

Campbell Park Community Council
Minutes
January 18th, 2024
Via Zoom and in-person at
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cay Room

1-3. Call to order, agenda, and minutes Chairwoman Nicole Cupp began the meeting at 7:00PM, allowing Sen. Gray-Jackson to briefly report before departing for a joint session of the legislature, called in response to the Governor's veto of funding for education. The agenda was then revised and minutes of the December meeting were approved without objection.

4. Guest Speaker - Dowling Road Resurfacing Project - Kelly Kilpatrick reported on plans to repair cracks and settlement on Dowling Road starting at Lake Otis Parkway and ending just prior to Elmore Road, where a DOT project will soon begin. Assuming passage of the construction bond in the spring election, construction should start in May after the school year ends.

5. Reports

Legislature

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson. January report is included in the appendix to these minutes

Sen Forrest Dunbar Assistant James Holzenberg stood in for Sen. Dunbar. His January report is included in the appendix.

Rep. Andy Josephson. For Rep. Josephson, Lisa Keller said that the representative is focused on four of the nine bills assigned to committees: penalties for institutional vandalism; an abortion shield law, intended to block criminal

inquiries from states where abortion is not legal; requirement of consent for pelvic examinations; and an increase of required notice for rent increases from 30 days to 90 days.

Rep. Andrew Gray Assistant Deirdre Goins reported continuing efforts to recruit life guards for the East High School swimming pool, the apparent killing of the proposed statewide 6% bed tax, a bill to require reporting of election returns prior to the release of full results, and a program on housing issues at East Anchorage Book Club.

Mayor's Office - no report, not present.

Assembly

Meg Zaletel spoke about the draft proposal for mitigation of the Eklutna hydropower dam and on bond items in the spring election ballot: Anchorage Road and Drainage, improvements to the Police Dept. facility at Tudor & Elmore Road, new cemeteries in Chugiak Eagle River and Girdwood, and the existing cemetery in Anchorage, Parks & Recreation; and potential joining of part of a Road Service Area to the Anchorage Road Service area.

Felix Revera spoke about roll out of body worn cameras by the Police Department; funding for the the Next Step Pilot Program to help move people from emergency cold weather shelters to housing; and a program to develop a modular unit program, often described as a palette shelter programs.

E. School Board Carl Jacob described the annual budgeting process. The process starts with a proposal from the administration that is reviewed by the school board and sent to the Anchorage Assembly. After approval by the assembly

the budget goes to the State Department of Education for approval.

F. Housing & Homelessness Committee Michael Burke and T.J. Andrew - no report, not present.

G. FCC Delegate Kevin Fimon recommended the Assembly's Legislative Priorities document, a 13 or 14 page report presented to FCC, noting that it was, far easier to digest than the 180 page reports of the past. The Assembly is supporting increased budget for FCC. The FCC treasurer has resigned so there is an opening for that office.

H. Treasurer T.J. Andrew - No report, not present.

I. Acting CPCC Chair Nicole Cupp - no report.

6. Old Business

Sanctioned homeless camp resolution - Tabled until February meeting.

7. New Business

Saying a blessing at beginning of CPCC meetings - After brief discussion, and in light of the lack of quorum, further discussion was postponed until the February meeting.

Rabbit Creek/Rogers Park Resolution on Increasing the Base Student Allocation. The resolution as read. Members discussed the request from these community councils for support of their resolutions. Among the members present, opinions on the resolution were divided.
Public hearing on Campbell Creek set back reduction at Desiree Loop. Steve Johnson forwarded the information to the Anchorage Waterways Council.

CPCC Board and FCC Delegate nominations and elections. Due to lack of quorum, nominations and election were delayed until the February meeting.

8. Open Forum Patricia Kinneally noted the ongoing problem of multiple robot phone calls, on land lines, that when answered usually have no one on the caller's end.

9. Chairwoman Cupp adjourned the meeting at 8:37.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 15th, at 7:00 PM, at Cay's Room, St. Mary's Episcopal church, and by Zoom.

Appendix

Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson. January report.

Sen Forrest Dunbar January report.

CAMPBELL PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL-SENATOR GRAY-JACKSON REPORT

JANUARY 18, 2024

2025 Budget Overview

Governor Dunleavy unveiled his proposed **\$13.9 billion** operating budget and **\$3.6 billion** capital budget for Fiscal Year 2025 in mid-December. Some key aspects of the proposed budget include:

- Provides a \$3,284 PFD (Permanent Fund Dividend). This is an increase from the \$1,312 PFD paid out in 2023. This equals a \$2.3 billion expense.
- The base education funding (BSA) remains stagnant. The Governor did not include an increase in his operating budget. This means funding remains below the statutory inflation-proof amount. The capital budget includes \$8.3 million for school construction projects.
- Funds the University of Alaska system at a reduced level of \$327.1 million, down from \$335.4 million in FY2024. This continues reductions that have cut system funding by over 40% in the last decade.
- Invests \$150 million in transportation infrastructure, prioritizing road and bridge maintenance projects across the state.
- \$25 million for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Down Payment Assistance Grants. An additional \$62.6 million will go toward their yearly housing programs.
- Maintains funding for Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act at current service levels. Also adds 30 full-time positions to assist with the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) applications to further help with a backlog. Furthermore, the budget adds \$5 million for the Food Bank of Alaska.
- Proposes no new taxes or fees. The budget relies on oil revenue projections of \$2.5 billion. While oil production is increasing, long-term sustainability of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and North Slope oilfields remains a major economic concern if production declines prematurely.
- The proposed budget has received mixed reactions from legislators. While maintaining core services, critics argue the budget does not adequately address needs in education, infrastructure, and economic diversification given Alaska's petroleum wealth and budgetary resources. Although the budget proposes a large PFD, it relies on savings (a \$987 million draw from the state's constitutional and statutory budget reserves) to fill a deficit of nearly \$1 billion. Legislative review and amendments to the budget will occur in the coming months.

Ways to Provide Input on the Budget

Message your elected officials.

Message/Testify [Committees](#) that are hearing about the program you'd like to comment on.

Contact [House](#) and [Senate Leaders](#).

All Legislators get an opportunity to make amendments and vote on the budget when it goes to the floor for a vote.

Always representing your interests!



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**Session 2024 Community Council Update
January**

Bipartisan Caucus Priorities

Sufficient education funding and returning to a defined benefit for public employees remain a focus of this legislature. Senator Cathy Giessel's [SB 88](#), which I have cosponsored, would return public employees to a defined benefit. Moving this bill across the finish line is a heavy lift, but it is a necessity towards retaining a young and vibrant workforce. Governor Dunleavy's veto of half the one-time increase in education funding from last session, resulting in the exclusion of over \$87 million from the current year's education budget, is the most significant and pressing issue in this first week of session.

New Legislation

SB 159, Alaska Veteran's Poppy Day

Senate Bill 159 designates the Friday before Memorial Day as "Alaska Veterans' Poppy Day," encouraging Alaskans to wear red poppies as a symbol of the sacrifice made by veterans.

SB 162, State Residency: Sell/Rent Real Property

Senate Bill 162 will add "residency in this state" as a protected category, making it unlawful to discriminate on that basis. The bill also prohibits discriminatory inquiries, record-keeping, and advertising related to real estate transactions based on residency in the state.

SB 166, Mental Health/Psychedelic Med. Task Force

Senate Bill 166 will establish a Task Force, which will assess the use of psychedelic medicine to address the mental health crisis, consider barriers to access, and explore legal pathways for legalization, while considering potential public health impacts. This is a response to the likely FDA legalization of psychedelics for therapeutic purposes that many mental health advocates, especially veterans' groups, are anticipating.

Online SNAP Applications

The Alaska Division of Public Assistance introduced an online application for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The new online application takes an average of 20 minutes to complete and can be accessed on your phone or computer. To apply for SNAP online and learn whether you qualify, visit <https://health.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/SNAP/Online-SNAP-Application.aspx>

Those who have been waiting for more than 30 days for the state to process their application for SNAP or other public assistance benefits can file a Fair Hearing request. The form can be found at <https://alaskalawhelp.org/resource/fair-hearings>. For help filing that request, local nonprofit Alaska Legal Services Corp. can be reached at 1-888-478-2572. My office can also help with the application process.

PFD

The deadline to apply for the 2023 PFD is March 31st at <https://mypfd.alaska.gov/>. Please call our office as soon as possible if you hit any roadblocks in this process.

<https://tinyurl.com/SenDunbar-Newsletter>