

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Board of Delegates

Minutes of December 18, 2013 meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM by Chair, Brit Szymoniak.

The meeting was called to order by President Brit Szymoniak. Meeting quorum established at 6:10 pm with presentation by Anchorage School District in progress.

The Anchorage School District – Tam Agosti-Gisler

Last night the Assembly passed without amendment school bonds for placement on the April election. The District is planning on cutting approximately 200 positions this coming year. This is on the back of the 200 or so positions cut last year and more anticipated in the future. The District is establishing higher level goals for attendance, graduation and a number of other metrics.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by chair Brit Szymoniak.

The October Minutes were approved unanimously with the following changes: Dick Tremaine of Rabbit Creek was in attendance and chaired the meeting. Brit Szymoniak was not in attendance.

FCC Delegates in attendance:

Abbott Loop	Al Tamagni, Sr.
Airport Heights	Sharon Cissna
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Eagle River Valley	Thomas C. Freeman, Jr.
Fairview	Harry Need
Government Hill	Kyle Stevens
Huffman O'Malley	Christine Monette
Mid Hillside	Lance Powell
Mountain View	Kep Pierce
North Star	Gordon Glaser
Northeast	Bob Reupke
Rabbit Creek	Dick Tremaine
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Scenic Foothills	Mark Hill
Spenard	Jason Bergerson

Taku Campbell Jeff Landfield
Turnagain Cathy Gleason
University Area Al Millsbaugh

Others in attendance included:

Tam Gisler-Agnosti Anchorage School Board
Dick Traini Anchorage Assembly
Brit Szymoniak FCC Chair
Bill Wortman Turnagain CC
Kenny Petersen Concerned resident

Assembly Report – Dick Traini

Revisions to the Taxi ordinance were passed last night which should increase safety for all parties. It has been revealed that the Mayor used taxpayer funds to lobby the legislature for the tennis courts. The Ethics Board ruled that Assembly member Birch has violated ethics rules by introducing an ordinance to change election dates and thereby allow himself to remain in office for many more months. Birch has responded by introducing a subsequent ordinance to remove the Ethics Board’s authority to rule on such a matter. An ordinance revising Community Council statutes will be introduced on January 14 with an expected public hearing in early February. It was noted that the Mayor attempted to veto a sub-motion last night but was overruled by a vote of the body – this irrespective of his legal authority to take such action.

Presentations: None.

Standing Committee Reports:

FCC Chair Brit Szymoniak

The FCC held a very successful State of Our City meeting in November. It was well attended, received good media coverage, and many positive comments have been made by attendees. Other groups in Anchorage are now putting together more presentations, workshops, etc. The Center for Community Engagement and Learning at UAA is working on a project and community council attendance will be encouraged – more details to follow. Dennis McMillen with Foraker group will be providing officer training at the BP Center on the first Saturday in March with about 60 spots available. – more details to follow about that as well.

The FCC has about 6,000 email addresses that it mails to. Also there seems to be an increase in younger participants at Council meetings which is very encouraging. Turnagain CC pointed out that many people still like snail mail. They and others just need to remember that extra advance notice is needed for snail mailings in addition to the five business days needed for email notices.

The FCC will provide on a quarterly basis an itemized list by CC for how many emails and snail mails are contacted and the total number of emails for the overall FCC.

Brit and Dick Tremaine will meet with the Municipal Clerk on December 31st (the Clerk's first available date this month) to review proposed contract changes for next year. It is anticipated that the contract will be submitted to the Assembly in January and reviewed by the FCC at its January meeting. It was pointed out that the FCC budget was not submitted to the Municipality in early September as the contract required. However, this did not in any way delay its approval as part of the Municipal budget.

FCC Treasurer Kep Pierce

Passed out and discussed the financial report.

Community Councils Center Manager Mark Butler

Distributed written report. Mark was on his annual unpaid leave and was not in attendance at the meeting.

Old Business:

FCC Budget for 2014

The agenda was changed by unanimous consent to take up a revised 2014 budget. Tremaine made and Gleason seconded an amendment to decrease the \$105,000 budget approved by the FCC in October to \$85,000 to match the budget approved by the Assembly. The changes would be a reduction of \$4,000 to mailings and \$16,000 to personnel. It was stated that this new budget can be rearranged by the Board at a future meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The proposed agreement between the FCC and the University of Alaska, Anchorage Archives Office

Training will be available in March for CC representatives. It is anticipated that each CC will have an agreement with the UAA Archives Office. Forms will be mailed or emailed to all CC Presidents. The FCC will likewise have a separate agreement. This will be a great service and a centralized location to search CC records.

Community Council Attendance – Government Hill CC has had some success by using public notifications. Airport Heights CC has likewise been successful by reaching out to different groups within the community. Brit established a working committee on the topic consisting of Sharon and Kyle.

The meeting was extended by unanimous consent to finish the issues of FCC Website and a presentation on homelessness.

FCC Website Update

Three example sheets from the new FCC web site were presented and comments on improvements received. Recommendations were:

- Fonts need to be larger sized.
- Eagle River needs to be on the map.
- Words should not be in all CAPS – it is difficult for some who use English as a second language to read.
- Captions should be able to be put onto pictures in the gallery.
- The contractor should come to the January meeting to roll out a live version.

The Board unanimously gave the new site a thumbs up and wants a live demonstration and Q&A at its January meeting. Harry (Fairview) and Al (University) agreed to be Beta testers.

New Business: None at this meeting.

Council Sharing: None at this meeting.

Public Comments:

Kenny Peterson, Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness

The HAND Commission is now beginning to meet again after a several year hiatus. They are revisiting the Plan to Address Homelessness from 8 years ago. The Board had a discussion of the need to differentiate homelessness from chronic public inebriates since they have different causes, effects and require different paths to solution. Each should be discussed separately. HUD currently provides \$3 million in grants to our community to address the problem. It was suggested that one avenue to help would be to increase the minimum wage. RurALCap has hired an employment specialist to assist mentally ill with securing and retaining employment.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by FCC Vice-chair Dick Tremaine.