

Fairview Community Council Board Meeting
January 4, 2023 7-9 pm
Fairview Recreational Center

Attending: Allen Kemplen, Kelly Ittenbach, Dave Rittenberg, Caleb Cabrera, Mikea Fulton, Janel Walton, Gillian Tribble, Heather Tribble, Zoom: Rene Kennicott, SJ Klein, Denise Jansen, Roger Briley, Suzie Alexander.

Board Member Updates:

Denise: Kroger merger decision coming January 17th. Lots of opposition. Appreciate everyone's support.

Allen: Hope they do the right thing and keep Gambell Carrs open.

Denise: I'm committed to keeping it open. It's such a gathering point for the community and landmark.

Allen: Does the store turn a profit?

Denise: If we were a sole proprietorship, we probably wouldn't be there, but we're part of a multi-million dollar corporation and my bosses and managers know the importance of the store to the community and that it's a landmark. It holds a very valuable place for the community. We feel like we're a part of the community. It's the best store I've ever managed. Customer support is none other than any other store I've ever managed.

Dave: Say worst happens, and store closes, is there any action the council can take to mitigate this?

Denise: No. 14 stores, either Carrs or Safeway, in Alaska will be sold. I would imagine there is some clause that the FTC has regarding closing stores in a certain time frame.

Kelly: Starting new year with all meeting notes up to date.

Dave: not much change in homeless prevention loss system. Initiative out of Houston will be voted on in the assembly on Tuesday to allocate funds for that program. My concern is what is the after care services once folks get housing? If we spend these funds, it's more than just rent. There are wraparound services for people. We need housing AND services. Taking testimony Tuesday. Changeover in 3rd Ave resource and navigation center director. New director starting 16th. Charity Duley will be new director. Looks like Graceful Touch is dead in the water? Last summer I applied to be on Hand Commission. My name is being put forward for that. Neighborhood Guardians: I had a conversation with Henning; Shawn Hayes is very interested. We just need to figure out practical next steps.

Allen: We need a more proactive approach. Reactive approach not working. We need new ideas and innovation more focused on proactive approach makes sense.

Janel: Are we talking about community gardens?

Allen: No, the concept of neighborhood guardians. I've been advocating for a long time; notion is that neighborhood has been taking it in the shorts. APD and prosecutors office - system is not working. It doesn't recognize offsite impacts to neighborhoods for years. We need to mitigate negative impacts on neighborhoods from the homeless. I propose neighborhood

guardians - an outreach program - where teams of 2-3 people teams go out on the streets where people are camping and educate them of the importance of being good neighbors, that they are part of a community, and that they should be responsible in the community. One person would be a professional social worker, another person would be someone who has been homeless, and a security person. It's been advanced and included in the call to action put forward by the community councils to provide funding for a new pilot program.

Dave: To hone in on the issue : there is a gap in response. A service provider has certain tools, and then there's the criminal justice response - APD, but there's this piece in the middle - if it's trespassing, or loitering - a service provider has no teeth or jurisdiction to fix this. They can't go off property. There is a gap in the middle left unaddressed. APD is too busy, and service providers have no authority off property. Guardians would step in to address these issues.

Gillian: Would these be volunteers?

Dave: No. They would be paid - no volunteers. They would be trained resources.

SJ: The end unit on 15th and Gambell has been rented out to a woman (Shannon Sarrich) who owns Cajun Corner downtown - she wants to do a coffee shop, maybe breakfast burritos or something. She's still concepting. I suggested a gathering and convening space for Fairview- perhaps give you (Allen) some locker pace? I will invite her to the potluck. Hand Commission: my last meeting was yesterday. I was up for re appointment; decided not to reapply. They found a replacement. Dave's name came up and I endorsed him for the commission. I will attend next few meetings to smooth transition process. They want to have impact on homeless issues. Many involved in housing on the commission. I sat down with Rene Kennicott. There are some technical things that we need to make sure are in place. We'll need to submit authorization paperwork regarding our business status in Fairview. We didn't realize Allen and I are on 6th terms. Good thing to have pointed out as well. Per our discussion: They want to shake things up. They are upset about statements that were made and the email to Graceful Touch Allen sent. January meeting: how do we take their legitimate energy and turn it into making them feel like they're being heard? I agreed to work on the resolution they put forward. They were talking about making motions to remove Allen and I from office, but we're only in office another month, so what's the point? We talked about if what was said was really said. I read the proposal, and it would work if we had a relationship of trust with Graceful Touch. So I threw the motion to censure Allen as a way to repudiate things they think were mistakes that didn't represent the views of the community. That way, it's a clear statement that the council doesn't agree. There would be no punishment and wouldn't remove anyone from office - wouldn't change anyone's roles, and keep the council moving forward.

Janel: My understanding is that SJ is on 5th year as vice president, not 6th. Has someone asked you to step down?

SJ: No, Rene just made the point we're both on our last terms. Also, we talked about Rene starting a nomination committee next month.

Heather: We are happy with the resolution we presented last month.

SJ: Sure. The process is it goes to the council for revision if needed. If any changes are made, it brings forward the amendment process. Once amendments are done, then the final resolution then goes before the executive committee and is voted on. One job of the vice president is to make sure we're following the rules. If we change anything, we would want to email folks so they know what's happening. Last month a resolution was made to be discussed tonight and eligible to be voted on.

Allen: The purpose of the resolution was opposition to the warming center. Alexis stated that the concept is dead in the water. If the notion of a warming center no longer on the table,...

Heather: Our concern is you're going to go behind our backs and saying it might go. We need to make sure our voices are clear - NO warming center!

Janel: I'm still hearing rumors from city hall - conversations that the warming center is coming back up and not confirmed dead - that you've been talking about the warming center still being on the table.

Allen: They are misinformed.

Janel: What about the letter?

Allen: I sent Stephanie an email...

Heather: We read it. She presented it as her new proposal.

Allen: The email says this is just a hypothetical scenario. I put together two groups - Graceful Touch and surrounding neighbors and drafted a resolution I sent to Janel. My actions were to treat each one fairly. On the news, I said we have a process and that it's conditional on them being good neighbors.

Janel: That's just not what I heard listening to the assembly meeting and the news.

Allen: At the assembly meeting, the gentleman from Eagle River asked about the warming center. My response was that it'll be taken up at our general membership meeting and I can't speak on it.

Janel: That's just not what I heard.

Heather: We're just saying we'd like to see the resolution at next week's meeting so we can vote.

Allen: What you'd like to see on the agenda is the resolution as it is currently written, unchanged.

Heather: I think so.

Janel: Well, I've made changes. I haven't seen the changes.

Dave: If I may, I think the idea is to make the message of the resolution more concise and direct. the resolution as read aloud at the last meeting was very long and all over the place. There were some language choices that could use some revision.

Heather: If it's been edited, we would love to see it.

Allen: SJ is point person on revising the resolution.

SJ: It's not revised yet. Allen wrote an alternative resolution. I'm trying to come up with something that combines both motions. It will be an amended version. It will be ready by next week's meeting.

Allen: Other items that the group is interested in pursuing at this meeting?

Heather: Graceful Touch says they're helping with transitional services on top of housing. I'm all for anything to help them with that.

Janel: They're not a good choice. They've been in business for less than three years. According to municipal code, they shouldn't be engaging in this business unless they've been in business for at least three years. They need to have a good neighbor agreement. She's a convicted felon. There's problematic issues according to health code. She's trying to grab the nonprofit money.

Gillian: I offered help and it was spurned.

Heather: If they can be helped with transitional services, but nothing else.

Janel: I just want them to follow the code.

Dave: What happened here was Stephanie responded to a request for a proposal.

Janel: I'm still trying to understand why did she come to us? Stephanie and her daughter were yelling and saying "You guys came to us."

Dave: I heard that she was responding to a request for a proposal, understanding that plans sometimes work or not. I stepped in to mitigate the harm if the business was going to go. The health department is the one to say if they can go into business or not, whether the council says no or not. Sometimes the health department is just going to move forward. From my perspectiveis someone on the executive board and has some operational expertise - I think that the intention was that if this were to go through, it needed to be on a smaller scale, have some support for it. The initial proposal was a nightmare. That was my intention reaching out to them and Allen's as well. We don't make the decision if it can go through.

SJ: What I'm hearing is the communication was more collaborative than it was meant to be. Karluk Manor, for instance, we fought every step of the way, and all the communication against this idea and why we thought it was a bad idea, and during the fight, I sat down with those folks. I'm going to fight this, but the approach was collaborative. The approach you took with them is reasonable, but but it's more reasonable if there's a relationship with trust, which there is no relationship with Graceful Touch. We had a meeting at Twin Dragon, which was a nightmare. I can understand why members are upset at the way it all went down. Maybe this resolution will make it clear about how the council feels about it.

Allen: The council approach as a hypothetical scenario was done as a way to address an issue of concern in the community. It's important to understand the context of what was going on. These RFI's that Dave talked about.: the Health department put out through purchasing a request for information for three non congregate shelters and locations in Oct. Then, in November, we had a big snow storm and national media picks up the story that Anchorage has incredible numbers of homeless people dying. 49 people died - a 100% increase over 2022, and the municipality has open request for proposals. Now, we're national: NY Times and CBS News picked it up. If you read the articles, they quote Felix Rivera...He's quoted as saying that the administration is coming forward with proposals for some warming centers...then, in mid November, Rene sends out an inquiry about 1536 as a warming center. There's a rumor that he's pushing a warming facility there. Chris: not accurate. Not Felix, but administration that is considering something that Graceful Touch put together.

Heather: They put a sign in their window saying a warming shelter is coming in two weeks.

Allen: So they were working with the administration, not us. Then we heard about it, and we had a homelessness committee meeting. Had the meeting, and we said we need to have these folks come and present to us to tell us what they are up to. I invited Stephanie to the Secret Garden meeting on Monday. Rene said there's lots of interest - we need new venue and that Mongolian BBQ is available. I emailed Graceful Touch the change of location to Mongolian BBQ for the meeting. We have a process that we're going to follow: Committee, executive board, then general membership. After the committee presentation, we let Stephanie know we'd like you to present to executive board and talk to us regarding the concerns that were raised during meeting. I emailed her a list of concerns and questions, which should be addressed in the next meeting. It got put on the agenda for general membership - a more formal venue. Graceful Touch came and presented, and in between the executive board meeting and the general membership meeting, it seems we made the national news. How do we want to respond to this?

Janel: We can solve Fairview's problems, not Anchorage. That's for the mayor. The reason for the resolution is what we heard very clearly at that meeting at Mongolian BBQ and many times after, but we are NOT open to a warming shelter and we need to make that clear. I have a problem of you telling people that we are open to having a warming shelter after the council has said no, time and time again. I just want the resolution to pass to say that it is not okay to have a warming shelter here. The community doesn't support that statement.

Allen: That is the purpose for the resolution. I tried to not automatically reject, but to follow the process. I have been taken to task in the past for doing exactly what you guys wanted me to do, and that's saying, "Allen, you cannot get out a formal action by the council. You have to wait until something happens.

Janel: No. You went from saying you need to send out all the homeless to Eklutna in yurts to now you're saying ...the pendulum does not need to do this. The committee council needs to reflect what the community wants and the community has been clear on what they want, and if you don't feel comfortable saying that, you shouldn't be taking interviews and speaking on our behalf. We're not okay with it.

Allen: So Dave, you saw the interview with KTUU?

Dave: Is that the one in question or is there another one floating around?

Allen: That's the only one.

Janel: I have it right here; I can quote what it says. So you're saying that the media is wrong?

Allen: What that reporter put down is false. I never said what was in the narrative. What I said was in the video. What did I say, Dave?

Dave: We want them to be good neighbors.

Janel: But I heard what you said to Cross at the assembly meeting. We're rehashing the past. The purpose of me being here is that I understood that you guys were going to look at the resolution which I was pretty surprised by what was said in it, but I'm fine with it. There needs to be some changes to it, but my understanding was that we were going to rehash this resolution, clean it up, and get it ready for the meeting next week. But the community seems to be comfortable going forward with the resolution, or you would not have had 17 different people having a hand in it.

Allen: Right. So it was anticipated that SJ would have a draft revision for us to look at and he was not able to accomplish that.

Heather: We can do that by email.

Allen: Right. Sj will have it ready for next meeting.

SJ: I'm having some email troubles. I'll have something out tomorrow by end of day. I wouldn't mind hearing from Rene as long as we're getting everyone's voices in. The only other thing I'm hearing from the conversation, is that if we come forward with a resolution that is forceful and substantial that everyone can agree with, we don't need a motion to censure.

Rene: I just want to clarify that SJ is on his 5th year - Allen is on his 6th year. As for the resolution, I'm disappointed it's not ready for tonight. I agree with Janel about Allen's statement with being fine with warm center. I'm trying to find that video, but Janel was 100% correct. I stand by everything that was said about no to the warming center. I don't know why they were still invited to speak.

SJ: to Rene: if we can get a resolution done by email for the meeting next week, and get it where everyone's comfortable with it, is that enough? Because we discussed the motion of censure as well. Would you be okay dropping that idea?

Rene: If Allen wants to make a statement at the next general meeting acknowledging everything, that's fine. But the reason we discussed the motion for censure is so that people know about what happened. This isn't right. The president's literal job is to know and enforce bylaws. #1: He's on his 6th year, which is 100% against the bylaws. I don't care what excuse there is for it, it's the bylaws. #2: things are being said and done behind our backs and that's in complete conflict with what community thinks. Allen plainly just said in your narrative and starting with the email that was sent out starting with the Twin Dragon and then went to the executive board after that. You went behind the community's backs that is in direct conflict with what the community wants. Either the motion to censure needs to be brought up at the next meeting, or Allen needs to make a statement and recognize what's wrong because people need to know. As far as the resolution goes - we were told it would be brought before the meeting tonight. Now it isn't. And so now we all have to do this by email instead of the board meeting where it is supposed to be done, to be able to collaborate on it together. It will take extra time and be frustrating.

SJ: I'm thinking in terms of repudiation. Do we want to just add that to the resolution as well? It sounds like you want something clearly stating Allen didn't follow the process.

Heather: Yeah, if you want to add something and send it around and give us a chance to review it.

SJ: All right.

Dave: Could we also find these statements and make them in the public record and make them available? ? All I have seen is the interview on KTUU. I have not seen the article.

Denise: I have read the written part and it does state there was support or at least not against it. I really appreciate everybody's time and efforts and passion for the community. Speaking for the viability of keeping the grocery store there, we just went through two years of hell with the Sullivan Arena and all the issues that go with that. We can't survive if we're not going to be together on these issues and make a stand on what we are and aren't going to have in our

neighborhood. There needs to be a process before anything gets publicly stated out to the media or goes to the assembly or administration. We can't be divided.

SJ: A lot of this stuff happens really quickly. Our process is really a two month process. If something gets announced the second week of the month that impacts our community, the resolution gets brought forward 3-4 weeks later and then we don't vote on it until a month after that. So if we would have waited 2 months to do anything on Graceful Touch, we wouldn't have had any input at all. Something to think about as we move forward as a council.

Allen: Our two month requirement is a deliberate process because there were factions abusing the council.

SJ: I'm more speaking to the idea that we still have to have a president who can speak on our behalf. There are times when the assembly wants to know what the Fairview council thinks, and the president will speak to the sentiments of the council without a two month process behind him or her.

Allen: Good suggestion SJ. We can tweak how the council does things. It makes us more responsive to these issues that seem to be rolling right on top of us and how do we respond as a council. In the meantime, to address people's concerns, an amended resolution is promised by SJ tomorrow. So, people will have opportunity to look over it over the weekend to make comments and tweak it so we can send it out when the agenda is put out. It would be nice if we could get things nailed down by Monday so we can have the resolution to be presented at the next meeting.

SJ: I'd like to apologize to the body for not getting this done. I take the blame for that one. I'm sorry everybody.

Janel: Will we make sure this is on the top of the agenda? This is pretty important and it got shoved to end at the last meeting.

Allen: It will be put under old business. Your comments are noted, thank you.

SJ: Janel...one option... we normally have the agenda where politicians speak first and then other presentations and then we go over old business. When the agenda is presented during the meeting, you can make a motion to amend the agenda and move the resolution up from old business.

Janel: When does the agenda come out?

SJ: We're putting it together today and we send it to the federation as soon as our secretary types it up and sends it over and then it gets emailed when they get around to it, which sometimes is the day of the meeting.

Allen: It will probably go out on Monday.

Janel: OK.

SJ: The shape of the agenda is the same every month so as far as the resolution, it's going to be under old business on the agenda so if you want to move that, you can make a motion to move item one from old business first after approval of the minutes or something like that. That's a legitimate move to make during approval of the agenda.

Janel: I'm looking at the bylaws and it says that the agenda should be posted a week from the meeting.

SJ: That would be today.

Janel: My other question is: I understand the mayor's office has a new rep who talks to community councils. Can we invite her to the next meeting to speak on behalf of the mayor's office?

SJ: She was there last month. Her name is Michelle Vogel. She was there, but didn't introduce herself. We can make sure she's on agenda.

Janel: Are we supposed to formally ask her to come?

Allen: In the past what we've done is we've had people from the mayor's office. We had one gentleman come and we put him up there with representing the mayor's office. We can put her with the assembly members during the meeting.

Dave: They don't always come.

Janel: That's why I was asking do we need to invite them specifically?

Allen: I'm willing to give her time on the agenda. If the council has specific questions, it would be good to give them to her in advance.

Janel: We keep hearing Alexis is going back and forth on the homeless issue.

Allen: Will Michelle will be able to speak as the homeless coordinator?

SJ: I tried to get Alexis to the Hand commission meetings the past few weeks and she hasn't come, so I don't know. In theory, that's her job. Department of Health and Human Services doesn't work directly under her and they are the ones who sign the contracts. The best I know is there is nothing in the works, not that the issue is dead.

Janel: It wouldn't hurt to invite both of them so they can both say it's dead in the water and confirm it again.

Allen: I can invite Michelle and make sure she knows she is on the agenda and email her to speak to us about the mayor's position about the warming shelter.

Janel: They want to talk to her about snow removal as well.

Dave: Historically, these individuals come with open ears, than the ability to answer questions.

Janel: I'm well aware of that. I'd like to have her ears open and report back to the mayor's office what we're saying. What term would you use instead of indigent?

Dave: Person experiencing homelessness is the accepted term at this point.

SJ: Their point too is that we're not just concerned with people experiencing homelessness; we're also concerned about people who are out late at night arguing and not going home - hanging out with the people experiencing homelessness. The people predated and profiteering off them. There's a whole ecosystem we're concerned about.

Janel: SJ, do you think you'll be able to finish the resolution?

SJ: I'll tackle it tonight. Rene emailed me a copy of the resolution. I just need a day to get my email figured out.

Allen: I would encourage everybody that's here tonight and online to look over the resolution. We'll will give Michelle a head's up that we want her there and the neighbors are interested in having a conversation about some import issues they want her to take to the mayor. I encourage all of you to come to the next meeting; there is a potluck before the general meeting. Lindsey from Neighborworks Alaska is presenting on the Reconnecting Communities grant work effort. You should be there to learn what's going to happen in the next few years.

President's Report: We had this big kerfuffle with Merrill Field and instrument flight rules miscommunication. Kolby, the deputy municipal manager, is now overseeing Merrill Field. They are looking for a replacement. We requested a special meeting on IFR procedures. We had that meeting Dec 13th or so. They had a presentation and folks from Rogers Park were very concerned. They don't want more noise. They had a number of questions: responses : 1. no RSZ expanded - no property acquisitions by Merrill Field. 2. New IFR proceed won't result in new noise impacts and 3. new IFR mean bigger aircraft coming into Merrill Field? No. Municipal code limits Merrill Field in terms of the size of the fleet that comes in. Folks had cautious acceptance to message. Municipality will pursue moving those to the FAA so they can be published in the next supplement coming out in March.

We've been look at the possibility of having a winter fest in February along Hyder St. I've been chatting with one of the homeowners along Hyder St to make sure re: concerns no one caring about his part of the neighborhood and why doesn't anyone care about Hyder St? We do care...the reconnecting Fairview community grant heard what you had to say and making efforts to fix structural problems there. Neighbor doesn't care - wants crap to stop now. I'm not so sure it's wise for us to move forward with this winter fest on Hyder if the current the situation is not conducive to that type of positive community activity. I'm getting nervous about energy put into this. Karen said her impression is not to move forward with the festival until we address Dwayne's concerns. Any thoughts?

SJ: I understand where the Dwaynes of the neighborhood are coming from but I'll make a counter argument. We can't reimagine something if we're just focusing on problems there. We need to inspire people there. Hyder is a failed part of our neighborhood. We have an opportunity in a month for the design team and the museum who are doing stuff in Fairview. You're never going to move the needle is all you do is focus on negative. There might be negative blowback, but if we don't push a vision for something new and open people's eyes, then we're not going to get anything but what we've been getting for the last few years.

Dave: SJ brings up a good point. So we're talking about 9th -12th Streets on Hyder? Have you talked to other property owners?

Allen: He's really the only owner. Most are renters or absentee landlords. We do have some bad eggs along that block in rental units.

Dave: So, is there a reason those three blocks were picked? What about 15th?

Allen: Yeah...no negative impacts on driveways for those three blocks. Alleyways not impacting residents. Once you run into 12th and 13th, you run into folks going to work and businesses. We can't close business access north of 15th.

Dave: The idea is to shine a spotlight on Hyder?

Allen: The intent was to be an initial community building activity for the reconnecting Fairview community program. Something positive. All you see is negative crap. Changing to a positive perspective.

Dave: I agree with that sentiment. Are you nervous this gentleman is going to do something? Maybe it's an opportunity to change his mind?

Allen: Good luck on that. Dwayne has been against the marijuana dispensary opening up on 13th and Hyder. Dwayne is very vocal on issues he feels are detrimental. I've been trying to get him to help on the CAP team, which doesn't work with individual homeowners, but with the council. I'm trying to convince him that if he works with the council, then we can do something.

Kelly: I don't know that I would not want to have a festival based on one resident's concerns, but the festival is pretty positive and bring the community together.

Roger: I just purchased 818 East 10th Avenue - a fourplex building. It's not a safe area. There are shootings. I've been working with the FBI on the major Fentanyl issue. I have nothing left on the inside of the building - they took everything down to the wires and plumbing. It's the worst building I've ever bought. We're there with five men, and 9 out of 10 nights, we're dragging folks out of the building. Until it gets cleaned up, it's not safe to have the festival. You'll see the bullet holes in the three motorhomes there. I've purchased other buildings around the area that we're cleaning up and remodeling.

SJ: One counterpoint: you notice how the Chester Creek park had campers until the race ran through there? the CAP cleaned it out quick? They're back, but when they had the event, the CAP team cleared out the area. if we have an event and get traffic on this and close down the area and complain to the mayor's office that "hey, we've got this event," there's campers on the street....

Roger: I just think with the way that place looks now, I wouldn't take my family there.

Allen: I tend to agree. I'm nervous about the current conditions. I wanted more input tonight. I'm of the opinion we should do this next winter. after we have had the chance to address safety issues along that corridor. Other things: I hope you all come to the potluck 5-6 pm. Meet folks. We'll send out information to the neighborhood about what we've accomplished this year. Bring a dish.

SJ: Thank you for everything you do!

Allen: I really didn't want to be president this year, but nobody would run.

Roger: When does the vote happen because I want to run.

Allen: Vote is in March.

Meeting adjourned 9:09pm

