

UACC MINUTES

November 5, 2018, Meeting

1. **Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Paul Stang at 7:00 pm.
2. **Welcome and Introductions-** There were 16 members and 5 visitors signed in. The Chairperson asked each individual to state their name and location or business.
3. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh, with a second by Barbara Garner, moved to approve the October 3, 2018 Minutes. The motion to approve the Minutes was passed by unanimous consent.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Paul noted that agenda item 9. B. will be heard after agenda item 4 due to time commitments. An amendment to add a discussion on special uses was proposed as item 10-Other Business. The agenda as amended was passed by unanimous consent.
5. **Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
 1. **Tom Atkinson for State Representative Andy Josephson:** Tom said that Andy won his election yesterday and is unsure about whether he will be in the minority or the majority caucus in this coming session.
 2. **Ted Madsen for State Representative Ivy Spohnholz:** Ted said that Ivy Spohnholz also won her election bid and is also uncertain who she will caucus with.
 3. **Jacob Tatum for State Senator Berta Gardner:** Jacob indicated that Elvi Grey Jackson won the election for Berta Gardner's District seat. He said that he and Berta will be available until the next session starts. The transition will occur on the third Tuesday of January.
 4. **Nate Graham for State Senator Bill Wielechowski:** Nate indicated Bill will be working on issues dealing with the PFD, public safety, the economy, and health care. He indicated that Bill may know some of his committee assignments next week.
 5. **UAA Representative Ryan Buchholdt:** Ryan presented information on the UAA property on the southeast corner of Lake Otis and Providence Drive. He said that in the near term the property has been used as a storage yard. He indicated that the need for large amounts of storage space has ended with the completion of the new UAA Engineering Building. The current equipment

storage is being moved to the northern portion of the lot. He said there is a proposal from Orthopedic Physician of Alaska (OPA) to lease the southern portion of the UAA property for overflow parking from their current parking area. Access would come from their property, and the current sidewalk and vegetative buffer along Lake Otis would be maintained. He felt that it would also not increase traffic along Providence Drive due to the access from the current OPA parking lot. Russ Kell had a question about whether it would be better for UAA to sell the property to OPA rather than lease: thereby, putting the property on the city tax rolls. Ryan felt that UAA would be hesitant to relinquish any property, as they did not get sufficient property under the land grant system.

- 6. Assembly Members** were not able to present information tonight due to a conflict with an ongoing Assembly Meeting.

6. Report from the FCC- Al Milspaugh reported on FCC activities.

Al indicated that the Anchorage Parks Foundation has grant money available to promote Anchorage Park connectivity projects.

7. Reports from UACC Committees/AdHoc Chair Persons

A. Safety: Al noted that even though there are over 450 APD “sworn” officers there still is a need for a couple more in the dispatch office. Funding for these positions will need to come in year’s budget.

B. Parks and Recreation –Barbara Garner- Barbara said that the Municipality will be cutting spruce bark beetle infected trees this fall. Hannah Davis also had a question about the tree cutting that was occurring around University Lake.

8. Old Business

A. Establishment of UACC Community Patrol-Al Milspaugh and Liz Patrick

Al briefly discussed the function of a community patrol. There may be grant money available to form a community safety patrol for the UACC area. We need to let Al know if we want to form a community patrol.. Liz Patrick could coordinate the formation.

B. Winterberry Charter School Addition - Joanie Nardini and Al Milspaugh

Al and Joanie noted that the Winterberry Charter School addition did not exceed the footprint that the school had originally proposed. The school requires that the children are picked up on the school grounds and not on Bryn Mawr Court. Al Milspaugh noted that Criterion Corporation owns the

property along Northern Lights, right up to the Muni bike path. This property has two fence lines, with the one next to the bike path in disrepair, with several sections collapsed. Al plans to follow-up with the property manager to see if they can either repair or remove the fence.

9. New Business

A. UACC Position on the Relocation of the ASD Bus Barn - Barbara Garner.

Barbara introduced the topic of the potential relocation of the Anchorage School District mid-town Bus Barn. Currently there are over 124 school buses that are located at the site on the southwest corner of Elmore and Tudor. Barbara explained the site has been an environmental and health hazard to local residents. The problem is that the site sits next to Campbell Creek and experiences severe inversion conditions during calm winter days when the temperatures are below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. The diesel fumes created by first starting buses early in the morning to verify that they will start, and then a second time to warm them up to temperature suitable for picking up the students creates a cloud of toxic fumes that spreads over the western side of the UACC area. Residents have protested this situation for many years but the ASD has not taken any remedial efforts to solve the problem. ASD has commissioned a study to look for potential alternate sites within northeast Anchorage where buses could be located. This is in response to the potential to develop the current site for purposes of residential and commercial developments but does not take into account problems with air quality. 27 potential sites were initially examined. 25 of the 27 sites were deemed not to be suitable for relocation as not meeting selection requirements as due to being cost prohibitive, were located in wetlands, or were too close to existing facilities. The two remaining sites were the sites 18 and 27. These are one located near the northwest corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Avenue and Tudor Centre Drive east of the police station (site 27) and other (site 18) located near the southeast corner of East Tudor Road and Campbell Airstrip Road. There were discussions about these sites. Barbara Garner indicated she felt that neither site addressed the health problems associated with diesel fume concentrations during winter inversions affecting neighborhoods with UACC, and this was not adequately addressed in the transportation study. Hannah Davis suggested that that the

ASD might consider parking buses at high school locations, which might spread out the diesel fume pollution problem and the dilution effect might

help alleviate the problem by not concentrating it in one area. Russ Kell suggested that ASD seriously consider accelerating the conversion to electric buses thereby solving the diesel fume problem.

Paul Stang indicated that comments on the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) by Community Councils were due to Robin Ward, Anchorage Municipal Real Estate Department; Director and Chief Housing Officer, by November 19th. To meet this time frame Paul suggested that comments by UACC members should be sent to him at paulrstang@gmail.com by noon on November 12th. These comments will be used by the Executive Board to develop a consolidated UACC response and be sent to Robin Ward by the November 19th due date.

B. MOA Project Management and Engineering Department - 42nd Ave Road Upgrade- Holly Spoth-Torres

Paul Stang introduced the topic and indicated that Holly Spoth-Torres is the main point of contact for the project. Holly said that she is developing a mailing list and has a hard copy mailing list sign-up sheet available at the back table. One can also go the Muni website and sign up there. She said that there will be two open houses to be held in the spring and fall of 2019. There will be a questionnaire coming out to local residents coming out in January 2019. The design project will take up to two years with design projected to be completed by 2020. After the design construction funding would most likely have to be approved through approval of a municipal bond, no sooner than 2021 or 2022. There are significant collaboration needs, particularly with Parks and Rec in regard to Folker Park and with AWWU in regard to replacement of the aging/failing waterline.

There were significant questions about whether storm drains were to be replaced; what sort of lighting would be included; what the speed limit would be; and whether curbs and sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities would be included. There were also concerns expressed that the difficult sequencing would need to be implemented. Heather indicated that the project would proceed in shorter segments with water main on 42nd being replaced first, before re-construction of the road begins. This would minimize the need to tear up completed work. Doing shorter segments would also allow access to property by local residents. Heather said the road construction would be by the standards contained with their manuals. The area for mobilizing equipment and supplies for the project has not been selected, and will depend on the construction contractor. The \$700,000 currently allocated is for the design study. The project is estimated to cost \$18,000,000 to build. This project will need to be included in a bond proposal, which usually come in around

\$30,000,000. These figures do not include the funding that would be needed to replace the water main running down 42nd Avenue.

C. AMATS, Elmore to Bragaw Extension- Paul Stang

Paul said that he attended the meeting held by AMATS to discuss which projects should be included on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Paul said that he presented written comment and testimony that UACC did not support the Northern Access Project. Paul talked with Pete Peterson, who is on the AMATS Policy Committee, about the need to make sure that the UMED Northern Access is not included in the TIP. At a minimum the Transportation Demand Management Study (TDMS) needs to be completed before consideration of the UMED Northern Access Project can happen. Ryan Buchholdt (UAA Representative) noted that the University has funding available, through a Federal funding package, in its 2019 budget to do the TDMS.

10. New Business and Public Comment

Krista Scott, local resident of the Baxter area, led a discussion about how a commercial sled dog operation (20 malamutes) was able to obtain a permit to operate within their residential area. She indicated she has had difficulty in obtaining information about what their special use permit entails and how commercial animal facilities are to operate. She also has had difficulty in understanding how this permit operates under Title 17 and Title 21. Though no action was taken on this issue by UACC, suggestions were given about the need to write a letter to the mayor specifically about the need for better definitions regarding dog lots within Title 17 and the process needed to forward her complaint. Al Milspaugh suggested that Krista go directly to the Animal Control Advisory Board, with her nuisance issues related to smell and noise. He indicated that they are the conduit to the Assembly on issue related to animals.

11. Adjournment: The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:38 pm.

Signed

Paul R. Stang, UACC President