

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Board of Delegates

Minutes of October 19, 2011 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair, Jeffrey Mittman
Quorum was attained at 6:05 p.m.

FCC Delegates in attendance:

Eagle River	Don DeShasier
Eagle River Valley	Tom Freeman
Fairview	Sharon Chamard
Huffman/O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mid-Hillside	Lance Powell
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Gordon Glaser
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Old Seward/Oceanview	Nancy Beardsley
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Scenic Foothills	Lynda Billmyer
South Addition	Bonnie Harris
South Fork	Karl von Lührte
Taku Campbell	Jeffrey Mittman
Tudor Area	Tod Butler
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason
University	Susan Klein

Others in attendance included:

Kathleen Plunkett	Anchorage School Board
Mark Butler	Community Councils Center Manager
Mark Hill	Scenic Foothills CC
Tom Davis	Municipal Planning Department
Patrick Flynn	Anchorage Assembly
Denise Morris	First Alaskans Institute
Dan Coffey	Former Assembly member
Brian Litmans	Bicycle Commuters of Anchorage
Melinda Freemon	RurAL CAP
Cheryl Frasca	Municipality of Anchorage

Agenda

Amend agenda to include new business – Secretary position

Approved agenda by consent

Motion to approve Susan Klein as Secretary. Approved by all.

Acknowledgement of guests for special meeting

End of business meeting 6:10 PM.

Presentations:

Tom Davis – Municipal Planner on Title 21

Community councils in Muni Code (Title 21) – chief way for neighborhoods to participate in comprehensive plans and future growth.

Will provide update on project and amendments going forward

Key changes that will make zoning better. Stronger ground rules for compatibility between neighbors. Redevelopment and infill

2007 -2010 provisionally adopted sections. Community product – compromises of many community groups.

Administration amendments – now public

May 2010 Sullivan – public hearing draft – for review and comment. Planning Div. received comments. Mayor hired Dan Coffey as consultant who rewrote. Turned in to Mayor in July 2011 and Sullivan chose which of the proposed changes he liked.

Going forward with re-write -- can see amendments in new document. Administration proposed amendments to P&Z Commissions. P&Z hearing Dec 12, 2011.

Today's release is a summary of the proposed amendments from the consultant (Dan Coffey). Actual amendments in document will be incorporated and presented to P&Z in November.

Changes overall to the document include:

Includes a Table of Contents

Chapters

Hierarchy of "Intent" Statements – what regulation is about?

Defines land uses in city

Lays out ground rules for applicant – clear standards for all

Due to odd lots left, created:

- Menus of choices

- Performance standards

- Incentives

- Alternative compliance methods

Current zoning

Residential – Euclidian zoning – keeps types of zoning apart. Not equipped to deal with redevelopment. Rewrite includes mixed-use districts hierarchy of 3 – pedestrian walking environment. Stronger connections among uses and compatibility.

Business – Traditionally adopted height limits in outlying area. 3-story height in neighborhood districts

Stronger standards for landscape buffers and height transitions. (Residential next to business or industrial).

Infill rules – breaking up of parking lots, landscaping, walkways. How is higher density going to relate to the neighborhood? Walkway and snow storage/dumpsters.

Parking requirements currently higher than actual demand. Rewrite balances by reducing amt of parking actually needed and leaving space for landscaping.

Walkable – no longer and extra. Necessary to have lower parking and higher growth.

Economic impacts – tested for cost.

Lower direct cost of dev. For office retail, doc. Offices, long-term benefit to property and neighbors.

Amenities very small proportion of cost (parking, landscaping etc.)

CE Chapter 21.10

Downtown Title 21 regulations

Title 21 Users' Guide Training for staff and public.

Current news on Planning Division website will have Title 21

Title 21 rewrite will have own page. WATCH for CCs

Current documents page – for latest draft materials and amendments that will be available in November

State of the City Forum (taped for future broadcast)

Patrick Flynn, Assembly

State of the City “pretty darn good”.

Transportation MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035 – in draft phase) replaces LRTP. For the first time this document must show “fiscal constraint” – must have funding to be executed. Past fiscal assumptions were rosy. This plan assumes \$150 million appropriated for KABATA and the State guaranteeing all future KABATA expenses. Plan based on federal funding formula not likely to be maintained at current rate. Inclusion of KABATA guarantee into the MTP could mean that there is less money for many of the needed projects listed in the plan.

Denise Morris, President First Alaskans Institute

Refers to self as ununga – people of water

History of First Alaskans Institute – in Trans Alaska Pipeline bill – Title 29 – required a certain number of Alaska native hires. After the project was completed found little Alaska native hire. No litigation. As a result of number of hires, x number of dollars was given and was used to form the First Alaskans Institute.

Anchorage community is plagued by homelessness. Many studies done – clean space to live along with services use fewer services.

1. Housing First concept

2. Independence through housing – Cook Inlet Housing – Mountain View – population up 18% over 2000. Household income up. WHO DID RESEARCH. Student test scores up in reading, math and writing. Parents participating in schools. Overall crime down 14% in MV, but calls up since residents calling more.

3. Early Childhood Development

Has native corporations put money into above housing? All have housing authorities. Cook Inlet Housing has built 200 plus houses in Mountain View plus other housing.

Dan Coffey – Businessman, former Assembly member

Recommendations to Mayor on Title 21. Will go to P&Z and have public testimony

Mountain View – under 20/20 increase density in residential neighborhoods. Changes in Title 21 allowed single family – before redevelopment required duplex or higher.

Karluk Manor opened. Went to 811 in Seattle – 75 residents – benefited community but fewer needs for police, social workers health care. Cost down 50%. Sold him on Housing First model.

Chair of Mayor's energy task force. All energy comes through Anchorage (except for SE AK). 80% of goods through Anchorage. Face problems – energy – declining gas fields in Cook Inlet - recommendations on incentives to drill for gas to legislature. 143,000 buildings in SC AK. All heat with natural gas.

Port of Anchorage – colossal mess. \$325 million just to fix north end. Port bond. Now try to fix north end and make dry and wet docks – finish what is necessary.

Question regarding cost of subsequent medical costs are greater than savings from community service and police. Coffey read JAMA article that showed savings.

Also addressed cultural based camps – three in Alaska – high rate of success. Next step is to look at these other issues – medical, cultural.

Brian Litmans, President Bicycle Commuters of Anchorage

What is a better Anchorage – urban environment?

Livability – transportation options – car, bus, biking, walking

Bicycle friendly community – LAB – increased prop values, inc. tourism, increase transportation options

Embracing bicycling makes more livable

Minneapolis and bicycling – improves public health, air quality, physical fitness

18% of ASD students are overweight, 19% are obese.

Biking is fiscally sound – save .25 c for every k biked, pay 16 c for every k driven.

Anchorage is 15th across country in bicycle cities across. Chain Reaction Cycles and Speedway cycles are designing winter bikes.

Bike to work days in year 2007 there were 1400 counted, in 2011 3300 bikers counted..

Bike map

Clinics on rules of road

Great greenways in Anchorage.

Huge potential in regards to livability

More to do – traffic calming, better connectivity and connectivity (bike lanes, bike blvds, multi-use paths), complete streets concept (building streetscape with all users in mind).

Melinda Freemon, RurAL CAP Supportive Housing

Homelessness and Affordable Housing in Anchorage

750k people in US without place to live. 3500-4000 people without places to live in Anchorage each night. Some couch-surfing, car, woods.

<2% vacancy rate for affordable housing. The rule is that people shouldn't spend more than 30% of income on housing. Many have to work two jobs to afford housing.

Solutions to housing – Mayor's Homeless Leadership Homeless taskforce. – How to strengthen housing. Children in transition (transportation to home school no matter where living)

100,000 Homes Campaign – identify most vulnerable in city and to get them off the streets. (The survey was done in Anchorage on Sept 13th). Identified 350 people, 161 were identified as extremely vulnerable – ill, chronic inebriates.

Why do people become homeless? – lose job, lose family member to death, lingering mental illness, domestic violence, and lack of payment for medical care. Anyone can become homeless at any time.

Churches are backup plan when dips below 32 degrees to house people overnight for families

Safe Harbor transitional housing for families.

Cheryl Frasca – Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor and Municipal Management & Budget Director

Observations on citizen involvement. Why no long range fiscal plan for state? At no time were all three groups – citizens, Governor and Legislature in room at same time.

Dialogue and deliberation course

Organizations outside government that have included citizens in policy.

The MOA included citizens in budget shortfall in 2010 – citizen engagement process. No previous model for citizen involvement in budgets. 4 dialogues. She said that it influenced what Mayor Sullivan decided to do on the budget.

2011 – education reform summit – another citizen engagement project – over 6 months. First stage limited to 100 invited members from stakeholder groups. Others can observe and will be televised on Channel 1.

There was great input into the Capstone summit in June.

Process for public to participate in the Education Summit process – there will be six community dialogues (similar to budget dialogues with citizens.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Klein, FCC Secretary.