

Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
April 3, 2013

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves.
2. Approval of minutes: The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the March 6 meeting notes. The approval of these minutes were suspended until the May's meeting by unanimous vote.
3. Agenda: A motion was made to modify the Agenda to include a discussion on the Anchorage Curling Club proposal. The Agenda was approved with these modifications.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

- a. Dick Traini- Dick reported on the status of Assembly Bill 37. He indicated that he is opposed to the bill, and is particularly concerned with the process the assembly used to pass the bill. Mr. Traini stated he felt that the process the assembly used was flawed and may result in legal challenges.
- b. Andy Josephson- Offered his congratulations to Dick Traini. He said that the capital budget is front and center and discussions are quite fluid. He indicated that the overpass for pedestrian crossing of Tudor is currently not in the budget. He discussed several smaller capital projects that are. He indicated he did not support the Oil Tax bill because of its potentially large reduction to State operating budget, and his belief that reducing tax burden will not result in increased production.
- c. Max Gruenberg- Max is working on the Capital and Operating Budget. Discussed the process for the uniform voting rules process for legislators with potential conflict of interest concerns and how these are resolved. He also discussed his work on the gas pipeline, Birthing Center tests, sex and human trafficking bills, a definition of medically necessary abortion and criminal eliminating criminal prosecution for small amounts of drugs.
- d. Bill Wielechowski- Indicated that he is working on the Oil Tax Bill. He indicated that he is opposed to the pipeline proposal, as there is currently 19 Trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas in Cook Inlet, so there is no need for the State to fund the expensive pipeline proposal. He is working on a bill to better define conflict of interest as a result of the Oil Tax votes. He also indicated that the Bragaw Northern Extension and the UAA Engineering Building is not in the capital budget.

B. Community Council Reports

1. Safety Committee Community - Al Milspaugh reported that the rape case reports for the University area are inflated due the case reports logged in at Providence Hospital. The Police Service call report comes in quarterly with the next report coming in July. He noted that Liz Patrick is not tied to our Community Council as indicated in March 3 draft notes.

2. Report from the Board- No report from the Board.

3. FCC report- FCC representative discussed the Coastal Trail repaving Coastal upcoming this proposal process, with proposals due by June 1. Dave will check to see who is responsible for consolidating proposal within the city. Dick Traini suggested that the UACC makes sure our assembly member knows our priorities. Dave also indicated that a Poly Comm system for the Community Councils might be available. He also indicated that he is trying to resolve issues with the FCC email system.

5. Business

A. DOT and Tudor Road - Barbara Garner led a discussion on possible solutions to the critical safety issue of unregulated pedestrian crossings of Tudor Road from Lake Otis to Elmore. She had a lengthy conversation with DOT officials on this issue. She indicated there had been at least six deaths around the Rescue Mission area. She wanted to know if the crossing solutions are a priority for the University Area Community Council. DOT considers this a safety concern based on accident incidence rate. Some of the potential options for alleviating the safety issue were discussed. Barbara felt that the median islands provide some safety improvement, as they provide a refuge from traffic but pedestrians still misjudge vehicle speed and continue to walk or dash across Tudor. The current traffic signals do not provide much safety relief, as many pedestrians do not use the existing signal regulated crosswalks. The long distances between the signaled crossings appear to be part of the problem. Many pedestrians are crossing to access food related businesses. An overpass has been suggested as a possible method to alleviate the safety concern. Barbara questions whether an overpass would provide any additional safety, as she felt that pedestrian would not use them particularly if fencing was not provided to keep people from crossing in other areas. A tunnel was also discussed, but may have the same questions about people actually using it. There also were questions about whether a tunnel is possible due to a high ground water table. Barbara felt that the best solution might be a reduction in the speed limit on the affected portion of Tudor Road. Problems associated here are that this could adversely affect the traffic and the actual setting of the speed limit is under State purview. Other solutions discussed might be to improve safety warning signage in the area. The relocation of bus stops closer to the stop lights was accomplished to alleviate some of the illegal crossing, but the long distances between signaled crossings continues to lure pedestrians to illegal jaywalk. Education and outreach to native and other affected users of the area was also discussed a potential solution. No decision was forthcoming on which might be the best solution. Barbara felt what was required at a minimum was whether the UACC felt that this issue was of high concern. In response a motion was presented that this is a high priority for the UACC, and Barbara Garner should draft a letter indicating such. This was approved as presented, with one member in opposition.

B. UMED District Plan- Jacob Gondak led an open discussion of the UMED District plan. The discussion revolved around the Bragaw Extension Northern UMED Access. Some discussion centered around the geotechnical drill project that is going to occur this spring on the Bragaw extension access. There was some discussion of what these drill cores are and how they will be used. As to the general UMED plan Community Council members felt that the plan should talk about what should happen to provide access but still protect the natural resources of the area. There was concern about the fact the Anchorage voters already voted down the extension of Bragaw through the UMED area, but here the project is still advancing. Also, several Council members questioned what process occurred where the "reconnaissance" reports 8 alternatives

were winnowed to only 4 alternatives. The DOT represented indicated that the alternatives that did not include new road construction did not meet the purpose and need. There was discussion about since the Council already has voiced opposition to the extension of Bragaw, what should be done. Discussion occurred about whether we continue to oppose the extension, and it was agreed that this is the case. There was discussion about getting a no build referendum on the ballot and that the referendum should just focus on the area. There was discussion on how creating parking on the periphery and providing shuttle service for UMED access is a preferable option. Discussion ensued on how to incentivize such an alternative. Jim Amunson, with DOT, said such an alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the project. He indicated that the State may come out with a draft alternative by AUGUST 1. Jim's contact phone number is 269-0695.

C. June BBQ/Social Event

Jacob Grobek discussed the opportunity to hold a community building event. He suggested a Barbeque and social event. The Council voted to support the idea to hold a June BBQ and social event. The idea will be further explored during the May meeting. Discussion ensued that a mass mailing should occur to all residents within the UACC area. The FCC office should be able to provide the list of names and addresses for the mailing.

D. July and August meeting

Jacob proposed that there should be no meeting held on July and August. During discussion, members indicated that two months might be too long a meeting hiatus. It was moved and seconded that there should be no July meeting, but August should occur as scheduled. Vote was unanimous.

E. Curling Club of Anchorage- Paul Stang led a discussion on the Curling Club of Anchorage proposal for Goose Lake Park. He felt that the Goose lake park should not support such a large building (~70,000 sq. ft.), or roughly the size of the Sullivan Arena. He felt the UACC has expressed support for the managing for natural attributes of the park and should continue such support. Also discussed was why the Goose Lake Park was the primary area for locating the Curling rink, particularly when other areas might provide the needed space for the rink and not impact such a critically important natural area. Paul will work on a resolution on how the UACC views the project and will come back to the Council at a later meeting for presentation of such resolution and concurrence.

E. Point of Contact- Paul Stang led a discussion on the concept of the UACC providing a Point of Contact for all UMED issues. Some discussion on this concept occurred but no decision was made. There was also discussion on asking for a representative, or POC, from other institutions within the UMED area. This was also left open.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 9:05PM.