

UAAC Minutes
University Area Community Council (UACC)
October 2, 2013

1. Opening: Jacob Gondek called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Jacob next had people in the room introduce themselves. Twenty-nine people signed the meeting sign in sheet and attended part or all part of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes: The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the September 4 meeting. Minutes were amended to reflect changes by adding notes received from Elvi Grey-Jackson on September 4, 2013 into the meeting minutes to provide a more complete record. A correction of spelling of Andy Josephson name on page four was also included. With these corrections the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to modify the Agenda to put the discussion of the Checkmate Drive Streetlights after the elections so people not interested in this agenda item could leave after the elections. The Agenda was approved with this modification.

4. Informational Reports

A. Reports from Public Servants

1. Elvi Gray-Jackson - Elvi reported on several items which can be found in her report found within Enclosure 1.

2. Dick Traini reported on several items

- Received the 2014 city budget today, little time to respond
 - Feels no budget crisis, as there has been surplus last 4 years
- Reported that there will be a hearing this Tuesday to discuss AO 37 as amended
 - Favors April 2014 vote
- Taxi cab meeting on October 8th to discuss need for back ground checks and cameras in the cab for safety of both drivers and riders
- There will be an upcoming public hearing on an Towing ordinance to assess whether tow operators can increase their rates
- Assembly has not dealt with the “homeless campus” proposal on Raspberry Road
- Dick felt the Indoor Recreation Center, aka Tennis Courts”, should not have been in the CIP list as was not a Project 80’s renovation project

3. Andy Josephson- Andy reported on several items he has been involved in:

- He attended a UAA Engineering building groundbreaking, UAA Sports Center Tour, and a hearing discussing potentially arming village protection officers
- Tudor Bingo moving to new site on East Tudor between New Seward and Shelikof Street
- Reported that New Seward and 36th will be reconstructed in 2104. Though out of the UACC area could have major influence on access to our area for a year or so
- Municipal Energy Conference- There Will be discussing muni supply of energy to year 2018. Involves politics with the potential Susitna Dam project into the mix
- Will be a Health Care summit on Friday. Email has been sent out
- Thursday will be a State hearing on Federal “over reach”

5. Kendra Kloster for Bill Wielechowski- Kendral provided information on these several topics:

- Town Hall meeting on October 8th to discuss Northern Access. East High from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Flyers are out. Opportunity to comment as opposed to last meeting held by Dowl HKM
- Bill received the AK National Guard Charles Dick Medal of Merit

C. Adam Trombley- Adam reported on several items

- The East Side Plan is nearing completion. All the other areas of town have a plan except for the East Side
 - Was scheduled for completion in July, but pushed back to October/November to go before the Zone and Planning Board. Will then go through a public comment period.
- He originally voted for AO37. Understands concerns and favors April 2104 vote on the ballot initiative
 - Supreme Court decision should be in time for printed ballot
 - High turnout might not be possible in primary election

B. Community Council Reports

There were no community council reports for the meeting.

C. FCC Representative Report – Joanie Nardini attended for Al Mispaugh

- John Cecil, associate planner, requesting changes in CC boundaries by October or November.
- Anchorage Water/Wastewater Plan is being updated to deal with fats, oils, and grease
- FSS received a presentation on Northern Access project from Dowl
- They had a discussion of the current Highway Safety projects
- There was also a discussion on process for communication with rural councils

5. Business

A. Northern Access- Dowl HKM Presentation began with the information that all the project information is on their website.

<http://www.dowlhkm.com/projects/northernaccess/index.html>

The route has been identified in the Anchorage Long Range Transportation Plans. Dowl has been working with the project since 2009, though obviously work on access planning has been done before that year. By 2011 a recon report had been completed that winnowed the 14 potential access alternatives to the four alternatives that are currently under consideration. All the graphics for the alternatives, such as those presented at the last public meeting, are on their web site. Dowl is in the process to narrow the recommendation to one route. They have received over 100 written comments. Dowl is still working on the comment database. They are currently bringing the 4 routes to the 20% level, which will help get to the preferred route by 1/14. A detailed cost estimate should be available at that time. This will help provide information needed to understand whether the \$20 million obligated is enough to complete the road. After the selection of the preferred alternative there will be another round of public meetings.

A discussion between Dowl representatives and community council members followed. Russ Kell asked whether there has been plan coordination with AK DOT on the UAA Drive

reconstruction. Dowl representative indicated there had been coordination and since the UAA Drive project is just a “modest” improvement, it will not alter the capacity of the project area or the need for added capacity through the Northern Access project. Paul Stang asked what type of road is envisioned, i.e., what level of amenities are planned to provide for other resources other than access capacity. The response was that a road similar to the Elmore/MLK quality is anticipated. A controlled access facility in some way is also anticipated. Also, clearance and lighting would be designed in to provide for safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians and for potential auto/moose collisions. Concern was brought up whether the road planners had considered future construction of facilities by adjacent landowners. The response was that Dowl is working with UAA and APU (the principal landowners), and primarily UAA is looking at connecting to any of the new roads with no particular opinion on a preferred route as yet, whereas APU is not that interested in connectivity.

A question about what type of planning document is being planned. An EA/EIS is not required. The Environmental checklist process will be used, though an EA may be required later to get a US Army Corps of Engineering construction permit. Council members wanted to know what goal the access routes had to meet. The response was that the route would have to get traffic through the area without having to backtrack. Some question about whether the red/green routes are feasible given this criteria, but Dowl responded that the routes might provide enough relief that in combination with the other routes to meet the goal. Sharon Cissna wondered why pedestrian, bike, and other modes of transportation were not considered so that a road might not be needed at all. Response were that pedestrian, ski, bike and other human powered modes are being considered and built into all the alternatives. Barbara Garner brought up several issues. The routes will also add to the current poor winter air quality in the UMED particularly during temperature inversion days. She mentioned that college campuses throughout the lower 48 are in processes of removing roads from the interior of their campuses, so why are we considering adding a new road through the core of our campuses. Bragaw north of Northern Lights is not compatible with the amount of traffic the new routes would feed to it. A high speed road through the core of the campus is a safety hazard, particularly with students walking to their classes. The purple route puts high speed traffic next to kids at Winterberry, East, and Russian Jack Elementary Schools. Sally Mead brought up the fact that the Assembly did not approve the \$20 million fund, and the money should go into an escrow account until things are sorted out. Finally Russ Kell brought up that the traffic pattern could be altered significantly if the Port McKenzie Bridge is constructed and the Dowl needs to coordinate with these folks and consider the possible cumulative impacts.

B. UACC Elections – Jacob opened up the elections for the 2014 officers. He turned over the chair to Steve Zemke to proceed with the election of the slate of officers. Steve first asked if there were any other candidates for officers beside the ones nominated during the September 4, 2013 meeting. There were none. It was then moved and seconded that the slate of candidates nominated by the Council for positions at our September 4 meeting be elected for the 2014 positions. The following positions and the members nominated for them are as follows:

President	Jacob Gondek
Vice President	Al Mispaugh
Secretary	Steve Zemke
Member at Large	Paul Stang
Member at large	Russ Kell

A vote of the UACC members present was conducted. The candidates were elected unanimously.

C. Checkmate Drive-Light Poles- Susan Klein led discussion on the light poles that would be part of the Checkmate Drive sidewalk project. She stated the city requires that LED lights are required on all new light pole construction. She was not in favor of the light pole design that is being proposed. There was a discussion on the design, and that there are such poles included in reconstruction of Spenard as it heads down the bluff to East Chester Lagoon. It was moved and seconded that Susan has the authority to pursue the matter with MDA for the UACC.

D. Next Meeting- The next meeting will be held on November 6th 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 October 2, 2013

- *Fluoride Resolution – the resolution, which is not law, but only a statement for the record, was approved September 10th 9-2. The resolution stated that the Assembly supports leaving fluoride in the water and the anti-fluoride citizens are encouraged to use the ballot initiative process to put an advisory vote before the citizens. This is not law but only a statement to the record.*
- *Public Hearing on Ordinance (Tuesday, October 8th) submitted by Assemblymembers Traini, Gray-Jackson and Honeman to have the AO 37 Labor issue before the voters at the April 1, 2014 election – cost of special election is \$280,000 or more. Assemblymembers Demboski, Starr and Birch have an ordinance to move the election to April 2015 or to tag on to the State Primary in August 2014 which is also costly.*
- *Citizen’s Task Force on Public Hearing Process – Held second and last public hearing on October 1, will meet with Assembly Rules Committee Thursday at noon to review recommendations, and will provide recommendation to the Assembly at the October 8th meeting.*
- *Title 11 – Taxicab Ordinance – several changes to this section of the Code to address taxi availability for the disabled, during bar closing hours, and other issues. Ordinance can be found on line at www.muni.org. Public Hearing scheduled for October 8th but will be continued to the 22nd. A work session is scheduled for October 18th.*

Next Meeting – October 8, 2013