

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

General Membership Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2021 — 7:00-9:04 PM

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

Please note that it is likely this meeting will be recorded and streamed on social media by entities unaffiliated with the Fairview Community Council

Call to Order

Welcome and Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Moved by SJ Klein, seconded by Dave Rittenberg. Several changes, no objection to agenda with those changes.

Approval of January 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Moved by Jerome Lopes, seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld. One change noted by Leslie Kleinfeld to the name of her business, Fit4Life changed to Fit for Health. No objection to minutes with that change.

Elected Officials

Brix Hahn on behalf of Senator Tom Begich

The House organized today. The Governor's current executive order will expire this week. When this happens, several protections will go away. The Governor is Bills Senator Begich is working on include Preparing Readers and Educating Kids Act (SB 8), and a bill providing free tuition to essential workers (SB 10). If you have any capital requests please send them to Senator Begich as soon as possible.

Comment from Allen Kemplen – Read in ADN that Governor Dunleavy is passing authority for emergency orders to legislature. Brix Hahn – before today the House wasn't organized and you need both houses to pass legislation to extend emergency orders.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – What do you mean "vaccines will go away"? Brix Hahn – I meant that vaccines will be limited. A by Tristan Walsh – Governor is putting this into legislatures lap. Would support an extension of the emergency orders. But the bill has been delayed on the Senate side. Clock runs out on Monday. Now that House is organized, it should be able to pass the bill.

Q from David Rittenberg – last month he requested that SB 10 include people who work in "safety net" services to be included as essential workers for purposes of free tuition. A from Brix Hahn – will check and get back to you.

Tristan Walsh on behalf of Representative Zack Fields

Rep. Fields nominated Rep. Stutes as chair, but the House is still not fully organized. The coalition might grow beyond those who voted for Stutes.

Bills to be introduced include one concerning a child care tax credit, and the Performance scholarship (changes to how much tuition the different levels will cover). Another bill is with Rep. Shaw to increase funding for the Port. Stimulus - State government of Alaska will receive about \$1B with about \$270M going directly to municipalities. There will be a capital budget; please let us know what your priorities are. We are helping people navigate PPP and unemployment. Q from Allen Kemplen – will there be an appropriation from the legislature for capital projects, or will there just be bonds put in front of the voters? A from Tristan Walsh – Right now it is mostly bonds. It is not a huge capital budget, but it's good to get your top two or three community council priorities in as soon as possible.

Senator Tom Begich – they absolutely need our votes to pass budget, will focus on capital budget, want to get meritorious projects into CAPSIS. The faster we get the list the better the chance we can get them

in the budget. It's also important for bonding, because they might be on the special election ballot in the summer.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – Alaska has done a phenomenal job getting people vaccinated. Why doesn't Governor want to continue the emergency order? Tom Begich – There is no reason for him to violate his constitutional obligation to protect the life, health and safety of Alaskans. He can't pass it to the legislature because the legislature can't vote on it because house isn't organized.

Q from Dave Rittenberg – will non-profit safety net services be included in SB 10? Tom Begich – yes, they will be included in the version that is coming before the Education Committee.

Anchorage Assembly member Christopher Constant

American Rescue Plan is moving quickly through Congress. It identifies about \$100M for Anchorage out of \$1B for Alaska; this is about 20% of municipal budget. These funds can be used for revenue replacement. We have appropriated money and opened a new program for residential rent relief. It will allow people who qualify to have up to 12 months of rent relief, broken up into three-month blocks. Checks will be written to landlords, not to tenants. Have spent \$20M on rent relief so far, and it has been successful in keeping people housed.

Funds from the American Resecure Plan can be used for revenue relief, but focus should be not so much on reducing property taxes but helping where there is genuine need. Will want to support tourism industries, owners and especially employees.

New employee being hired by the Municipality. It is the Chief Equity Officer – intended to create a new division of people to ensure that government investments are being made in a more equitable manner – to lift all boats. The position will report to mayor and Assembly. People should apply, even if they don't meet the published qualifications. Life experience can be taken into account.

Last Assembly meeting – proposal to convert emergency orders to ordinance. Chris did not support permanently encoding things like a mask mandate. After a long debate it was postponed indefinitely. There was also conversation about what is acceptable Assembly member behavior. Muni code has a process detailing how to remove an Assembly member. The intent was to not politicize Assembly process. The body agreed to postpone that item.

Muni code doesn't prohibit people living in their cars on private property (re: concern by Kristin Riall)

Q from Allen Kemplen – Congress and the federal administration are working on a fairly large infrastructure bill. Christopher Constant – The Secretary of Transportation has committed to visit Alaska. In initial conversations after his confirmation, he said his goals are to undo historic inequities and other damages caused by past transportation decisions that hurt communities of color. Christopher is planning to give him a good understanding of these issues in Fairview and Anchorage.

Anchorage School Board member Andy Holleman

Elementary school is open for face-to-face now. Some classes have been made remote again, but this is not affecting other classes in the same school. Positivity rate for COVID is declining in Anchorage. Middle school and high school will be back about the end of the first week of March for the start of the 4th quarter. There won't be any ASD bonds this year; last year we proposed a two-year bond package. Greuning School is going to be rebuilt and will be reopened. It has been closed since the earthquake.

Standing Reports

President Allen Kemplen

We may be back on track for our summer activities – improvements down at Eastchester Park. There will be opportunities to volunteer and meet your neighbors. We have put together a request for artist proposals for utility box wraps and expect to see proposals before the council by May. There will also be

planting of birch trees along 20th Avenue to help define the park a little better. Another part of the proposal is to build an information kiosk using logs, but may not happen this summer.

We have a request into DOT for a permit to use the vacant lot at 14th and Ingra for a community garden and are continuing to move forward with that process and to think about a design. If we can get the permit this summer, it will be another opportunity to volunteer and help build something of value for our neighborhood.

Treasurer Sharon Chamard

\$7 bank fee

Current balances:

General \$232; Comm. Dev. \$1013; Beautification \$274; A Better Fairview \$7930. Total \$9,449

Fairview Elementary School Bike Reading Program – currently \$1,550

Presentations

Renee Whitesell, DOWL – 36th Ave. project update (Mid-Town Congestion Relief)

Dowl is working with DOT on 36th interchange project. The Mid-Town Congestion Relief Planning and Environmental Linkages (MCR PEL) study looked at New Seward between Fireweed Lane and Tudor. The 36th interchange is a combination of 2 of the recommended 5 projects from the MCR PEL. It recommended surface transportation improvements to create a frontage road network for local traffic and a grade-separated interchange at 36th Avenue to separate the New Seward traffic from the local traffic. DOT is moving forward with that interchange project right away. We are in the early stages of considering alternative configurations for the intersection. There will be a virtual (on Zoom) open house on March 16. More information is available at <http://www.36thinterchange.com/>.

Q from SJ Klein – what is the status of the MCR PEL study? Has it been approved by the state/AMATS/and/or the Federal Highway Administration? If not what is holding it up? Renee Whitesell – the study is complete. It was delivered to the state and presented to AMATS. Don't know where it is in the formal ratification process.

Q from Leslie Kleinfeld – what is the conception to how to get pedestrians to safely cross the Seward Highway at Northern Lights? Renee Whitesell – that is not part of this particular project, it just is from Tudor to Benson. Q – does that section include a way for pedestrians to cross? A – will be tying into existing crossings. Suggest you make comments to the project team.

Sandra Millhouse – change of ownership of Retail Marijuana Establishment license for Alaska Tasty Cannabis – we are planning to upgrade 811 E. 6th. Will ask for guidance on landscaping. Also looking for a home in the neighborhood. SJ Klein – last year the guy who started Alaska Tasty Cannabis came to our meeting and promised some wonderful things. He said he would donate funds to support Fairview organizations, but he never did. There were expectations in the Neighborhood Responsibility Plan. The licensee failed to come to any council meetings since the initial meeting wherein we did not object to the license. SJ Klein moved that the council objects to transfer of the license because the current licensee did not comply with the Neighborhood Responsibility. Seconded by Leslie Kleinfeld. Comments by Leslie – thinks the new owner should have to put together a new Neighborhood Responsibility Plan, we should not just take the existing one. Colleen Howard – what is the goal of the motion? SJ – to clearly communicate to the Assembly that we oppose transfer of the license. It puts license holders on notice that they have obligations that we take seriously. Jerome Lopes – agrees that new potential owner

should get an opportunity to put together her own NRP. We need to give her a chance to present to our community. Eric Montoya – a license transfer is treated like a whole new license. He has put together new plans for the new licensee Canna Get Happy. The new owners are long-standing business owners with good relationships with other councils. Karen Gonne-Harrell – can we make the license transfer conditional if they have a new plan. We can look at their performance in other neighborhoods. Allen – perhaps the mover and seconder would agree to postpone the motion until next month to give the petitioner a chance to produce the NRP and share with council. SJ – Think Sandra has good intentions, want to welcome her to the neighborhood. SJ Klein moves to table the motion under consideration until March meeting. Sandra – I understand everyone’s frustrations. Previous owner didn’t do a lot of things. Eager to get the license changed to a new name. Leslie Kleinfeld seconds the motion. No objection.

Sharon Chamard moved, Dave Rittenberg seconded, to extend meeting until 9:00 pm. No objection.

Unfinished Business

Fairview Community Council Resolution 2020-08 requesting the Municipality of Anchorage to modify its Snow Management Plan for the Karluk and Medfra Street hills south of 15th Avenue to resolve an unsafe pedestrian streetscape issue and to provide a safe snow-free sidewalk throughout the winter

Allen Kemplen – this will be moved to next month because presenter from Street Maintenance was not arranged.

Fairview Community Council Resolution 2021-02 regarding public comments on the AMATS Non-motorized Plan

Moved by SJ Klein and seconded by Jerome Lopes to adopt the resolution. SJ Klein moves to amend the resolution to add additional items Appendix A. New item 6 would state “The pedestrian amenities along both sides of Ingra and Gambell are inadequate to the non-motorized usage of those streets.” New item 7 would state “The pedestrian and other non-motorized access to transit infrastructure is inadequate throughout the neighborhood, especially when compared to the primary transit corridors called out in the Land Use Plan Map.” Leslie Kleinfeld seconds. No discussion, no opposition to motion to amend. Discussion on motion. Kristine Bunnell says item 3 should be amended to read “Anchorage **2040** Land Use Plan.” Leslie Kleinfeld moves and SJ Klein seconds an amendment to that effect. No discussion, no opposition to motion to amend. No discussion on main motion, no opposition to approval.

New Business

None

Report and Updates

Dana Giliam – We’ll be sending out a notice to neighbors in the area about our proposal to set up marijuana dispensary at 13th and Hyder Street. Our presentation at the council will be next month.

Kristine Bunnell – regarding the 2nd stage of the Downtown Comprehensive Plan. This is important for Fairview because the area includes part of Fairview. You contribute housing to Downtown, you contribute economically to Downtown. You have the Deteriorated Properties Investment Area which borders Downtown. We’ll be taking about incentives and redevelopment in the entire study area. The

project kicked off in the last week of January. We are continuing with stakeholder meetings and will have a public meeting in April. See www.ourdowntownanchorage.com for presentations and recordings.

Maria Crawford – The Fairview Elementary School reading challenge ended on January 31. Winners will be announced tomorrow at the school. We'll get their measurements for helmets. We may also be able to get bike locks at wholesale price.

Dave Rittenberg – There was a vaccine clinic at Brother Francis Shelter and they vaccinated half of their guests.

Lindsey Hajduk – in chat box - NeighborWorks Alaska is co-hosting a Mayoral Candidate forum next week (with many other nonprofits). It'll be focused on trails, parks, climate, economy. Please join us!
<https://www.facebook.com/events/791520654780295> WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021 AT 5 PM AKST
– 6:30 PM AKST

Community Comments

Elections are next month.

Adjourn 9:04 pm