

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020 — 7:05-9:06 PM

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

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Jerome Lopes, no objection.

Approval of September 2020 minutes

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Jerome Lopes, no objection.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

Regarding the 2020 Census, it will still be open until October 31. Alaska was able to get up to 99.9% enumeration. Tom is asking for these figures to be verified.

100,000 absentee ballots were mailed out on Monday. There are three locations for early voting. No absentee ballots will be counted until Nov. 10. Tom will be voting early. About ½ of ballots will be absentee. Our election will not be resolved until after Nov. 10. Results on election day will not be the same as the later ones. Anyone with questions can call Tom's cell at 907-350-1635.

Emergency orders are running out on November 15th. There is very little federal money coming in. People should communicate to congressional representatives that we need a stimulus package. There are 40,000 unemployed people in Alaska; this is a 16-17% unemployment rate. Mortgage and rental relief has run out. Hurting tenants, landlords and businesses. They deserve a break.

Christopher Constant – problem with how the state is listing election locations. Votes cast at early absentee locations will be counted on Nov. 10th. Votes cast at early voting locations will be counted on election night. There is no clarification about which locations are early absentee vs. early voting. Tom Begich – will get that addressed. Will follow up with Division of Elections.

Leslie Kleinfeld – would it be more advantageous to vote early in person, so one's vote is counted on election night? Tom Begich – I'm not going to tell people which way is better, but I want my vote to be counted on election night. In areas outside of Anchorage, there is a delay in getting absentee votes postmarked, because all the ballots are being sent to Anchorage for postmarks.

Tristan Walsh on behalf of Representative Zack Fields

The state has stopped accepting new applications for COVID grants. Approved 3,500 for \$155M out of available \$290M, still working through the applications. First wave of FEMA unemployment insurance, Alaska will get \$62M, first round is \$19M. If you are getting at least \$100 of State of Alaska unemployment insurance, going back to early August, \$300 per week will be added retroactively, should be getting disbursed to unemployment insurance recipients. But folks getting less than \$100 per week in unemployment insurance will get nothing. Another federal stimulus is needed.

Zack Fields and Tom Begich are having a virtual Town Hall on October 13 from 6 PM sharp to 7 PM.
ZOOM ID: 825 7640 4070. Password: 530389

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

Issue at next Assembly meeting is whether to extend emergency orders.

There is a proposal to add \$10M from the CARES Act funding that we have to small businesses, which is in addition to the \$68M that has gone to small businesses and non-profits, and to the \$309M that has gone to small businesses from the State, \$440M to small businesses from the EIDL program and \$1.5B to small businesses from the PPP program. Overall, there has been about \$2.2B in relief for small businesses.

The last two months has been hellish serving on the Assembly. There were contentious issues and many angry people came to the Assembly. The most contentious issue was using \$12.2M for four properties to add housing and treatment options that are not in this district. We are making progress distributing services in other neighborhoods and not driving all the people with problems into this tiny corner of town. But we can't just export our problems with shelters to other parts of the cities. Constant is working on a licensing process for shelters to protect neighborhoods where these important operations are providing their services.

We are about to pass a tax incentive for housing development around transit-supported corridors. In Fairview, this will be along 15th Avenue, in line with Anchorage 2020 and the Neighborhood Plan.

We are close to implementing the Storm Water Utility study and have appointed the commission that will be working on that. This will take the cost of these projects off taxpayers and put them onto ratepayers.

We have received the budget and are starting to work through it. Will have more details next month about what is in it for Fairview. In about 22 days, the sale of ML&P to Chugach Electric will close. This will provide almost a \$200M increment into our MOA trust fund, which will increase revenue from the fund \$6-10M annually and until forever depending on the stock market.

Following issue of renaming East High School after Bettye Davis and possibility of Fairview Elementary as a fallback, when there is another strong candidate after whom to name the school. Constant cannot take a position in case the matter comes before the Assembly, but he is checking with the Municipality's ethics officer, and if he is cleared to take a position at this point, he will.

Tom Begich – he sent a letter to Deena Bishop at the Anchorage School District encouraging them to just pause for a few weeks and figure out what everyone is doing. It is important to hear from the community and do the process in an appropriate way.

Leslie Kleinfeld – who are we thinking of naming the elementary school after? Christopher Constant – I will leave that for the speakers on this issue who are here tonight. I will not take a position, but will help ensure there is a proper process followed.

James Thornton – I witnessed some of the aggression directed at the Assembly and I want to say thank you to you and the other members for all you are doing. Christopher Constant – the timbre of the

testimony is getting more and more aggressive. It is getting scary. People are coming with weapons and making threats.

Anchorage School Board Member

Tom Begich asked if it would be possible to move the Anchorage School Board representative Deena Mitchell to later in the agenda because she is at another community council meeting. She will join the Fairview Community Council meeting when she is able. Allen Kemplen said he has authority as chair to make that decision and agreed to move Ms. Mitchell to the point in the agenda when she is able to join the meeting.

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

- Midtown Congestion Relief visioning event today. It is producing something positive. Additional work in Oct/Nov. Process seems to be working pretty well.
- AMATS Metropolitan Transportation Plan out for review.
- SOA STIP is out for review
- Two marijuana licenses up, Alaska Tasty Cannabis and Secret Garden, both reviewed, no problem
- Request for volunteers to help maintain fruit trees in Fairview Lions Park.
- Fairview Dialogues – opportunity for people to get together and talk about important issues of the day, via Zoom, want to use FVCC’s Zoom account for this purpose. He asked if anyone would have an issue with using the Zoom account. Sharon Chamard said this would not cost us anything because the Zoom account can handle additional meetings. Leslie Kleinfeld asked how the word would get out about these to people in the neighborhood. Allen Kemplen said we could use the Federation of Community Councils email distribution list. Tom Begich said his office could assist too. Sharon Chamard said notification could also be put on the Friends of Fairview Community Council Facebook page. Leslie Kleinfeld asked what sorts of themes would be discussed. Allen Kemplen said he has three ideas: 1) dialogue about the Fairview Innovation Area; 2) the impact of social media on community; and 3) climate disruption and how we can adapt.
- Contract awarded to HDR Alaska for Fairview Planning and Environmental Linkages Study.

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee, \$3,000 donation Current balances:

General \$260; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$7930. Total \$9,477

Presentations

Chris Crawford – Update on Trunk-or-Treat Hallowe’en event

Version of event adapted for current situation. Seeking donations for various items for putting in bags for the kids, the kids will pick them up at the school. Need donations by Oct. 23rd.

Ray Flores from Shirts Up! – Marketing and branding proposal

Ray not here, but we shared the webpage showing the different product options. Some feedback: different colors for the shirts/hoodie – black, green, fireweed

Permit submitted to DOT to construct community garden at 14th and Ingra. Hopefully will be able to finalize design and move forward with construction in April/May. This upcoming summer will be busy, also improvements at Westchester Park.

Unfinished Business

- Fairview Community Council Resolution 2020-02, Encouraging Anchorage Assembly to Support Immigration of Hong Kong Residents to Fairview

It was moved by Sharon Chamard and seconded by Emma Hill to approve the resolution. After lengthy discussion the motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by SJ Klein and seconded by another member to extend the meeting to 9 pm. No objection.

Deena Mitchell – Anchorage School Board

Trying to figure out how to get schools started again, concerns about students' mental health.

SJ Klein – online education is frustrating, but I understand the hard decisions the district has to make. We are considering shifting to home schooling, but we don't want resources taken away from our local school. Deena Mitchell – you have to do what is best for your child. If a student goes to homeschooling outside of district, we lose about \$3,000. Better for child to stay in ASD-run home schooling program.

Deena Mitchell – a request was made to honor Senator Bettye Davis by renaming a school, possibly Fairview Elementary, after her. She learned there was not perhaps good outreach to Fairview, and thinks it's good to delay and consider more.

Tom Begich – the Kenai Peninsula Borough passed a resolution asking that the state hold the school district harmless from reduction in student count. Is there a similar effort underway in Anchorage?

Deena Mitchell – we have drafted such a resolution, but not sure where it stands now.

Christopher Constant – what is the process for naming schools? Deena Mitchell – there is supposed to be a committee made up of community members, going to community councils, churches, other community groups. She will send us the policy.

James Thornton – has some co-workers with kids in ASD who are failing, when in the past they have been good students. Are there analytics on student performance and help for students who are failing?

Deena Mitchell – we have data on engagement, but it is hard to measure that. Have heard this anecdotally from a number of people. It's a concern. It's difficult to do online education, some students do well, but not everyone.

Dora Wilson – last year when kids were doing online there was tutoring available. Are those resources available this year? Deena Mitchell – will look into it.

Dora Wilson – is it correct that the virtual programs will not be an option once schools reopen for families who don't want to send kids back to school? Deena Mitchell – students can do homeschooling, traditional schooling, or virtual schooling. Students who signed up for traditional, even though it is currently virtual, will not have the option to stay with that classroom teacher and continue with virtual

because it is too much for the teachers to do both. Students can shift to virtual, but would be with a different teacher.

Celeste Growden – the Alaska Black Caucus wants East High to be named after Bettye Davis. My understanding is that will be a vote on Oct 20. Deena Mitchell – it's on the schedule. Celeste Growden – a survey was sent to members of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Fairview, many of whom don't live in Fairview. The process was horrible and didn't follow their own policies. We've been waiting for two years already. Deena Mitchell – suggest we postpone it so we can get more community input. We can step back, do a more thorough vetting. But she expects, based on what School Board members said in previous meetings, that at the October 20 meeting it will be decided to name Fairview Elementary School after Bettye Davis. She thinks it is more appropriate to name East High, the most diverse high school in the country and a school in Davis's district, after her rather than Fairview Elementary.

It was moved by Sharon Chamard and seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld to authorize the FVCC President to send a letter to the Anchorage School District and Board expressing our concern about the process that has been used to come to this recommendation. No opposition to the motion.

- Fairview Community Council Resolution 2020-05 regarding updating the Fairview Neighborhood Plan to include the Fairview Greenway and the Fairview Innovation Area – tabled to next month

New Business

- Fairview Community Council Resolution 2020-07 in support of the Municipal Local Landmark Register Ordinance – introduced

Community Comments

None.

Adjournment 9:06 PM