

## **UACC MINUTES**

March 7, 2018, Meeting

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Al Milspaugh 7:00 pm. There were 9 members and 9 visitors signed in. The Chairperson asked each individual to state their name and location or business.
2. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Rika Spenser, with a second by Steve Zemke, moved to approve the February 7, 2018 Minutes as written. The motion to approve the Minutes was passed by unanimous consent.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Al Milspaugh introduced tonight's agenda. Rika Spenser, with a second by Steve Zemke, moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent.

#### **4. Informational Reports**

##### **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**

1. **Assembly Member Forrest Dunbar:** Forrest presented information on the APD presentation to the Anchorage Municipal Public Safety Committee. He indicated that the APD force increase to 435 sworn officers from 350 is starting to bring crime rates under control. He said APD now has a crime support unit which can for follow-up and investigate crimes, rather than just to react to the latest situation. He also indicated the increase in officers from 3 to 4 in Eagle River is a welcome addition. He said that APD is also planning to take over traffic enforcement on the Seward Highway, since the State Troopers are no longer patrolling this stretch of highway due to budget concerns. He said that the locally affected community councils passed resolutions in support of this move, even though it will result in higher property taxes in Girdwood and the Bird community areas. Forrest also mentioned action taken on a taxi ordinance. Said that Title 11 micro manages the taxi industry, and with increased competition from Lyft/Uber (which State law prohibits the muni from regulating), the new ordinance would lower fees and regulation burden on taxis allowing them to be more competitive. He also stated that the assembly took action on an ordinance allowing for the construction of greenhouses on roofs that exceed height restrictions of commercial buildings while still meeting other requirements. This was in response to a proposed senior care development in the Baxter/Tudor area, which the UACC has supported. Finally, Forrest reported on the Town Hall meeting held last Monday dealing with the ML&P Sale. If the proposition supporting the sale is passed in April, the city then has the authority to enter into a sales agreement by December 31<sup>st</sup>, with implantation by fall of 2019. Forrest indicated that Chugach is committed to hold down rates if the sale goes through. Marguerite Iverson asked whether the Chugach ratepayers' capital credits would be maintained. Forrest indicated that they would be. Extensive information on the sale proposal is found on the internet at [Poweranchorage.com](http://Poweranchorage.com).
2. **Assembly Member Dick Traini:** Dick reported that the Assembly will be discussing the Municipal budget at their March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also said that the assembly will take up the need for limiting sale of two types of alcohol (small single serving bottles of liquor know as shooters and alcohol fortified malt liquor) sales in two Mountain View liquor stores.
3. **Assembly Member Pete Peterson:** Pete reported the upcoming vote by mail election process. The ballots should be mailed out by March 13<sup>th</sup>. He said that there will be tour of the

Election Central at 619 Ship Creek, at 5:30 pm on March 12 and 29. He indicated one my call 907-243-VOTE to get more information.

4. **School Board Representative Kathleen Plunkett:** Kathleen said that the ASD will be holding focus group meetings to discuss the possibility of altering start times for high school students, by potentially exchanging their start times with elementary student start times. She also briefly introduced the April school bond proposal, and said that there was a flyer avail on the back table for more information. Finally she said that she has contacted Winterberry School to discuss the issues brought up at our February meeting. She said that Winterberry principal told her that the parking and speeding issues occurring off the Winterberry property are the responsibility of the APD. The Winterberry principal did say that a teacher goes down to the monitor the situation, but only has so much authority to enforce traffic rules.

5. **State Representative Andy Josephson:** Andy says he has been in Juneau since January 9<sup>th</sup>, though has been back in Anchorage twice for Anchorage Caucus meetings. He said that he has been busy is Resources Committee chair and dealing with HB 322 pertaining to updated oil spill regulations. He also said that they have created a game bill dealing with a potential Nelchina Game Refuge near Paxson. He also said they are working on HB 79 which creates a new definition for independent contractor. This bill would cut down on practice of under the counter payments to workers (by calling them independent contractors), which is done to circumvent the need to pay workers compensation insurance. Currently if the worker gets hurt the employer does not have to pay, and then someone other than the employer has to pay.

6. **Bernice Nisbett for State Representative Ivy Spohnholz:** Bernice said that Ivy is in Anchorage recovering from medical issues but should be back in Juneau by next Monday. She is unsure whether the coffee Ivy sponsors is still on for this March 10<sup>th</sup> and one should check on Ivy's twitter or Facebook page for updates. Bernice said that Ivy has been busy on bills dealing with marital and family therapy care, juvenile justice, and medical price transparency.

## **B. UACC Board Reports**

1. **Parks & Recreation Committee:** No report was given as Barbara Garner was not able to attend the meeting.

2. **FCC:** Joanie Nardini reported on the information items given at the latest FCC meeting. They dealt with a vote by mail presentation given by Carolyn Hall, the 2040 Land Use Plan update, a revamp of state liquor laws, and the April Road and Drainage bond package. Joanie encouraged UACC members to attend an FCC meeting, as it is a good place to meet other community council members.

3. **Safety:** Al Milspaugh read the following report into the record, extracted from Nixle. *Community: Neighbors help Code Enforcement and APD's CAP Team close down a dangerous residence.*

*Dear Al Milspaugh,*

*In the fall of 2017 the Anchorage Police Department began receiving multiple complaints regarding a multi-family residence located at 1305 W 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There were accusations of that building's residents being involved in stealing vehicles and other neighborhood thefts. APD's Community Action Policing Officers (CAP) and Patrol Officers began conducting numerous traffic stops on vehicles related to that address. Contact was also made with the people coming and going from that building in an effort to deter criminal activity and solve theft crimes.*

*At the beginning of 2018 CAP made contact with the building's owner and made recommendations to him. Ultimately the owner chose to quit paying utilities and walk away*

*from the property. A walk-through of the building yielded multiple violations; it was deemed a “dangerous building, unfit for human occupancy.” On February 22, 2018, the building was boarded up and all occupants were removed. The owner was fined.*

*Since the eviction neighborhood residents have stated there has been a significant drop in foot and vehicle traffic. APD is grateful to the neighborhood for making the complaints which allowed them to take action. APD cannot do their job without the help of the community; if you have a problem residence in your neighborhood, please take the time to call APD and make the complaint. Per Municipal Code, there has to be a certain number of complaints before legal action can be taken. It is not necessarily a quick process but it works. Please be patient and continue to notify authorities of illegal activity. One of CAP’s main duties is to enforce laws related to businesses and residences that have excessive police calls. Complaints are being tallied and worked.*

*APD is also grateful for its working relationship with the Municipal Code Enforcement Officers. Code Enforcement works tirelessly to hold owners responsible for the condition of their properties.*

*Contact Information: Renee Oistad, APD Community Relations*

## **5. Business**

### **A. 2010 Bond Information- Kristine Valentine, Anchorage Tomorrow (AT)**

Kristine started by saying that Anchorage municipal elections have a very poor turnout rate. The last election had less than 25 % turnout. She encouraged everyone to vote. She indicated that there was a handout available at the back table that detailed the \$47,460,000 in bonds contained within the propositions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. She indicated that the passage of these positions will be important in maintaining or improving public safety and our road and drainage systems. She also said that quality of life issues are addressed through improvement of parks, bike lanes, trails, and other quality of life projects. She felt that now is a good time to do projects, as interest and contract rates are still low. As an example, she said that the impact on taxes is minimal, with a \$6 increase on a home with an assessed value of \$250,000.

### **B. Propositions Directly Affecting the UACC Area**

Al Milspaugh introduced that portion of Proposition 3, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Upgrade from Lake Otis Parkway to Florina Street for \$750,000 and Proposition 4 the University Lake Park Safety Improvement for \$350,000.

### **C. Vote by Mail Election- Carolyn Hall, Anchorage Clerk’s Office Education and Outreach Coordinator**

Carolyn indicated that the vote by mail ballots should be available by March 19<sup>th</sup>. The telephone hotline is available for question at 907-243-VOTE (8683). There are three methods to return the ballot. The first is to mail it, which requires one to put a first class stamp on it and have it postmarked by the April 3<sup>rd</sup> election date. The second is to drop it off at one of the 12 drop boxes located around the city. The closet is at the UAA Alaska Airlines Sport Center parking area. The third is to drop it by one of the 5 vote centers located around town, with the closet being the Loussac Library. She said there will be an all-day information presentation on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Anchorage Election Central at 619 East Ship Creek Avenue. If you lose your ballot, or the dog ate it, one can go to one of the vote centers to get a new ballot.

There was a question about how the ballot votes would be verified as authentic. Carolyn

indicated that the signature on the ballot envelop would be compared to the digital signature from the last four times the person had been to the polls. They have brought in forensic scientists to evaluate and then train on the election officials on the digital signature comparison analysis system. She indicated that the process has taken into account privacy concerns and stresses fraud prevention. She indicated that the vote by mail system may be an advantage to voters, as campaigners will know if one has voted early, and this may result in one not receiving so many of the campaign calls so prevalent during the last week.

Carolyn indicated that there are a couple of other things to note. First, if you mail your ballot on April 3, you might want to have the Post Office physically validate that it was mailed on April 3 to ensure that it is counted. The drop boxes will be locked at 8 pm, so ballots need to be dropped off by then, though people in line at that time still may vote. If the Alaska Airline Sport Center is having an event when one wants to drop a ballot, just ask the parking attendant that you need access to the voting drop box.

The votes will be counted on April 3 at the Anchorage Election Central Office. Complete information may be found at:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/Default.aspx>

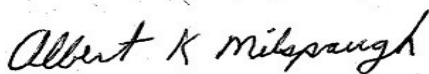
#### **D. Electronic Distribution of Folker Park Fundraising Letter**

Al introduced the Folker Park fundraising letter which solicits funds needed to reach the \$12,500 needed to match Anchorage Park Foundations Rasmuson Foundation matching grant requirements. Al said that March 15<sup>th</sup> is the “soft” date for the matching funds to be secured so time is running out. He also indicated that over 50% of the funds have been secured so any additional amount is important in reaching our goal.

### **6. New Business and Public Comment**

UAA representative gave an update on UAA activities. He indicated there are big shifts occurring needed to adapt to the State budget fiscal realities. The University is undertaking a self-accreditation activity which occurs every seven years. The UAA 20/20 process is looking toward 3 main goals, which aim to increase student retention rates, increase recruitment of new students, and to reduce administration bureaucracy. These aim to get more dollars to the classroom. He also indicated that there will be more emphasis on getting faculty and administration out into the community. Al Milspaugh stressed that resident University students (there are over 750 students in the resident halls) are members of the UACC. He suggested that student council meeting presentations might be useful in getting students to attend our UACC meeting. Dick Traini suggested that the additional \$19 million in UA funding that the legislature is considering is not assured and efforts need to be made to solicit support. The UAA representation indicated that the University is sending down eight students to testify for the need of the funding increase and an aggressive campaign to get students to call or write to the legislature is underway.

- 7. Adjournment:** The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 pm.



Al Milspaugh, UACC Vice President