

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020 — 7:00-8:51 PM
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84049110076>

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved by SJ Klein, seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld, no objection to approval.

Approval of October 2020 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Moved by Karen Gonne-Harrell, seconded by SJ Klein, no objection to approval.

Elected Officials

Senator Tom Begich

- 358,000 ballots cast in the election, this is a record 60% turnout. Some ballots are still being counted. The vast majority were cast by early voting. About 43,000 left to count.
- The Governor sent out a request today asking people to wear masks, avoid going out, keep a distance. He is going to issue a new emergency order on November 16th, but the new order will be illegal and will likely be litigated. He could have extended the existing order, but this would have involved bringing back the legislature, and Gov. Dunleavy didn't want to do this.
- COVID cases are increasing, as are deaths. We have found ways to work around the virus. Distributing the vaccine will require a complicated infrastructure because it must be kept extremely cold.
- Confident there will be a bipartisan coalition in the Senate.
- One group of people just want to come down and work on a budget, but there is a need also to work on policy issues, i.e., education, medical system, election processes, energy, criminal justice reform

Rick Phillips – state income tax? Tom – I am planning to introduce one, but it will not pass, and even if it does pass, the Governor will veto it. Will propose something that will take a portion of your federal income tax. It appears to be a flat tax, but it is actually progressive. It will exclude low-income, and will capture high-income retirees but not low-income retirees.

Grace Kubitz on behalf of Representative Zack Fields

Tristan has been working hard on helping people with UI and CARES Act grant funding. Zack has held hearings in the last couple of months on workplace safety and contracts coming out of the administration. Zack sends his apologies for not being able to attend.

SJ Klein – What is Rep. Fields trying to achieve with helping people with UI and CARES Act? I am an employer and it is getting harder and harder to find employees, which I must have in order to spend PPP funds. Grace Kubitz – For UI, it was working with specific constituents. CARES Act funding was similar, helping businesses work through the process.

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

- New acting mayor, Austin Quinn-Davidson. We didn't call for a special election, but there has been opposition to this from the Eagle River Assembly people and some Anchorage residents. The election will happen on April 3rd.
- Budget process will probably close next week, maybe the week after. In two conferences right now, National League of Cities and the Music City conference, trying to make Anchorage a Music City.
- On Monday, there will be discussion about extending emergency orders until December 1st. There will be a lot of opposition.
- We expect closing on two or three of the properties the Muni wants to buy for housing and treatment services. The Save Anchorage people are upset because these services are coming to their neighborhoods for the first time ever. This was all done to protect other parts of the city from continued concentration of homeless services.
- The Fairview Community Recreation Center might become an emergency homeless shelter.
- There is an ordinance moving through Planning and Zoning and the Assembly to create a licensing process for emergency shelters. This will also allow shelters to go into B-3 zones.
- Drug dealing off 5th Ave reported to me. CAP Team is responding. Please let me know if there are further problems.
- There is support among the membership of all of the community councils in Constant's district to continue the emergency order. A poll of Anchorage businesses found that 145 of 180 support a mask mandate. Despite the protests of a small but vocal opposition, we have a pretty rational community.
- Pfizer announced they have a vaccine in 4th stage. It should be on the market in the middle of December. Practically speaking, there may be enough doses for the public around April 2021. We are in the COVID fatigue stage, and we have more cases than we have had in the past. We just need to pull together and we can get through this.

Questions:

Rick Phillips – Is there a mask mandate for retail businesses? Chris Constant – Yes, there is one for inside all businesses. We are hiring three or four more code enforcement officers to enforce the mandate. Voluntary compliance is important. Reports of non-compliance can be made to www.muni.org/ancworks.

Kristine Bunnell – Are they still doing contact tracing? Chris Constant – Yes, it is happening, but it is overwhelming. There is no way to trace the cases unless we had a massive testing scheme. But they are doing direct contact tracing on positive cases as best they can. We are at the point of massive community spread.

Allen Kemplen – What about the use of convention centers as shelters? Chris Constant – They must have a shower, and the recreation centers have those, not the convention centers.

James Thornton – Any news on the use of CARES Act funding for porta-potties? Chris Constant – Not likely, but it may end up on a bond for the spring. But I don't know what will happen with bonds this year. But we should be able to get portable toilets set up if they are requested for "wet" areas.

James – Will the state be shutting down services like DMV? Chris Constant – Don't think so. Also don't think the state will be requiring masks. James Thornton – Are there exemptions for masks for people

going into businesses? Chris Constant – Not since last Monday. If they can't wear a mask they have to wear a face shield.

Leslie Kleinfeld – Can you explain more about licensing for shelters? Chris Constant – Many similar facilities require licensing. We are working to develop a set of reasonable standards. Leslie Kleinfeld – Is the intention to house homeless people in smaller houses? Chris Constant – No, that is more like transitional housing. This would focus on emergency congregate shelters. Must have a responsible plan for operating and a plan for communication with the neighborhood.

Dave Rittenberg – Do we have clarity on a timeline for the shelter licensing, like a new draft? Chris Constant – It was supposed to be out this week, but the entire legal team has been tied up. It should be soon. The Title 21 process can't be completed before Feb or March.

Dave Rittenberg – re: use of Egan Center for shelter, recommend that smaller groups be housed, should not use large facilities, they should be right-sized for the facility and the neighborhood. Chris Constant – CDC came up here and did an analysis after first wave of COVID in homeless – they said spend more on individual units for shelter rather than congregate shelters, but they don't pay for the added staffing needed for doing that. We are committed to doing this though. Licensing requirements are for congregate shelters.

Anchorage School Board member Margo Bellamy

- Superintendent suspended in-person learning. Had planned to bring back K-2 and special learning kids. Want to bring kids back, but it's not the right time. Have COVID among adults in some of the buildings, and are dealing with this school by school. ASD doesn't do tracing, but will do notification. Sometime within next week you will be able to track COVID cases in the district on their website.
- We joined the muni in giving out flu shots. 2,000 by November 3rd last year, 13,000 by November 3rd this year.
- Continuing to run small reading programs in seven Title I schools, up until next Monday.
- Continuing free meals at some locations.
- Strategic planning town hall Nov. 19th 6-7 pm. Collect community feedback on draft goals related to reading, math, and readiness for college/careers/life.
- Sponsoring free training for people interested in running for three positions on the Anchorage School Board on November 18th 5:30-7 pm.
- November is Alaska Native and American Indian month. Asking people to wear regalia every Tuesday. There will be family story time every Tuesday from 6-7 pm. November 20th is a community-wide "Rock your Mocks" day. [recording]

Chris Constant – Thank you Margo and others on the School Board for all the tough decisions you all have had to make. Margo Bellamy – will pass that on.

Allen Kempen – We are still interested in Fairview Elementary as a STEAM school. Want to testify at town hall. Margo Bellamy – repeated info about the town hall.

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

- We received a copy of the proposed ordinance changes to Title 23. Already discussed by Chris Constant.
- We filed paperwork with DOT requesting the permit for the Community Gardens at 14th and Ingra.
- Re: Eastchester Park improvements, Anchorage Parks Foundation has moved all projects back a year. We can work on this project and the Community Gardens next summer.
- A draft resolution was circulated to community councils about process for reopening schools, but this has been put on hiatus.

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee

Current balances:

General \$253; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$7930. Total \$9,470

Presentations

Maria Crawford – update on Trunk-or-Treat Hallowe'en event

This was the third year; it was very successful. Thank you to everyone who donated. We put together 450 treat bags; 391 shared on the day of drive-through homework pickup. 59 additional bags were shared with Children's Lunchbox along with extra candy that couldn't fit into the bags.

Thank you to our donors: Alaska Buds (Tammy Miller), Anchorage Community Land Trust (Radhika and Allie), Carrs Gambell, Fairview Elementary School staff, IBEW, NECA (Dora Wilson), Philanthropic Educational Organization Chapter C (Carol Waters and Debbie Cameron), Polynesian Association of Alaska, Secret Garden (James Thornton), Shirts Up! (Ray Flores and Chris Barraza), Twisted Branch Photography, Catherine DeCasse, John Spray, and Leslie Kleinfeld.

Fairview Elementary is planning a family appreciation night for Thanksgiving on November 19th. They want to do a turkey giveaway along with sides, etc. for forty families. Northrim Bank is trying to donate the turkeys, but there is a turkey shortage. Still need donations of sides and non-perishable items, individually-wrapped treats, and snacks by Nov. 16th.

Cheryl Charic, Intensive Services Director, Alaska Behavioral Health – services for homeless people in Fairview and Anchorage

Our organization's name changed in June from Anchorage Community Mental Health Services. The team is passionate about helping people with housing disruptions. We rolled out an ACT team in July and PATH services (focus is on people in camps). If you come across campers, you can call us and we will go talk to them. ACT is very intensive, multi-disciplinary teams, hope to run 24-7. Working with Home for Good project since May which targets highest-vulnerability people in terms of arrests, EMS contacts, and emergency room admissions. This model pays service providers for success. Run by United Way, pays provider only when the people are housed, not like other models where providers are paid to provide services.

SJ Klein – The Muni is tracking where the camps are and has a team that goes to the camps. If we contact you, would two groups go out? Cheryl Charic – We do work with the Mobile Intervention Team.

They go out there first, they go multiple times a week, we go out with them to the camps, the PATH people are a mid-term program to help people through various processes to get them stabilized.

SJ Klein – When are you going to change the sign on your building? Cheryl Charic – We are possibly moving to a new building off Arctic, so we might not change the sign.

Leslie Kleinfeld – Do your teams work with the police to deal with mental health issues? Cheryl Charic – APD is adding more social workers, so there will be one available for all shifts. Their goal is to hand people off to us, so we can walk them through processes on a mid- to long-term basis so they can be stabilized.

Denise Knapp – What is your contact information? Cheryl Charic – Main number is 563-1000, Ingra building is Option 5.

Jasmine Alleva – You said you might be leaving the existing building. Will you all be going back to Folker Street? Cheryl Charic – We might be going to location on Arctic. But many of our workers are mobile and will still be servicing people in Fairview. We just won't have a building here.

Allen Kemplen – Do you provide housing? Cheryl Charic – No, we work with clients who are housed, some of them are in Fairview. Allen Kemplen – I strongly encourage your organization to start advocating for a strategic housing plan with a 10-15 year scope. We need to begin to think strategically about meeting the housing needs for less advantaged in our community.

Unfinished Business

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

Moved by Sharon Chamard and seconded by Denise Knapp to approve the resolution.

Allen Kemplen – both these things, the Fairview Greenway and the Fairview Innovation Area, provide incentives for new investment. When we did our original neighborhood plan, these weren't on the table. Since then, they've been introduced and makes a lot of sense.

Chris Constant – Fairview tax abatement is expiring in a couple of years. Have begun process to extend it for ten years.

SJ Klein – the Fairview PEL is starting soon and they will be looking at documents like the neighborhood plan, it makes sense to pass this now.

James Thornton – with everything we are facing now as a country and a world, it is good to have a positive future to think about for all the people here. It is a nice change from the negative things we usually hear about.

The resolution passed as presented with no objection.

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

Kristine Bunnell gave a brief description of the resolution. It provides a process for historic properties, local landmarks, historical districts, and other cultural resources to be nominated and registered, but only with permission of the owner. It is different from the federal register because things don't need to

be that old, and also things other than properties can be registered. Allows us to celebrate our unique history and culture.

Moved by Leslie Kleinfeld, seconded by Karen Gonne-Harrell.

The resolution passed as presented with no objection.

New Business

Holiday get together after December 10 meeting – Orca Street cul-de-sac, bring chairs, fire pits, food, etc.

Report and Updates

Sharon Chamard reported that as of last week, she is the new chair of the Municipal Airport Aviation Advisory Commission. She encouraged the council to reach out to the Merrill Field manager, Ralph Gibbs, to set up a working group to discuss how CARES Act funding can be used for mutually-beneficial items, such as landscaping along Orca Street.

Community Comments

Kristine Bunnell – The Muni is ready to kick off Downtown Step 2. This is the update to the Downtown Comprehensive Plan. We will be doing virtual meetings, and are looking at extending the core downtown boundary, maybe all the way over to Ingra. This might potentially mean the Downtown zoning districts might extend as well.

Moved by James Thornton and seconded by Sharon Chamard to extend meeting. Allen Kemplen extended meeting by 10 minutes.

Leslie Kleinfeld - Question about Fairview Dialogues. Allen Kemplen – We will be talking about how Anchorage can respond to big changes happening now. The purpose is to get people chatting about these changes so we can be resilient.

Adjourned at 8:51 PM