

AHCC meeting minutes
March 20, 2025

Attendees:

Residents:

Chelsea Ward-Waller
Emily Weiser
Dave Gardner
Carolyn Ramsey
Paige
Karl Kisser
Rayette Sterling
Sheri Whitethorn
Ed Brewer
Makaela Dickerson
Brita Mjos
Matt Carlson (resident and with AFD)
Karl Reiche

Guests:

Dave Donley - School Board
Arianna Bellizzi - FCC
Jon Glover - Anchorage Fire Department Wildfire Division
Maria O - Public Transportation
Assembly Member Meg Zaletel
Assembly Member Felix Rivera
Rep. Genevieve Mina
Seth Tigarian - staff to Senator Dunbar
Mike Edgington - FCC chair and Girdwood resident
Assembly Member Daniel Volland

Approval of agenda: Karl moves to approve, Carolyn seconds, none opposed; agenda is approved

Elected officials' reports:

- Assembly Member Zaletel
 - Recently updated code to provide a screening tool for navigating municipal benefits and services, to help people learn what they're eligible for. Should be live later this year.
 - Coming up on the April 8th agenda: where to allow check-cashing businesses like pawnshops; raising the bar for when/how people could appeal someone else's development
 - Continuing work to improve the Port
- School Board Member Donley
 - Nunaka Valley and Lake Hood schools have been closed; working on passing those buildings to charter schools.

- School bond includes safety priorities, new roofs. Will increase debt due to shortfall from state reimbursement.
- Rep Mina
 - House bill was passed to increase the base student allocation for school funding, still to move through senate and governor's office
 - Working on an alternative to governor's proposal to establish a department of agriculture
 - Budget work is ongoing
 - Introduced HB 138 to invest in mental health/crisis services
- Seth Tigarian for Senator Dunbar
 - Working on many bills. Written report to follow.
- Assembly Member Rivera
 - Homelessness: working on housing and shelter for this summer; homelessness summit is ongoing this week
 - Sales tax was not approved for a special ballot this fall, but discussion of how to diversify revenue sources is ongoing
 - Mount Spurr potential for eruption - text Anchorage to 67283 to sign up for emergency alerts
 - Preparations are underway for wildfire season
 - Upcoming ordinance to reform tax abatements to encourage redevelopment, focusing on transit corridors and apartment buildings
- Matt Carlson - AFD
 - Ballot measures 5 and 7 for fire department funding
- Assembly Member Volland
 - Also mentioned the sales tax proposition that didn't move forward, the screening app for municipal services, resources on the muni website for the potential Mount Spurr eruption
 - Ballots are due April 1st; secure drop boxes, in person, or by mail

Wildland Urban Interface - Wildfire Prevention - Jon Glover

- Wildfire division has been reactivated
- This year could be bad for fire with low snowpack
- Undertaking proactive efforts to remove fuels etc, starting off Campbell Airstrip Road
- Updating preparedness plan, evacuation planning, etc for the first time since 2008. Should be done by end of 2025.
- Training is being completed early this year; start of fire season was deemed March 17th instead of the usual April 1st
- New brush trucks on their way
- wildfire.muni.org ; also ongoing social media outreach. You can request a free assessment of wildfire risk on your property
- Airport Heights has some risk due to greenbelt and forested lands around us.
- Wood lot on 56th Ave will open May 1st and is free for homeowners to drop off brush.

FCC Overview - Arianna Bellizzi

- FCC = Federation of Community Councils. Nonprofit funded through grant from Assembly, board with delegate from every community council (CC). Their meeting is the one regular chance for all CCs to get together. Third Wednesday of every month, open to the public.
- Support services for councils: Zoom, websites, sharing agendas and minutes, training for council officers

- New websites coming up - looking for an Airport Heights resident to help with ours (contact Chelsea to volunteer)
- List of resources for CC officers for running meetings, government resources, etc
- Local Lens series to provide information on ongoing issues to the public
- [youtube.com/@communitycouncils](https://www.youtube.com/@communitycouncils)

AHCC Picnic - John Whitlock

- Discussion tabled until April, but plans are commencing

FCC report: Airport Heights needs a new FCC delegate; contact Chelsea if you can volunteer for this role and help represent us and inform us about what's going on at FCC.

- Yesterday's FCC meeting included discussion of:
 - potential Mount Spurr eruption
 - April is Volunteer Recognition Month so CCs can nominate their volunteer of the year
 - New FCCs websites coming up
 - This year's mailer funding will be used to notify residents in areas where CC boundaries are changing
 - ASD member Carl Jacobs spoke about budget and cell phone policy
 - Some discussion of ballot propositions
 - Planning Department is working on a 10-year targeted review of the Comprehensive Plan; will be coming before the Planning and Zoning Commission with more information and opportunity for public comment. Also ongoing work to update the rezoning process.
 - ACDA presented on Midtown District Plan which is coming up for approval

Community concerns:

- Capital Improvement Program - AHCC will be developing our priority list for this year; contact Emily Weiser if you would like to be involved in that working group
- Sheri asked about Mikhail's idea about a neighborhood garage sale;
- Rayette: Mountain View library is offering free tax help this weekend; they can also help with PFD applications; senior poetry event coming up
- Non-residents:
 - Maria: Bus is free on April 5th (election day)
 - Mike Edgington: with Anchorage Tomorrow, group providing information on bond propositions on the ballot. Prop 8 is only paid for by Girdwood residents; all residents get to vote on it because the muni as an entity is bonding for them, but only residents in the relevant area pay for each bond.
 - Daniel George - candidate for Assembly District 1 (north of Debarr) introduced himself

Adjourn: moved by Carolyn, seconded by Karl K, adjourned 8:21 pm