

Minutes for University Area Community Council Meeting  
January 7, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by President Tim Neale. Members of the executive board were introduced. The agenda and minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.

Brennan Shields and LaQuita Chmielowski with DOWL Engineers along with Lori Schanche of MOA presented information regarding the Chester Creek Trail Connection. This was after Tim Neale gave a brief history of a similar trail, which in the past UACC has voted against. Lori explained that the project died a few years ago, was taken off TIP and AMATS, but was recently bonded for and has now been approved back on the AMATS list. There has been a large public involvement process in the past regarding this trail. Lori explained the routing of the trail which starts at the Tudor Rd crossing close to University Lake and connects with the existing trail, ending in the Goose Lake parking lot. The other side of the trail goes through UAA housing and Providence Campus and ends near UAA Drive. The Design Study Report released by DOWL indicated that the paved trail will be ten feet wide with two feet shoulders on each side. The goal of this particular extension and trail is to be separated enough from other, existing paths to be usable and enjoyable. There will be work done on the existing connector portions to bring it up to ADA standards. The trail going through the north portion of UAA land will have a relocatable easement in case of future development by UAA. The construction is costing \$1.9 million and will be built in 2005. There were opinions expressed by council members about the lighting along the east side of the trail which runs near the power lines. It was preferred that this portion of the trail not be lit but that the portion running through UAA campus be very well lit. There will be an at grade crossing on the private road that runs between Providence and UAA housing with signs to alert motorists of the trail crossing. The portion of the trail that is near the dog park will be intended as a multi-purpose trail. APU is said to be in favor of the trail. DOWL Engineers would like to receive public comments and questions by the end of January.

Ann Brooks of Brooks and Associates, Art Johnson with USKH, and Kevin Jackson with State of Alaska DOT presented information regarding the Boniface/Northern Lights Intersection upgrade which is part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The portion of Boniface Parkway to be improved is owned by DOT and the portion of Northern Lights Blvd being improved is owned by the Municipality. HSIP projects are identified by crash statistics. The analysis for this project took place from 1997 to 2001 in which 182 accidents were reported at this intersection. According to the statistics, 40% of those accidents were the rear-ending type going southbound on Boniface and 20% of the accidents involved left turns. The proposed improvements add a right turn lane southbound on Boniface; this also reduces the cut through traffic in the area. A long left turn lane southbound on Boniface will also be added. Signal phasing has been looked at in the past for this intersection but it is currently not being proposed. If the accidents continue to happen after the improvements, then it will be looked at again. The draft Design Study Report was completed in March and the construction will take place this summer. There was a question regarding Right of Way in front of the William Express store on Boniface, it was answered that there is a public Right of Way there. There is currently a MOA project in the works which is looking at east and west bound traffic on Northern Lights Blvd. A council member asked if over/under pass separations have been looked at for this intersection and the response was no. Assemblyman Doug Van Etten then gave a quick overview of the non-status of the Road Transfer Program between the DOT and the MOA.

Brian Whittle, assembly member, introduced candidate for assembly Bill Wyocowski. He also emphasized that the Federation of Community Council funding is a very important issue and needs to be looked at. The Long Range Transportation Plan was also brought up as an area where UACC needs to be properly represented.

Doug Van Etten, assembly member, explained the appearance request for site condos by Regency Park that happened at the Assembly meeting the night before. Doug also let UACC know that the procedures to get a liquor license approval from the Assembly is being addressed. During this discussion it was brought up that the Assembly approves only the location of the license or a conditional use permit. The issue with the Pines Club liquor license and the parties going on at that building came up. The license has not been transferred because the past taxes have not been paid. Once they are paid, then the license transfer will go through.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Kelly Brown, co-secretary.