

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020 — 7:00-8:58 PM

ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049110076> (see more details below)

Call to Order, 7:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

No quorum.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

Regarding the Fairview Planning and Environmental Linkages study, he reached out to Craig Lyon at AMATS. They agreed that because AMATS is the client, the project could be moved to Planning. The draft PEL manual has not been released yet, could put a slow role on the RFP. Got a nasty email from someone on project team at DOT, resulted in an apology from someone at DOT. Working on moving project to Planning.

AK Senate is going back on Monday to affirm Revised Program Legislative (RPL) actions that were passed this past week regarding CARES Act funding. Cannot make new programs with RPLs and cannot put federal funds into programs that don't have them already. There is a lawsuit arguing that legislation cannot approve RPLs. Senate will meet to pass legislation to allow the money to move forward. Because of the delay, were able to convert business loan RPL to business grants.

Q from S Klein – thanks for work on Fairview PEL. I understand that AMATS committees have not met yet. What needs to happen on our end to make sure PEL will end up in Planning? Begich – it is not a done deal. I will continue to press for it. Support from AMATS is important. Q from S Klein – AMATS is a series of committees and staff take action based on the decisions from the committees. But they have not been meeting. How can AMATS take action? Chris Constant answered - There is one policy committee. It has not met, but he can assert that it needs to meet this month. Begich – let's reach out to Craig Lyon to determine if the policy committee needs to meet.

S Klein moves that the FVCC authorize the Vice President to write a letter to AMATS staff on behalf of the FVCC advocating that AMATS engage in discussions with DOT to move Fairview PEL to Planning. Harry Need seconds. Chris Constant suggests addressing the letter to members of the AMATS Policy Committee through AMATS staff. Previous motion rescinded. New motion moved by S Klein, seconded by Harry Need. No quorum. Issue referred to the Executive Board.

Leslie Kleinfeld – seems there is no support for protecting the health of our legislators. Begich – there will be no staff. We will be spread out throughout the chamber and in the gallery. We will be six feet apart. I have suggested and Chair is in favor of emergency provision regarding how you cast votes. Begich is in agreement with Senate leadership. But there is a coalition that inclines towards no masks, support of Pres. Trump's position, etc.

Representative Zack Fields

Thinks there should be a provision for representatives to meet remotely. Rules were not changed before, now cannot change them without everyone going back. He and other house members are asking

Governor to mandate mask use. He has that authority and should use it. House committees will be having meetings about reopening and Fields will push for mask usage. Countries that have been successful in controlling spread have higher mask use and more testing. In Alaska, there is a perception that reopening means the problem is past, but it just means we need to double measures to prevent spread.

We have been able to successfully pressure the administration to have business grants rather than business loans. The legislature had a plan to distribute funds through the Department of Commerce and Economic Development and the regional economic development authorities, like AEDC. The administration responded with a convoluted process to administer grants through AIDEA and financial intermediaries; whether it works remains to be seen.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – is there anything the public can do to pressure the Governor to mandate masks? Fields – some people need to be told what to do, and there is not broad understanding that masks protect other people. Responsibility means wearing a mask in public. Engage with media, op-eds, etc. The Governor is responding to pressure from within his party to dismiss seriousness of COVID, but the more it is dismissed, the worse the economic harm is. There is also the influence of federal inaction over the pandemic. You can say in the public sphere that he needs to be a role model and have a mandate. We have tried suggesting that people wear a mask, but that is not working. Laura Orenga de Gaffory – I keep hearing people discussing the mask issue, and it's less combative if we don't call people dumb for not wearing masks. Use different language, because "dumb" is offensive.

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

There is a burn ban starting tomorrow. BBQs are allowed. Portable fire pots are not allowed. Assembly meeting next Tuesday, reviewing emergency order of Mayor, expect to renew it until June 5. Problems with SAP are better, will be moving SAP from cloud onto an internal server. Will take a year. Earthquake revealed problem with succession of Mayor. Code is clear that if Mayor is incapacitated, the chair of the Assembly takes his place with limited authority (no veto powers) and can exercise emergency powers. But it is not clear what is done if the Mayor is temporarily incapacitated, e.g., in hospital for short period. The Assembly is considering this. Constant is inclined to think they should stay with Mayor's team (that is, the municipal manager) in event of emergency.

Camp abatement is happening. But created problems with people wandering around and standing on street corners. Some people have concerns about CARES Act funding being used to buy a hotel to house homeless people. We are in a sensitive time; it is possible there could be substantial investment in a mini-continuum-of-care in another part of the city, which would include a day shelter, some apartments, and some kind of congregate Housing First facility.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – saw lots of people on trail, packing up their stuff in shopping carts. The muni is clearing out the camps. Where are they going? Constant – there are over 300 spaces for them in the shelters. There is a place for them. We need a more assertive policing effort to harry homeless people who insist on sleeping in public spaces to send them where the services are. There is money to put people into permanent housing. Need to say, you cannot stay here, you need to go over there and get services. First time for a long time there is excess capacity in the shelters.

Ann G. – there is a teenager living in the woods by my house. He said the police talked to him and they said it was okay that he stayed there. Constant – that is not right. Send me more info, could refer matter to Covenant House. Ann G. – the problem is really bad. It never used to be like this. Constant – it is a complex problem; we can do more to clear our greenbelts. Ann G. – even before this, I found

condoms, beer cans, syringes, stepped in human poo. Constant – you are in the room with lots of people with similar experiences. Fairview has always driven solutions; I rely on the wisdom of this body to make good policy decisions. Report these issues to 311 or 911 if it is an emergency. APD polices based on data showing where problems are. So call in these calls as often as you need to, to make an actual factual record of the conditions around you. Laura Orenga de Gaffory – area around 11th and Latouche, there are four abandoned and boarded-up homes, people keep breaking in. Can we pressure the banks to do something about these properties? We have been calling 311 and the police. Have a problem with attempted vehicle break ins. There have been more problems this summer. Constant – there are processes, but they require money that we do not have. Abandoned property owners can be fined if they are not taking care of them. Something can be done, but it takes a long time. There are probably other parts of Anchorage that have bigger problems, and Code Enforcement prioritizes those. The need is greater than the resources we have. I expect more and more houses will become abandoned. S Klein – we are doing clean up on Saturday. We pick one or two properties a year to flag to Code Enforcement. Sharon coordinates that. Send her the address.

Constant – thank you to Ralph Gibbs for making sure investments coming into Merrill Field benefit the neighborhood around the airport. You are doing a good job and are honored and respected for your work.

Dave Rittenberg – there is space at the shelters. We are seeing better outcomes for people at Brother Francis Shelter (BFS) since it has been decompressed and troublesome element has been removed. We are seeing more clients be more sober or even completely sober. When we decompress services and spread them out, the quality of the services is much better. Just need to figure out how to get people from place to place. Also need to think about substance abuse and mental health treatment. From what I have heard, the plan is to close Boeke in July and Sullivan in October. But our solutions for cold weather shelter in the past are not viable. Facilities (BFS, Hope, and Gospel Rescue Mission) are not going to increase social-distancing capacity this winter; BFS does not anticipate going back to 240 even after COVID crisis is over. Q for Chris Constant – do you know what the options are for winter shelter? Jamming 500 people down at 3rd and Ingra is not going to work. Constant – no specific plans right now. Decompression at 3rd Avenue has been amazing. Need a more assertive police response to deal with people who were at the camp at 3rd and Ingra, because they have displaced to the area around Carr's and the greenbelt and are causing problems there. There is a concerted plan to provide additional services in other parts of town. There may be temporary leased projects; permanent projects will take a couple of years.

Anchorage School Board member Margo Bellamy

Schools are closed but learning continues. Glad that the Mayor includes the Superintendent periodically in his weekly updates. School Board officers newly elected to these roles are Andy Holleman – Clerk, Starr Marsett – Treasurer, Margo Bellamy – Vice President, Elisa Vakalis – President. Areas are being reassigned. Fairview will likely be assigned to Andy Holleman. Next ASB meeting will be May 26 online. ASD celebrating 2020 graduates. There will be commemorative videos, commemorative boxes, graduates can put signs on their lawns. Last day for classes is May 21, food program will continue until June 30. Will have fewer locations for the summer feeding program. Last ASB meeting, we were assured that all students in grades 6-12 that needed Chromebooks got them. We went to a learning packet (mailed or delivered) for K-5, there are also online things for them. AK Smart Start, different levels of risk, plan to get schools open. Complex, will be discussed more at next ASB meeting. Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week. Also Nurse Appreciation Day. Tried to recognize our teachers and nurses.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – will there be a virtual summer school to help kids catch up? Bellamy – yes, there will be an extended school. We are concerned about the “summer slide.” Kids will have the opportunity to keep up and catch up.

Quorum achieved at 8:18 pm.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by S Klein. No objection to agenda as presented. Approved.

Approval of March 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Laura Orenga de Gaffory. No objection to minutes as presented. Approved.

Approval of April 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Laura Orenga de Gaffory. No objection to minutes as presented. Approved.

Standing Reports

President – Allen Kemplen

Community garden at 14th and Ingra, preparing documents to DOT&PF to use property. Eastchester Park, working with ShirtsUp on design for utility box wrapping, will need input in next month or so. White paper on Innovation Zone is circulating, would like feedback. Working on marketing graphic designs for the Fairview community. Planning Division is moving forward with conversion of Title 21 for downtown zoning districts and they are starting to hold web-based informational meetings. House of Representatives at Federal level have advanced the idea of the HEROES Act, which would have money for block grants, neighborhoods. We need to pay attention to this; it would be similar to the CARES Act.

Treasurer – Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee, \$15 Zoom subscription. Current balances:

General \$448; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$4930. Total \$6664

Chris Constant – did anyone reach out to First National Bank about a donation to FVCC? Allen Kemplen – I did, but the email I had did not work.

Presentations

Ralph Gibbs, Merrill Field Manager, regarding CARES Act funding for Merrill Field

City manager signed documents for FAA to receive \$17.89M, funds for operations. We can request conversion of those funds to development later on. Airport beautification can be funded through operations. Will see if demolition of house on Orca can happen this year. Have to use or lose the funds within the next four years. The funds can be used without matching. Conversations with Advisory Commission, muni, other shareholders, will determine what portion of funds will be converted to development. We have a development list, but that was constrained by poor fiscal situation. But we might think about other plans with this new money.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – if the house is demolished, will the space be used for plantings, food-growing, etc.?

Gibbs – Yes, that is an acceptable use of the funds. Can make the airport more aesthetically pleasing to customers.

Chris Constant – would like to see something done to edge along Orca to soften the edge. Gibbs – Yes.

Allen Kemplen – what is the process for involving the neighborhood? Gibbs – the FAA has a well-defined process for seeking public input. Kemplen – Merrill Field is a significant landowner and has a big

influence on the betterment of the community. We would like to see these funds used to better the neighborhood. This is a rare opportunity.

S Klein – several properties have been purchased by Merrill Field and then razed. The interface along Orca is problematic. Gibbs – I want to be part of the neighborhood. If there are grey areas, I can consult with Kristi Warden from FAA; unless she says the funds cannot be used for that, I will do it.

Chris Constant – thinking about how to improve uses of properties along Orca can work for benefit of neighborhood and of Merrill Field’s mandate to be run like a business.

Colleen Howard, Alaska Joint Ventures, regarding Voodoo Cannabis Neighborhood Plan

She and Scott Westover are the new owners of the property at 930 Gambell. They are both life-long Alaskans. Colleen grew up on 15th. Have opened up old Senor Taco for the WikiWiki Hawaiian donut shop. Plan to open a marijuana dispensary at 930 Gambell. Will have a formal presentation at the next GMM.

S Klein – we have a process that involves a Neighborhood Responsibility Plan. I will send you a draft so you can see what is needed. Colleen Howard – we already have an MOU with the Taku Campbell CC. We plan to do what we need to uphold our end of the deal and be a good neighbor. It will be better to have active businesses in the Senor Taco building to prevent encampments behind the building. Allen Kemplen – we always welcome new businesses. We are very pro-investment and supporters of improvements to our community. Leslie Kleinfeld – I will miss the Falafel King. Colleen Howard – they moved on. General expression of how great Falafel King was.

Motion to extend for 10 minutes. James Thornton moved, S Klein seconded. No objection. Meeting extended.

New Business

Capital Improvement Plan

Introduction of CIP Resolution and CIP list from last year (as draft). Both were provided to meeting participants through links in Zoom chat box. Laid on the table by Chamard.

Harry Need – what is the deadline for CIP? Chris Constant – believe it is June 30.

Unfinished Business

Neighborhood Spring Cleanup

S Klein – despite COVID, we are going to clean up our neighborhood. Dumpsters will be at Rec Ctr on Friday night. Will meet at Rec Ctr at 9:30 am. Should be done by noon.

General discussion – Denise Janson will provide food and beverages for the BBQ. Reach out to Alaska Mask Makers for masks.

Community Comments

Caitlyn Taylor – ACLT has been focusing on COVID-19. There are numerous funding opportunities for businesses, if you have any eligible businesses, make sure they are aware of these. Set-up Shop is helping Wiki Wiki and Lei Poke Shop to set up on Gambell Street.

S Klein – it has been an eye-opener to be as close to the homelessness situation as we are now in south Fairview. It is helping people to recognize everything that has been happening in north Fairview for years.

Adjourn 8:58 PM

