

## 7:02 Meeting Called to Order

Board Members in Attendance: T'Shalla Baker, Donna Mears, Rachel Boudreau, Liz Snyder, Selena Metoyer, Stu Grenier

1. No objections to the agenda
2. Legislative reports
  - a. Senator Wielechowski (Gunderson presented)
    - i. Primary elections were just this past Tuesday. ~31,000 mail ballots received thus far. Will be counted by Aug. 25, with certification by Aug. 30. The office received many calls about where to drop off their ballots. There was only one drop box. Sen. Wielechowski is requesting additional drop boxes be placed for the general election.
    - ii. Alaska is last in the nation for responding to the census, and stands to lose millions of dollars in funding. Encouraging people to complete the census in person, online, on the phone, or by mail.
    - iii. Alaskans have been receiving unemployment benefits, until it expired earlier this month. Additional benefits were then approved nationally; the Governor authorized \$300/week rather than the possible \$400/week. Please give Sen. Wielechowski's office a call if you have questions about eligibility and getting signed up.
  - b. Rep. LeDoux
    - i. Governor Dunleavy announced today that there would be a modification of the AK CARES Act. To date, it has not been functioning well. Businesses who received other support were then ineligible for AK CARES funding. There should now be new rules to fix this problem.
    - ii. On election day, people could have also dropped it off at any polling station or put it in their mailbox.
    - iii. The election didn't go for her as she hoped it would. She has been honored to serve for the past 8 years, and she won't drop out of sight. Her last day will be in January.
  - c. Rep. Spohnholz
    - i. She has held three hearings on the AK CARES program to improve it. Eligibility was also expanded to include non-profit organizations and the fishing industry. The state has also moved to an online application. The first eight weeks, they were only able to approve 20 million for 500 applicants. They've now doubled that in the last two weeks.
    - ii. They are continuing to keep an eye on unemployment benefits. We have very high unemployment; it peaked at 50,000. We are now down to 34,000, but these are still unprecedented numbers (it was less than 5,000 prior to the pandemic).
  - d. Rep. Pruitt
    - i. Not present
3. Assembly Reports
  - a. Peterson

- i. It appears that homeowners are still able to pay their property taxes.
  - ii. The Muni has refinanced a couple million dollars of debt, and has found some savings.
  - iii. The Assembly has decided what to do with the AK CARES Act money that Anchorage has received. You can visit [muni.org](http://muni.org) for more details.
  - iv. The planning and zoning commission turned down the proposal by a storage business to turn the skate rink on DeBarr into a storage facility. The Commission would prefer to see this area turned into housing.
- b. Dunbar
- i. Added an additional \$7 million dollars for small business grants, for a new total of \$20. \$14 million is directed to restaurants and the hospitality industry.
  - ii. The entire Northway Mall is closing. One of the immediate priorities is to secure the location. M'ao Tosi, the manager of the mall, hasn't made any comments yet, but more will follow.
  - iii. Two big discussions at the Assembly lately: How to distribute AK CARES money and the alcohol tax.
  - iv. The Municipality has been working with the Mental Health Trust to direct AK CARES funding to mental health response.
  - v. Question: Can you provide an update on the four properties that are proposed to be purchased to address homelessness needs. Answer: The Treasury Department confirmed that it is an allowable use of the AK CARES Act funding. There are two ways to move forward: 1. Move forward with AK CARES Act funding, and have it in operation by December. 2. Put the funding into first responder payroll, and then use the savings to make the purchases. Important to note that just 3 of the buildings are being purchased with CARES Act funding.
  - vi. Question: Is it too late to request that invasive species removal jobs in Chanshtnu Park be funded through AK CARES? Answer: No, it is not too late, and there are funds earmarked for community improvement project jobs. So, yes, pursue your motion here and forward this to the Assembly.
  - vii. Comment: The work you are doing to get support for mental health and for health responders and for housing is filling a huge gap our state has struggled with. It's great to see this work move forward. And grateful to see the alcohol tax be passed.
  - viii. Question: Is anything being done to assist those who will be losing their employment when the four buildings are purchased? Answer: At least two of the buildings have not been in operation. But, beyond normal efforts to reduce unemployment, no. The Assembly is working on an ordinance to support hotel workers who work for a location that is sold – and Dunbar will follow up on how this would affect workers.
- c. School Board – Andy Holleman
- i. School opened today online. All public schools are open online. Buses were distributing Chromebooks and other materials throughout neighborhoods. Parents can make one-on-one appointments to come in and talk with teachers/administrators as needed.

- ii. We've never started school this way, and learning as we go. But in better shape than in the Spring. It will be bumpy, but trying to find the best ways to connect.
  - iii. They are below enrollment this year by 5,000 as compared to this time last year.
- d. Presentations
  - i. Jim Curan (Library)
    - 1. They were open briefly for about two weeks in July, to allow folks to use computers. And then EO-15 happened and they had to close down because of the spike. They are still open for curbside pick-up. Drive up, use the number on the outside of the building, and they'll run materials out to you. They don't see that changing anytime soon. Planning on doing curbside through December at least, regardless of reopening status.
    - 2. If you want a stack of books, but aren't sure of titles, give us a call and we'll help curate a collection for you to check out.
    - 3. Meneka is the new community engagement librarian.
    - 4. Meneka: She is here to support all of the branches here in Anchorage. She attended Susitna Elementary, and is pleased to be working here in East Anchorage. Working on ways to work with community councils to better serve the community.
    - 5. Jim is eager to get more community engagement at the library. They did just get some funding to check out mobile devices.
  - ii. Helen
    - 1. With US Fish and Wildlife – Youth and Urban Outreach Coordinator. She works specifically as a Refuge Coordinator. Has worked with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program at Muldoon Elementary – did an online youth fishing program.
    - 2. Here tonight because she is looking for folks who might be interested in co-designing a family camping program. Also working with some other collaborators. Want to make sure the program meets people's needs and abilities.
  - iii. Kristine – Historic preservation officer for the Muni; manages Anchorage's historic preservation program (established in 2006)
    - 1. See handout
    - 2. Landmark has to be at least 30 years old. When you nominate it, you need to explain how it represents our history and our culture, or how it's already on a state or national register.
    - 3. Learn more at [anchoragehistoricpreservationplan.com](http://anchoragehistoricpreservationplan.com)
    - 4. The Northeast neighborhoods were settled by homesteaders. There are likely many resources that would qualify.
    - 5. Kristine is requesting a resolution of support. She will write up a draft and send to NECC, which include a few of the historical resources that we have, and we can vote on it.
  - iv. Stu

1. Introduced a motion to request funding for chokecherry removal in Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, along with some funding for some bridges that are needed, and to repair fencing at Centennial Park.
  2. Funding is being requested from the city – to Parks and Recreation, and for them to do the repair. But, if they are willing to give them funding, they (Polar Little League) can coordinate that.
  3. Sandra motioned for approval; Pete seconded
    - a. 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstaining
    - b. Motion passes
  4. Question: Do resolutions need to be presented at a previous meeting before it can be voted on? Answer: As long as it's presented at the executive board and is on the agenda. Reply: Concerned that this isn't how we've agreed to do this, but will bring it up at the next executive meeting. Answer: This one was also pressed for time, and we didn't meet in July.
- v. Rachel
1. Brown Jug received an alcohol license renewal
- vi. Board interactions with Muni
1. Donna talked with Traffic Dept. about traffic calming. Continuing to put capital money into behavior issues doesn't sit right with her, and asked what else could be done. He has pointed her toward some resources. Traffic violations are a behavior issue. Exploring what else we can do with communications and physical changes.
4. Donna: We discussed at the executive meeting about having candidates do one minute intros at the Sep. meeting.
  5. Motioned to adjourn at 8:24