

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Board of Delegates

DRAFT Minutes of January 19, 2011 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair, Dick Tremaine

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

FCC Delegates in attendance:

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagi, Sr.
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Bear Valley	Laurie Holland
Eagle River Valley	Tom Freeman
Huffman O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mid-Hillside	John Weddleton
Mountain View	Don Crandall
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Russian Jack	Pat Butler
Sand Lake	Talbot Chang
Scenic Foothills	Linda Billmyer
South Fork	Andrew Brewer
Spenard	Jason Bergerson
Taku Campbell	Jeff Mittman
Tudor Area	Tod Butler
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason
University Area	Betty Adkison

Others in attendance included:

Mark Butler, FCC Manager
Dick Traini, Chair of the Anchorage Assembly
Kathleen Plunkett, Anchorage School Board
Marty McGee, MOA Assessor
John Spring

Agenda was reviewed, and approved, without objection.

Minutes: Motion to accept December 2010 meeting minutes; MOVED, Seconded, Approved without objection (pending typo/grammar amendment(s)).

Presentations:

School Board Representative, Kathleen Plunkett

Completed first work session; **Public hearings will be January 26, and February 3**

Rentals discussed – Community Councils will not be charged for meetings

Bonds presentation to occur at March FCC meeting; note Service Bond amount is \$37MM – based on reallocation

Query: regarding summer school – elementary has been recommended for elimination, other two reduced (Middle School – 2 sites to 1, student numbers limited; High School – some reduction as well) – up for discussion.

Anchorage 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Jon Spring, Project Manager

FACT SHEET provided.

AMATS – Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions

Updated every 4 years, required by Federal Highway Administration – provided funding for projects

Reevaluation of over \$1BB of projects in current plan

Extending current 2027 plan to 2035, will review projections for population, demand needs, etc.

Several small studies have occurred that may influence long range plan including Eagle River CBD Circulation Study (done but not yet adopted), New interchange, realignments, etc.

Downtown and Hillside Plans – also under review for changes, O'Malley and Huffman extensions being reviewed

Bicycle and Pedestrian plans completed, need to be incorporated

Planned consolidation of Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak/Eagle River Plans – which have historically been separate plans – FHA is recommending consolidation – “meshing” plans will require some work – given different planning processes

Robust plan for public involvement – will develop an insert for newspaper to inform public that Plan has started, and progress in past 3 years to meet noted problems – other aspects: Public Meetings (One when Plan released, both Anchorage and Eagle River, and will attend Community Councils – when specific projects identified, also email blasts will be sent when public meetings are scheduled).

FACT SHEET identifies assumptions.

Public can contact ANN BROOKS who is Public Involvement Coordinator.

Queries:

Muldoon – no design work done yet – issues regarding Bartlett and VA, pedestrian problems – IS identified as need though

Safety LU (Legacy for Users) – is up for review, emphasis on non-auto uses, NEW one – not up to date on thinking, but likely more emphasis on funding for transit – dependent on new Congress. We are obligated to follow Transportation Bill.

Next 15 – 20 years public transit in Anchorage and out to MatSu? Current plan is fairly unambitious, looks at potential light rail – but highest priority is bus, for example a bus every 4 – 6 minutes during peak times. New plan may not go much beyond. But possible REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY to be inaugurated, as agreed to by Anchorage and MatSu mayors about two years ago. GOOD PLANNING requires agreement between both areas. Noted concern about reduction of transit in budget cycles, even though there is interest in communities.

Any trains? No info on light rail, but Alaska Railroad has made some improvements – only 50 minutes from Palmer to downtown – remodeled station to accommodate commuter passengers, plans for an intermodal facility downtown at old depot (no funding yet). Problem with trains coming: getting people from Ship Creek to remainder of Anchorage Bowl? Existing transit system likely couldn't meet need.

Van Pool program – 55 serve area – almost 1,000 people served – saving 700 vehicle trips – helps reduce need.

Highway to Highway: in hiatus . . . 6 projects had been proposed, with some noted opposition – thought was to reduce to best 2 or 3, but Governor appears to have put on hold pending more public involvement – no specific date for re-start. Project office is still extant.

Knik Arm crossing: projects should be reasonably fundable – potential that project may go to Legislature or ask for bonds – state or fed monies may be assigned to the project and make it feasible financially.

Has military been approached re KABATA or other projects? Meeting is planned to discuss. No answer currently. Anne Brooks will provide minutes of meeting.

Dick Traini, Assembly Chair

70% like fireworks – 30% hate

Now in Bond budget cycle – attorney has advised Assembly on what can be done with bonds; can be reduced but NOT repackaged differently. School, Administration (police, fire, roads).

Taxpayer Protection Act – recapitulates Tax Cap. Feb 1 is “drop dead” date – if not passed by then, dead until next year.

ID check at liquor stores is coming before Assembly and then to voters for Advisory Vote.

Disabled vets tax exemption introduced – HB 10 will let voters decide to continue –

Some liquor licenses pulled – for non-compliance with TAMS (sp?)

New Ombudsman – coming on: Barbara Jones – for four months – She is invited to next FCC meeting – will give monthly reports to Assembly, with names/identifying information redacted.

Query: Notification of meetings – ask Barbara – 343-4312. FCC Manager will discuss with Muni Clerk – modest fee to FCC to manage a list-serve for Muni.

What is cost in ADN for half-page ad? Chair will find out.

CIP project lists – send to Assembly members to ensure that lists are forwarded properly without modifications against Council’s liking

Marty McGee - Assessor

Note: mill rate will be set April 26.

If you want to file complaint/appeal – must pay \$100 filing fee – which will be refunded if you participate in the process.

Assessor will come to any Community Council that wants a presentation on the assessment process, and the administration of appeals.

Work session presentation (1 hour presentation) made – and available.

NOTE: APPEALS must be filed within 30 days of January 14.

Some factoids: Wash, DC studied/ranked 51 communities – Anchorage ranks 15th in property tax, but 51st on total taxation; average household pays \$4800 in tax – average household income is \$88,000; commercial buildings pay approximately 10% of rental income in property tax – highest single expense for owners.

Note: exemptions are counter-intuitive – while they may appear to benefit low-income individuals, the “buoyancy” and adjustment of the mill rate ends up negatively affecting those most in need of tax relief – Alaska law needs to be adjusted if there is a desire to assist those with limited income.

Discussion of shifting some burden to sales tax – key part will be in exemptions – “devil’s in the details” – VAT is not currently being considered as a viable option.

PRESENTATION link will be provided to FCC and on website.

Encouraged to go to website: available through www.muni.org.

Query: audits of “exempt” properties – reviewed annually – look for deed changes, physical drive-bys (at least once every six years) – now have authority to demand response for requests for information from exemption claimers. Approximately 7,000 exempt properties. 90% of Bowl land is exempt (government, ANCSA grant land).

Property values in some of the municipality “sub-markets” have increased over the last year. Assessor monitors sales, MLS info, etc.

Treasurer’s Report - Tamagni:

Year-end report for 2010 distributed. Finances in good shape.

FCC Manager Report – Butler:

New fax number: 222-3878. And can scan documents.

Grant requests – 10 different grants last year – Manager can help.
NUSA needs volunteers and money.

Old Business

Status of 2011 MOA Contract: We have our contract and payment from MOA.

NUSA report – Jason:

We have a DRAFT catalog, 97% ready – being passed around. 2 tickets to Denali as door prize from AK Railroad; sponsorships (in kind) coming in, finances still needed.

Laurie – tours, Linda – workshops – as good or better than prior NUSA conferences. Tour group meeting to be planned within next two weeks, and stakeholder meeting – notice to be provided.

Jason, Sheli will go to Columbia to make presentation to Board; Catalog will be finalized; info to be on website – MAKING PROGRESS.

Tours: no large meeting planned, will be individual one-on-one meetings with proposers.

Query: collected to date: \$5,400. In-kind – Egan at \$30K, another organization will pay museum rental, speaker - \$5000 (Dept. of Neighborhoods); FCC has covered mailings. We're down to less than 6 figures to cover all costs.

Treasurer has prepared summary of NUSA costs to-date.

NOTE: encourage Alaskans to attend, and consider pitching “ask” to organizations you know – 150 letters have gone out, 100 more ready to go –

New Business

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jeffrey Mittman, FCC Secretary