 pm.

Meeting adjourned 9:07 pm.