

## **Airport Heights Community Council Minutes – April 15, 2021 Meeting**

**Attendance:** Ashley Lehman; Karlene and Darin Leeper; LaVerne M - 20th Ave; Ashley - Aleutian, Barbara Karl - 16th Ave; Carolyn Ramsey - Columbine, Genevieve Mina - E 20th Ave, Rayette Sterling - Sunrise; Paige; Brita Mjos; Emily Becker - E 20th Ave.; Gino Graziano; Joan Fisher; Larry Hayden; Steve Colt; Joy Boston - JBER; Christine Schuette (AMATS); Katie Conway (DOWL); Sean Baski (DOT&PF); Tim Stallard; Mike Webb (Airport Heights Elementary Principal); Assembly Member Meg Zalatel; Assembly Member Felix Rivera; School Board Member Margo Bellamy; Representative Geran Tarr - 18th Ave; Senator Tom Begich.

The meeting was called to order via ZOOM by President Carolyn Ramsey. A quorum was present.

**Agenda and Minutes** - Barbara Karl moved to accept the agenda. Genevieve Mina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Karl also moved to accept the minutes from March. Genevieve Mina seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Assembly Member Meg Zalatel** - Updated on EO-19<sup>1</sup>, the Municipality of Anchorage Emergency Order which the Assembly extended until June 11, 2021. Changes include amended biweekly reports, the Emergency Operations Center moving to the Office of Emergency Management, vaccines and testing moving to the Health Department. Over 800 people are using the mass municipal shelter. EO-20 will be out on late Friday, which updates social distancing and masking. Want to clarify that 70% vaccination is not the only target, and these goals are advisory, not mandatory.

**Assembly Member Felix Rivera** - Discussed Title 21 update and public process related to B-3 zones, which would allow homeless and transit shelters. The Planning and Zoning Commission says there is not enough land for shelters, which is currently zoned as PLI (Public Lands and Institutions). Zoning update will be ready in May. Assembly Members Zalatel and Weddleton have a companion ordinance draft which will be heard in the Committee on Housing and Homelessness. Updated on COVID-19 relief through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). ARPA funds for Anchorage will be approximately \$100 million. Half of the money will be received by May 10, with approximately \$50.5 million received next year. State of Alaska will receive \$1.1 billion. There will be no future meetings in the near future on ARPA funds because the Assembly is waiting on the amount from the Treasury Department and the State of Alaska.

Opportunity to provide COVID-19 relief feedback and ideas here: <https://assembly-cares-act-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>. The emailed response goes to all members.

**School Board Member Margo Bellamy** - There will be in-person graduation on Monday, May 10. Some families may be able to offer more tickets than others depending on space availability; ASD

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.muni.org/covid-19/documents/final%20signed%20eo19.pdf>

Superintendent will send updates to families. Kindergarten round up will do virtual info sessions, with the next session on April 22 and April 26. There will be summer school with online learning.<sup>2</sup> Also updated that 87% of ASD staff is COVID-19 vaccinated. Next ASD School Board Meeting is April 22, with four new school board members elected. Answered question on graduation, saying Superintendent will send a letter about mitigating situations that drives numbers; graduation ceremony protocols will depend on the outdoor stadium space and the school.

**Senator Tom Begich** - Reported on ARPA. Governor will release a template tomorrow on how \$1.9 billion will be spent. Looking at infrastructure investment and focusing two years on job creation. Senator Begich is looking at capital projects to do an allocation in each senate district. Working on amendments on universal pre-K and early education with a 10 year sunset. Want to use CARES ACT funds for free tuition for essential workers, including temporary and permanently unemployed; Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund for tuition at University of Alaska, Prince William Sound, and AVTEC. Governor Dunleavy introduced a clean energy bill to fund green energy through AIDEA, with updates to clean energy targets. Answered question on school bond debt reimbursement for the 2015 and earlier bonds, saying it is not likely for past debt reimbursement, although budgets do have fully funding of school debt reimbursement, and if the Governor deletes those funds, he will replace them with some of the \$1 billion from ARPA.

**Representative Geran Tarr** - Announced update to constituent survey which received hundreds of responses. Feedback includes: need for utility relief, with many using rental and mortgage relief; funding priorities for pre-K, and addressing budget cuts to road maintenance and tourism; more respondents supporting a progressive income tax than sales tax. Currently has an Alaska Invasive Species Council bill with an upcoming hearing in House Resources. Also introduced HB 173, which addresses restorative justice focuses on racial disparities, education, and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

#### **PTA Report and Resolution Introduction for Principal Webb - Update -**

AHCC Resolution 2021-1 was presented to the council by Airport Heights PTA member Zack Zaletal. The resolution is titled "A RESOLUTION OF THE AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND AIRPORT HEIGHTS PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZING AIRPORT HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY FOR ITS EXEMPLARY RESPONSE TO COVID-19."

Barbara Karl moved to adopt the resolution. Genevieve Mina seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

Principal Webb spoke on difficulties with staffing and substitute teachers. Working on developing partnerships for kids, and expanding curriculum beyond math and basics. PTA also has \$2,500 to work on habits of mind and developing non-academic skills, such as gardening.

**Mayday Tree Smackdown** - Tim Stallard, contractor with Anchorage interagency invasive species projects, along with Gino Graziano, updated on invasive species in Tikishla Park. Only option is systemic

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18116>

herbicides as a last resort. Need a statement of non objection from the Council to move forward. Tim and Gino will work on language for the Council to pass next month.

### **36th and the New Seward Interchange Resolution -**

President Ramsey introduced AHCC Resolution 2021-2. The resolution is titled “A RESOLUTION OF THE AIRPORT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL REGARDING THE SEWARD HIGHWAY: 36th INTERCHANGE PROJECT.”

Sean Baski from DOT&PF answered any questions regarding the resolution. Says there is a high probability incoming federal infrastructure funds will help fund this project and other projects along the highway; however, there are more needs across the state than available funding. More federal funds will not expedite the process because there are still requirements like environmental assessment.

Barbara Karl moved to adopt the resolution. Genevieve Mina seconded the motion. The motion passed with 9 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

**CIP List for Introduction** - Will update during next meeting in May.

**Erin Whitney, Chugach Board Candidate** - President Ramsey noted that Erin asked about Council needs and discussed undergrounding utilities in the neighborhood. Steve Colt spoke on behalf of Erin, a colleague at Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP). Voting starts Friday, April 16. Ballots will be mailed and emailed on Friday, and those materials will have a link to vote and a confidential voter number. Other info: You can request a paper ballot by calling their customer service line: (907) 563-7366. There won't be a link to vote on Chugach's website until the 23rd, so until then it has to be done directly through the link sent in the email.

Chugach members can register for the Chugach member meeting on May 18th here:

<https://www.chugachelectric.com/form/chugach-electric-virtual-meeting>

**President's Report** - Planning and Zoning Commission has a hearing coming up on Sec 21.03.1115 small area for flexibility and new land use for landowners and complex sites:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/AnchLandUse/SiteAssets/Pages/Action-2-11/PZC%202021-0039%20SAIP%20PHD%20Annotated%20Ordinance-Attach3.pdf>. This would turn zoning for R1, R2, R2M, B3, and B1 into parkland.

**FCC Report** - No update.

**Community Concerns** - Emily Becker has seeds in the seed library next to Tikishla Park. Assembly Member Zaletel is working on a long-range transportation plan with Assembly Member Weddleton.

Barbara moved to adjourn.