

**UAAC Minutes**  
**University Area Community Council (UACC)**  
**May 1, 2013**

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves. There were approximately 48 people attending part or all of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes: The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the March 6 and April 3 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to modify the Agenda to include a discussion on the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Pavement Rehabilitation project. The Agenda was approved with these modifications.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

a. Elvie Grey Jackson – She reported on the \$337 M bond package recently passed. She indicated that there are cuts to the Anchorage school district. Also reported on the proposed city budget, and that a hearing will be held on Tuesday May 7 to take public testimony. She provided detailed notes for the meeting that are attached.

b. Dick Traini- Dick reported on the status of Assembly Bill 43. He reported unfortunately the bill died before it could be voted upon.

c. Andy Josephson- He reported that the State Capital budget included \$57 M for the UACC area. Major items are:

\$20 M for the Bragaw Bypass

\$35 M for the Native Hospital

\$6 M for YMCA construction activities

\$15 M for UAA Engineering Building

\$550 K for the Campbell Trail improvement

\$600 for Little Tree Elementary School sidewalks

d. Bill Wielechowski- Bill reported that that there is some support for repeal of the Oil Tax bill. Would need over 30 thousand signatures to put said on the ballot. He indicated a petition would be available for the gathering of these signatures. He also reported that the legislature passed bill authorizing \$400 M for the “Bullet Line” to bring North Slope natural gas to South-central Alaska. He also talked about the fill passed that relaxed waste water standard for the cruise ship industry.

e. d. Max Gruenberg – Max indicated that items that he would discuss were previously mentioned, so the deferred further discussion in deference to time constraints.

B. Community Council Reports

1. Safety Committee Community - Al Milspaugh reported that this is wildfire safety prevention week. He also reported on taxi cab regulations and permit requirements. There are reports of the Chinese flu affecting Anchorage, which is quite dangerous, and he stressed the need to get a flu shot for prevention purposes. Al talked about the procedure for calling fire dispatch. The steps are to stay calm and give your name,

address, and the nature of the emergency. He stressed the need to practice calls with family and friends to be better prepared in case of emergency. He also mentioned the flyer for the Anchorage Animal Control Center being available. Al reported that the minutes for the Assembly Public Safety and Mayor's Public Safety Meeting are available and are attached within Enclosure 2.

2. Report from the Board- Barbara Garner talked about volunteer opportunities within the UACC areas. She indicated that opportunities to plant flowers at Folker and Castle Height Parks are available. Hannah Davis is the primary contact.

3. FCC report- FCC representative discussed three items with the attendant contact persons for further information. These are:

1. State of Alaska "Green Dot" Program -- Sgt. Cindi Stanton (APD Crimes Against Children Unit)
2. Anchorage Area-Wide Historic Preservation Plan – Michele Ritter, Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission
3. Anchorage International Airport Master Plan -- Katherine Wood, HDR Green Dot program.

## 5. Business

A. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Pavement Rehabilitation. Maeve Nevens presented a report on this project. Basically the trail is getting repaved between 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Milepost 6.6. This section of the trail has not had significant repair work done on it since its initial construction, and has serious cracks and other safety issues. She talked about the three phases of the project to start this spring and to be completed by October 15, 2013. She handed out a flyer that gives details on the project and the various websites and contacts where people can go to get detailed information on this project. The project will start in the next two weeks, and the phase schedule may change from what is presented in the flyer, with phase one starting at Second Avenue rather than at Point Woronzof. These changes will be detailed at:

<http://www.muni.org/departments/parks/pages/coastaltrailrehab.aspx>

Ms. Nevens also talked that the Chester Creek trail rehabilitation is the next major trail rehabilitation project, and a scoping letter will be sent out next year to solicit ideas for improvement of this popular trail.

B. UAA Master Plan- Wende Wilbur gave report on the UAA Master Plan Update. UAA is soliciting input and the UAA Regents will be given a briefing in June on the Master Plan Update. The process for the update is that a team was formed last summer to explore concepts for the Plan update. Public scoping was held last fall. Data was collected and a concept idea was presented to the Regents in February for approval. The regents approved the concept and the team was to proceed to further develop the concept for a draft plan presentation to the Regents in June. Hence the discussion here with our community council. The plan will then go on to the UAA website for further input with the public in June. If the draft plan met approval, the team would proceed to finalize the Master Plan for Regent approval in September.

She indicated that the life of a master plan is 5 to 7 years so the update is in order. The general concept is to organize around the open spaces while making maximum use of the land. With the UAA campus being linear, the idea is to break the campus into zones. A traditional quad is proposed, with an open space proposed around the Health Sciences area. To provide for green spaces there would be set backs along Goose Lake and Mosquito Lake and Chester Creek.

Around the core of the Campus there would be interface zones, where facilities could be used by the campus and the community. This could be retail space, with a good example of a coffee shop. The campus core would become denser, with some of the current parking going to new building construction and the parking being moved to the periphery. A loop road, with roundabouts, would circle the core of the campus to provide vehicular access.

A discussion of the pedestrian and vehicular circulation occurred. It was generally agreed that current pedestrian circulation is blocked by roads and parking lots. There is general agreement that there is a need to create paths, particularly along the east/west spine. One of the largest problem areas is the overpass area by the engineering building. This problem area needs to be fixed to allow for both pedestrian access, and the lessening of the vehicles backing up on UAA Drive. One immediate solution may be to move the bus stops in the area. Many of the UACC members felt that there is a need to move the vehicles primarily out of the core of the campus, particularly by moving parking to outside of the campus area and providing pedestrian pathways for walking and biking access and/or provide shuttle bus service from satellite parking lots to the campus core, or more efficient use of the current parking facilities, such as the new sports center lots.

A discussion occurred on how best the UACC could provide input to the UAA Plan update. Individual members were encouraged to go to the UAA website to provide input into the plan through their blog. Another item would be that **the UACC can provide a member to the planning group.**

Outside of the UAA master plan update the new Engineering Building construction was also discussed. The construction of the building will begin next month in the Wells Fargo Center Parking area. To get pedestrian access across Providence Drive an overpass would be constructed across Providence Drive between the Health Sciences building and the new Engineering Building. Discussion ensued, with concern expressed over the potential blocking of the views of the mountains to the east such an overpass would create, and possible other pedestrian/vehicle complications if the pedestrians do not find the overpass convenient to use.

Final discussion was on the disposition of the land acquired by UAA at the southeast corner of Lake Otis and Providence Drive. The current plan is to use the area as a storage area for construction materials for the engineering building construction. A public hearing for this proposal is planned for early June. For the long term the area might be considered part of the community interface zone. Long term disposition of this plot might be construction of a building that serves as an administrative building, with community connections at the western entrance to UAA.

C. 2014 MOA – CIP Priority List – Jacob Gondek introduced the 2014 Community Council Projects Priority List spreadsheet that is currently on the MOA website. There are twenty four projects listed under several categories. Al Milspaugh moved that the Council use this list as the basis for putting together the UACC list of 2014 capital projects. Susan Klein seconded the motion. Discussion on the list ensued. The difference on the \$25M Elmore Road Extension and the \$20/21M UMED District Northern Access was discussed. It was agreed that it is the same project. It was noted that the UACC has previously passed a resolution opposing the construction of the access, and the MOA should look at other forms of providing access. Barbara Garner proposed to add to the CIP list an engineering study, design, and construction plan for all the UMED Gateway District projects. This is needed to address the road and pedestrian requirements of the area. It was agreed to add this to the list. One additional project added was the addition of traffic calming features on Wesleyan Drive between Bryn Mar and Mills Drive. This project had previously received an appropriation for construction, but

that has apparently lapsed, and the project was never constructed. Some discussion ensued about how to get the MOA to actually do the construction since it was previously approved and appropriated. No resolution of this issue ensued, but the UACC agreed to add this particular traffic calming project to the 2014 CIP list for ranking.

Since the 2014 CIP was just introduced to the UACC members tonight, discussion on how to gather consensus on the priority ranking of the projects list ensued. One option discussed was to use the 2014 spreadsheet and mark projects that individual members support and mail that spreadsheet to the UACC President at [Gondey1981@hotmail.com](mailto:Gondey1981@hotmail.com). Another options is that Susan Klein will put together a survey monkey and have it mailed out to UACC members. Members can then rank the projects by filling out the survey monkey and posting it. Composite rankings of the project will then be compiled. A third option is that members could also mark up a hard copy of the spreadsheet and hand it to Jacob at the UACC barbeque on June 5. The executive board will put together this final composite ranking.

D. Northern Lights Sound Barrier – Susan Klein led a discussion on the proposed project for adding sound barrier fencing from the Winterberry School area to Boniface Parkway. The fencing would be similar to fencing found adjacent to Northern Lights in the Rogers park area. It was agreed to add this project to the 2014 CIP list for ranking.

E. Curling Club - Paul Stang passed out the resolution (Enclosure 3) that the UACC asked him to draft at the April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. A resolution was presented to approve the resolution as presented. The resolution passed as presented with near unanimous approval, except for one member who opposed. The resolution will be sent out to assembly members, mayor, and State legislators.

#### F. UACC Agenda Discussion

Jacob led a brief discussion on how to make the process more efficient. It was discussed that it would be better for the agenda items to come in earlier and for the agenda to come out before the meeting.

G. June BBQ/Social Event- Jacob led the discussion that the BBQ is going on as planned. The event will start at 6 PM on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The location will be determined at a later date. The picnic will be held in lieu of a June meeting.

H. Next Meeting- There will not be a July meeting, as normal meeting date falls on the week of the Fourth of July, and the Council did not feel the need to schedule an alternate meeting date. The next meeting will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Baptist Church at Tudor and Wright.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 9:00PM.

## Enclosure 1

University Community Council – Assembly Report  
May 1, 2013  
Elvie Grey Jackson

- All Bonds passed at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> election.
- Anchorage School District Budget approved at meeting of March 26<sup>th</sup> - \$837,098,347 – Property Tax Amount - \$233,419,699. ASD will experience lots of cuts based on this approved budget.
- Assembly passed 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Revisions and set the Mill Levy at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. No significant budget adjustments.

○ ASD Mill Levy	7.35
○ Midtown Mill Levy	<u>9.07</u>
▪ Total Mill Levy	16.42

Taxes on a \$300,000 home \$4,926

Taxes after residential exemption (\$20,000) \$4,433

Taxes after residential exemption and  
Senior Citizen or Disabled Veteran Exemption  
(\$170,000) \$2,134

- 2012 End of Year – Departments were \$9M under budget.
- \$33M surplus in revenue vs expenditures for 2012. Only \$6.1 available for use with \$2.1 going toward property tax relief. Balance going toward other one-time expenditures.
- Public hearing on AO 2013-63 submitted by Chair Hall will occur at the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The ordinance includes the following highlights:
  - If the Chair determines that a scheduled Public Hearing will exceed the time allowed during a meeting, a signup sheet will be initiated by the Clerk.
  - At the end of the initial public hearing meeting, the signup sheet will be closed.
  - Unless the Assembly re-opens the list, only those on the list will be allowed to testify at the next meeting.
  - It takes a majority of the Assembly to re-open the list.
  - Each person has three minutes to speak. If the person is speaking for a group, the Chair may extend the time limit.
  - Written testimony has no time limit on receipt.

Next Meeting – May 7, 2013

**Enclosure 2**

### **Enclosure 3**

#### **Resolution of the University Area Community Council Regarding a Curling Club Arena in Goose Lake Park**

Whereas, Goose Lake Park (GLP) is in the middle of the area served by the UACC;

Whereas, a diverse socio-economic Anchorage community uses GLP in all seasons. GLP is a peaceful oasis in a densely developed mid-town area, which is now seeing plans for more development – Northern U-Med Access and UAA expansion including the new Sports Area, a new 500-car garage and a potential loop road cutting through wetlands close to the lake;

Whereas, the park is surrounded by institutional landowners and is one of the few public parks in the UACC area;

Whereas, no other park in mid-town has the natural beauty of GLP with the lake, beach, view of the Chugach Mountains and forested wetlands;

Whereas, on March 6th, 2013, the University Area Community Council heard a presentation by the Anchorage Curling Club (ACC) about a proposal for a huge curling ice arena in GLP. The outer dimensions of the arena would be approximately 225' L x 170' W x 35' H. The ACC is requesting the legislature to appropriate \$12 million (95% of required funds) to build the private club on public parkland;

Whereas, the UACC is generally supportive of a new Curling Club building in Anchorage, the proposed ACC building is inappropriate - out of place and out of scale for the natural environment of GLP. Furthermore, like the UAA Conoco Phillips Integrated Sciences building, the backside of the ACC would face the lake. Also, the area being considered, close to the lakefront, would require removal of a large wooded, bird habitat area that provides a buffer from Northern Lights Blvd;

Whereas, the ACC's promotional brochure indicates the building would accommodate public use, the details reveal that designated facilities and park storage are limited to about 10% of the building square footage. In addition, it is unclear who would be maintaining and managing the facility year-round since ACC would use it only in winter;

Whereas, curling is an indoor sport and the ACC spokesman said at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, "We care about the inside, not the outside of the building." The spokesman also indicated that other locations in Anchorage for the ACC were acceptable;

Whereas, crime in the park is cited as a reason for placing it at Goose Lake, members of our community council who visit the park daily, see no evidence of significant crime. If crime were an issue in GLP, the UACC does not agree that presence of a club that serves alcohol would reduce crime;

Whereas, GLP is not a "dormant park in winter" as stated in the ACC's promotional brochure. In fact, classic and skate skiers including Wendler's ski team, APU and the general public use the lake. Other everyday winter uses are alpenglow viewing of the snowy mountains, northern lights viewing, photography, skating, snowshoeing, walking, biking, dog walking and equally important, quiet contemplation. The park is also a pathway to classes for UAA students, and site of the Special Olympics Polar Plunge;

Whereas, the ACC would not use the building in the summer and proposed it could be open for such uses as concerts, bazaars and flea markets. Frequent large-scale public events are incompatible with the lake's natural environment, limited access and parking space capabilities. People come to GLP for family outdoor picnics, playground activities, sunbathing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, surfboard paddling, the cardboard regatta, biking, softball, soccer, basketball, martial arts, walking, drawing, grief counseling and spiritual renewal for the hospital. GLP is a bird nesting/watching site - home to arctic loons, grebes, swans and mallards. An undisturbed environment is critical when these birds mate and raise their young. Summer users are generally respectful of the migrating birds;

Whereas, the Muni should promote uses that take advantage of, rather than undermine, GLP's beauty. If a new structure is sited in the park, it should serve both the summer and winter GLP users, be aesthetically pleasing and located so existing woodlands buffer it from the lake. It also should have a low profile that fits with the scale and serenity of the park;

Whereas, natural park space is finite in the UACC area, GLP's environment should be maintained as natural - now and for future generations;

Therefore, be it resolved that the UACC is opposed to the use of Goose Lake Park as the site for a new Anchorage Curling Club.

This resolution was voted on and passed by the UACC on May 1, 2013

