

## Notes from 9/3/2014 UACC mtg

Opening: Twenty people signed in to the meeting. Ten are members of UACC, the rest were various agency or governmental representatives.

Minutes of 6/4/14 – moved to approve: Paul Stang, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Garner. 9 for, 0 against. The motion to approve agenda: 9 for, 0 against.

### Informational Reports

Elvi Gray-Jackson: Elvi's complete report is attached in Appendix 1.

Dick Traini: Muni Police are 70 officers short of what is needed. This is an issue that the Mayor is not addressing. Officers are being hired by outside Departments.

Pete Petersen: The Muni is also short paramedics and firemen, so overtime expenses go up. Pete is co-chair of the Assembly Legislative Committee.

Andy Josephson: Has temporary office in the State Office building. His assistant is John Church.

Andy is implementing audits of each Muni department. He is looking at parameters of what the auditors will do. He is looking at consolidation and budgets. And feels this is redundant.

Andy is involved in natural resources issues. Andy did a tour of the Donlin mine site, west of Anchorage.

Worked on global warming and climate change.

Jack Johnson just died. He was in WWII and involved with trying to get Jews out of Europe. Andy presented a citation to his family.

Bill Wielechowski: Pete Petersen and Bill have worked on the Napa Valley and Checkmate issues, as well as oil and gas issues. During oil and gas negotiations, I wanted to get a commitment for more production. They (oil companies) made some promises that we now have to hold them accountable.

Bill will do a survey of what he should work on. Alaska had a \$2 billion deficit last year, and will have one next year and into the future. So he will focus on what is most important for AK. Lots of frivolous projects are being proposed, but education issues are not finished.

Rep. Max Gruenberg: Going door to door to ask people about Proposition 1 (Labor). He found that people want to know about speed bumps in Russian Jack area. People are concerned about sign illumination near schools and cross walks. Please let Max know what you want. He needs a good prioritized CIP list, especially for small projects. He is looking at legislation for next year. He is on the state legislative committee. He referenced Google glasses matching up with computers for CMT's to hook up with emergency support people. This may help revolutionize medical treatment in the bush.

TJ, an aide to Sen. Gardner, said that the CIP list is important. It helps guide budget priorities. Sen. Gardner is focused on education and how it is funded.

### **UACC Board Reports**

Paul Stang reported on the just completed expansion of the intersection at Northern Lights Blvd and UAA Dr. The State DOT did a good job on this project using federal funds to improve safety. UAA (using state funds) just started building a 500-car parking garage on UAA Dr. at Mallard Lane to serve their new Engineering Building and, in the process, is straightening out Mallard Lane. UAA will remove the new DOT merge lane on UAA Dr. that DOT just finished and replace it right turn only lane onto Mallard Lane, even though both UAA and DOT learned of each other's projects more than 2 years ago and had plenty of time to coordinate their projects and save the wasted funds even though there was some uncertainty on when funds would be committed. Russ Kell added concerns about this construction. Stang also gave an update of the U-Med District Plan. It will be released to the public later this fall. Barbara Garner indicated that the public meetings on this plan have not been well organized.

Barbara Garner gave an update on Parks and Recreation Sub Committee. Barbara Garner reported on Providence Horizon House and Folker Park Phase 1. There is lots of drug activity in the park and an increase in homeless folks camping there. They can be seen from Horizon House. The

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services facility was sold to a medical LLC group. Homeless are also camping at closed ACMHS building at Folker and Tudor Rd.

Karen has noted homeless are staying at the Folker Park. Bushes are thick shielding people who don't want to be seen. The bushes and trees need to be trimmed. The park is not ADA (American Disability Act) acceptable. Few neighborhood residents are using the park and the police have advised women not to go in the park alone. More detail will be provided at the next UACC mtg. The Valley of the Moon Park in midtown had that problem, but as more residents use the park there has been less of a problem. Bushes are thick shielding people who don't want to be seen. The bushes and trees should be trimmed. The park is not ADA (American's Disability Act) compatible. No neighborhood residents are using the park and the police advise people not to go in the park. More detail will be provided at the next UACC mtg. The Valley of the Moon Park in midtown had that problem, but as more residents use the park there has been less of a problem.

**Rescue Mission** Kathy LaMantia speaking on behalf of her husband, who is head of the Mission, said that some people have complained about inebriates on the mission grounds. They are attracted by the park and the liquor store, not the mission, because the mission has a breathalyzer that anyone coming into the mission must use. Bad actors who show up at the mission are handled quickly by the Police. People coming into the mission can take a shower and clean up.

Russ Kell said that the cost to the community will continue to increase as does homelessness. Anchorage does not have adequate mental health outpatient care, hence the problem.

Sharon Cissna said that this was a statewide issue. She said that Natives have big challenges because they don't have training in use of equipment and facilities for the homeless and inebriates.

Carolyn Ramsey, gave a report on the recent Muni wetlands ordinance amendments. The UACC efforts were well worthwhile. Essentially everything we wanted in our June 2014 resolution was put in the final amendments. Ditto for the other affected community councils.

**Animal Control Resolution** – The resolution is back on the agenda for consideration. Last month we put the resolution on the shelf. Russ Kell said that we need police officers and teachers more than animal control enforcement officers. Anchorage has had 740 dog bites (last year?) but only categorized as an aggressive attack at University Lake.

The UACC then voted 8 for and 0 against to table the resolution.

Paul Honeman, Anchorage Assembly member, is on the APD Public Safety Committee spoke about building sidewalks and consequently moving residential mail boxes (that people really don't like). He said the Muni has 800 positions in the Muni. 100 police positions have been reduced since 2009, so staff has to be stretched further. We now have 323 offices and that may go to 360 soon.

## Appendix 1

Elvi Grey Jackson = University Community Council – Assembly Report  
September 3, 2014

- AO 37 - Ballot Proposition No. 1 will be included during the State election on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor has provided the Assembly with his preliminary budget as required by Municipal Code.
  - \$4 - \$6M budget shortfall.
  - Departments were requested to decrease budgets by 1%.
  - Although some departments have requested increases, the Mayor's budget should balance.
  - Additional \$3.1M that can be collected in taxes.
  - Overall, Mayor's 2015 budget is targeted at reducing the growth in spending while minimizing service impact to the citizens.
- Mayor has to submit all budgets to the Assembly by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Work Sessions will be held during October.
- Public Hearings will be held in November.
- Assembly has a revised Budget/Finance Committee chaired by Assembly Member Gray-Jackson. Members include Peterson, Steele, Demboski, Evans, and Hall. The Committee has a Work Plan with 12 purposes and a copy can be found on line. The Committee meets the third Thursday of each month from 12:00 – 1:00 in City Hall, Room 155,
- Assembly has established an Ad Hoc Committee on Alcohol and Substance Abuse. The mission is to work with Municipal agencies, nonprofits, and private sector entities to identify cause and effect of alcohol and drug abuse amongst chronically homeless citizens. Analyses will include mental health issues, overall impact on municipal resources and the private sector, educational programs and funding sources to seek solutions with the goal of making Anchorage the model city for dealing with the problems associated with the chronically homeless. The Committee is chaired by Assembly Member Evans. Members include Assembly Members Demboski, Gray-Jackson, and Petersen. Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month from 11:00 – 1:00 in City Hall, Room 155.

Next Assembly Meeting: September 9th