

AHCC meeting minutes
February 20, 2025

Attendees:

Residents:

Chelsea Ward-Waller
Emily Weiser
Dave Gardner
Carolyn Ramsey and Paige
Barbara P
Brita Mjos
Larry Hayden
Brianna Beswick and Nate
Matt Carlson (resident & AFD)
Taylor Willing (resident & AFD)
Barbara Huff Tuckness
Sheri Whitethorn
Karlene and Michael Leeper
Karl Reiche
Barbara Reilly
John Whitlock
Aaron Jongenelen
Marilyn
Judy Owens-Manley

Guests:

Assembly Member Volland
Hahlan Behnken – staff to Forrest Dunbar
Representative Genevieve Mina; staff Remington Purnell
Ptery Lieght, Dan Soloman – Alaska Native Hope
Yarrow Silvers – Assembly candidate
Erin Baldwin Day – Assembly candidate

Approval of agenda: Barbara R moves to approve, Carolyn seconds

Elected officials' reports:

Assembly Member Volland:

- Assembly paused residential design standards for multifamily development until 2028, as a test to see if this catalyzes more housing development.
- Assembly passed an ordinance to allow connexes as food and beverage kiosks
- Made the Alaska Native Heritage Center the first official landmark on the Anchorage register
- In progress: Universal services application: will make info available on all municipal services in one app

- In progress: Update to site access requirements, like alleyways, driveway width, windows on the front of the building; a working group has been working on this for several months
- An amendment to the Anchorage area 4-year transportation program (AMATS TIP) is out for public comment
- Sales tax: back down to 1 version by Members Sulte & Rivera with upcoming public hearings and town halls

Representative Mina:

- Education: ASD budget will be facing uncertainty if the legislature doesn't pass the education budget. HB 69 would increase the Base Student Allocation
- Ongoing: legislation to extend the Enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits
- Following the ongoing issues at the federal level

Hahlan Behnken for Forrest Dunbar:

- Has introduced 9 bills on housing, family benefits, civil legal services fund, accepting federal dollars for summer food for students, other protections for Alaskans
- Check unclaimedproperty.alaska.gov to see if you have money that the state owes you
- AARP Community Challenge Grants are open for application
- Mayor's Community Grants are open for application
- Congressionally directed spending requests can be submitted to Murkowski through Feb 28th
- Voter registration deadline is March 2nd
- [Sen. Dunbar written update](#)

Anchorage Fire Department: Matt & Taylor

- Two relevant bond propositions in April: Areawide Public Safety Capital Improvement Bond that would upgrade fire alarms at public facilities and improve traffic safety; Anchorage Fire Service Area Fire Protection Bond that would replace 4 fire trucks
- New public information officer on board
- Expecting an elevated wildfire risk this summer, but they have received a federal grant to fund prevention and mitigation, including removing fuels, fire-detecting cameras, planning egress routes. You can request a free wildfire inspection at your house and AFD will come give you recommendations on how to make your house safer. wildfire@muni.org for an inspection or any wildfire concerns
- Getting new clinicians on board the mobile crisis team so they can now operate 24/7

[Sen. Tobin written update](#)

Resolution on the Seward to Glenn Connection PEL:

- Rogers Park and Fairview both passed their resolutions and you can find them on their CC websites
- Our resolution opposes Alternatives A-D, Parkway Alternatives AB, C, and D; and supports MTP and MTP+ alternatives.
- Motion to approve: Barbara R, seconded by Emily
- Amendment moved by Barbara P, seconded by Barbara R: to strike the sentence urging work to begin immediately. In favor: 10; opposed: 9; motion to amend passes

- Amendment moved by Brita, seconded by Carolyn: to remove the opposition to Parkway Alternative AB. In favor 10; opposed 8; abstained 3; amendment passes
- Main motion as amended: in favor 19; opposed 0; abstained 1; motion passes as amended

MOU with Alaska Native HOPE Trusted Connections, which would operate a new navigation center at Anchor Park Methodist Church on Oak Street:

- Navigation services during the day, where people can come for resources, referrals, assistance finding specific services. Overall aiming to help people find housing, or find transportation back home if they're stuck in Anchorage. Will include van transportation to/from Anchor Park from areas without sufficient services/capacity. Funded by a grant from the Muni. Pastor Murray at the church will be our contact if any neighborhood concerns come up.
- Motion to approve the MOU: Moved by Barbara P, seconded by Emily. None opposed, passes unanimously.

FCC report:

- Capital Improvement Program project prioritization process is coming up soon. Someone else from our council will need to lead that process now that Chelsea is doing that as her job (conflict of interest)
- Upcoming FCC training for FCC delegates and CC officers, or people interested in becoming officers, coming up March 15-16th

Community concerns:

- None from residents.
- Assembly candidate Erin Baldwin Day (Midtown, district F) introduced herself. Main concerns: insufficient housing, insufficient child care, improving infrastructure (transit, port, stormwater utility), homelessness (largely through adding housing), fully crewing fire trucks (needs more funding for personnel).
- Assembly candidate Yarrow Silvers (East Anchorage, east of Sunrise Drive) introduced herself. Main issues: Honest, transparent government; housing across the spectrum; bolstering economic opportunity (small businesses, job training); homelessness (public safety, mental health, long-term solutions rather than emergency cold-weather shelter, community support).

Adjourn: moved by Barbara P, seconded by John, adjourned 8:56 pm