

## **Airport Heights Community Council Meeting**

**21 April 2022**

Attendees:

Carolyn Ramsay

Jena Ferrarese

Diane Harps

Meg Zalatel – Assembly / AH PTA designee

Mikhail Siskoff

Mark Sable

Tom Begich – Senator

Junior Aumavae – Mayor’s office

Löki Tobin – T. Begich’s office

Felix Rivera – Assembly for Midtown

Megan Moffitt – Equal Rights Commission

Emily Weiser – Sunrise Dr.

Drew Cason – running for State House in District on Nichols (?)

Joy Boston – JBER

Pete Petersen – Assembly for East Anchorage

Larry Hayden

Brita Mijos

Genevieve Mina

Stephanie Taylor – visiting

Rayette Sterling– Mtn View Library

Geran Tarr – State Rep

Karlene Leeper

Barbara Karl

Karen Walker

Forest Dunbar – Assembly for East Anchorage

Stephanie Warnock

Daniel Volland – going to run for new North Anchorage seat as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly rep, outside AH CC

Carl Jacobs – School Board

Steve Noble - Dowl

Chelsea Ward-Waller

Motion to approve agenda – Barbara; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Geran; unanimous consent

Motion to approve minutes – Barbara; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Geran; unanimous consent

Meg Z. – Assembly – AMATS has draft 2023-2026 TIP out for pre-release comment period. Idea is to influence policy council members so that last-minute changes can, hopefully, be avoided. Meg highlighted:

- \$ for pavement replacement list – Debarr to Glenn Hwy
- Pathways along Debarr to Glenn Hwy, Debarr to Airport Heights, Debarr to Boniface
- No new money proposed for Seward to Glenn in 2023-2026, waiting on PEL results
- No new money in TIP for Bragaw extension
- AMATS regional household survey – used for road use modeling – hasn't been updated since 2012 – slated to be included in TIP – would commence in 2023 (Oct)
- 3 signal/lighting upgrades in Downtown that may impact us downstream, but not specific to us
- Will be studying major corridors through Midtown: Minnesota, N Lights/Benson, Tudor (Covid funding may be driving ordering)
- Comments can be submitted

Meg Z. – PTA – may want to do a summer picnic event; we should coordinate with the school and community council

Felix R. – Assembly

- Reapportionment is finalized with AH split between East Anchorage, Midtown, and Downtown
  - Felix and Meg both voted no on map, but the majority passed it
  - Special election for Eastridge in June for new Assembly rep (2<sup>nd</sup> North Anchorage District rep); that person will be sworn in during July Assembly meeting
  - Voting under the new maps will take place in 2023
- Housing and Homelessness Implementation Status
  - Can access directly from Muni.org homepage
  - Single Adult Nav center – design and procurement phase – potentially awarding to Roger Hickel for construction management – appropriation coming before Assembly for \$6.2 mill to be debated on Apr 26 – work session for that appropriation on Apr 22 – listening session on Apr 25 – will be Sprung Structure – 6-8 weeks manufacturing time

which has already started – 20000 sq ft – 200 beds with surge capacity adding additional 130

- Sockeye Inn – shut down through June 1 for reno – reopen for complex care operations – Catholic Social Services will operate (they currently run Brother Francis as medical convalescence)
- Permanent Supportive/Workforce Housing – purchase and sale agreement very close – between 2 private parties so can't share name/location – Barrett Inn was originally considered but was rejected after due diligence
- Special Populations Housing – funding for potential hotel room leasing; waiting for State Senate funding approval
- Substance Abuse Treatment and Housing – Salvation Army facility on Cordova is being reopened after earthquake – continue to look at options for this one

Pete Petersen – Assembly – Chair of Ethics committee

- Will be certifying election on 26 Apr 2022
- APD released body camera policies

Forest Dunbar – this is his first meeting with us –

- FYI that other CCs he represents have lots of concerns about the East Anchorage navigation center and/or have passed resolutions in opposition. He is opposed to such a large structure and is actually voting against it because of his concerns.
- He's co-chair of the Budget Committee – work session 4/22 to discuss Mayor's revised budget and how it differs from Assembly-passed budget – will be part of 4/26 Assembly meeting

Senator Begich –

- Bond issue – says that if there is a GO Bond, there will not be a Bragaw Extension – he very much believes we won't see that happen
- Tikishla Park lighting project is looking good
- State reapportionment – the House map is confirmed with minor changes to AH – the Senate map is back under appeal and there are a couple different configurations that would put AH in different combos
- Senate passed SB111 (early education Pre-K bill), and committee is looking to move it quickly
- Budget
  - Operating budget crafted very similar to House
  - Hopefully will get Gov support
  - Begich is working with Gov to identify capital projects so hopefully the Gov won't veto them 😊
  - Lots of federal \$ coming in for capital projects
  - Budget is in good shape from a combo of factors (high oil prices, covid funds, etc.)
  - AMHS (ferries) has money coming in and will hopefully be modernized

Representative Tarr –

- Appreciates communication from all of us

- House operating budget passed
  - Unlike past years, this year have opportunity to make up for past cuts
  - Educating funding is priority for House majority
  - Raise Jury pay by 3x current amount (from \$25 to \$75)
  - Childcare capitalization bill

#### Carl Jacobs – ASD School Board

- We have a new Superintendent – Dr. Jerrod Bryant from Houston – May 15 is his start
- Countdown to Kindergarten program – in person even 4/22, online event 4/25
- Graduation coming
- Bylaws revision to require attendance at CC meetings is in motion – letters of support from individuals or CC would be welcome – Board will likely reorganize, and we will get a new rep from the School Board

#### Joy Boston – JBER

- Web 4/27 2:30 pm is next unaccompanied Veteran’s service at National Cemetery for deceased vets with no known next of kin
- Honor Flights will return April 30<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Ted Stevens
- Memorial Day “Anchorage Remembers” event at Delany Park Strip
- 2021 Report on JBER’s Economic Impact on Alaska is \$1.9 Billion input
- Arctic Thunder July 30-31

#### Megan Moffitt – Equal Rights Commission

- Muni law enforcement located in City Hall – contact by phone, email, or in-person
- Available for anyone in the Muni experiencing discrimination or wanting to learn more about discrimination law
- Anyone can call at any time
- Services are free and confidential (up to the point of filing)
- Can also provide referrals if they aren’t the right folks

#### Steve Noble – 36<sup>th</sup> Ave Interchange – Dowl

- Open house recently (this week) at Loussac Library
- Everything also posted to website; some minor changes will be uploaded soon
- Planning and Zoning Commission next – May 2<sup>nd</sup> is public hearing – short update and then time for public testimony
- Noise study this summer
- Next open house likely to be Fall, but unconfirmed

#### Seward to Glenn Resolution

- Barbara Karl – her impression is that the DOT is not totally against a cut and cover
- Carolyn – we want to do it right once and be done
- Yay - 17
- Nay - 0

- Abstention – 0
- Unanimous pass!

#### President's Report

- AH Picnic – June 11
  - John Whitlock is in charge of the picnic
  - Potluck-style
  - Time tbd?
- Tikishla Park grand opening with ribbon cutting and Ed Washington band - June 2, 6:30 pm
  - Are food trucks desired? Yes, but only room for one. Will request Yeti Dogs.
  - Food trucks cost \$, small wild scoops will be free.
  - UMed and TDM (transportation demand management study) – TDM looks at transportation as a whole in the district – all modes, who, what they are doing (work, school, etc.), shift times, etc. – then looks at how any given project impacts overall whole – awarded to group out of OR in conjunction with local advisors – Carolyn is on that advisory board – will be at least 1.5 years out

#### FCC report

- No one went
- Need a rep to attend
- They are Wednesday night before our meetings

#### Community Concerns

- Kalen – Unitarian Fellowship is having Earth Day event Apr 24<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 2pm – electronics recycling – air pressure tire check and pump up
- Rayette – Library events coming up – 27 Apr 2-5pm Connect – Friends of Library Book Sale 29/30/31 Apr – 30 Apr Día Del Ninos fair – Reading Rendezvous 14 May (same as Anchorage Folk Festival also at Loussac)
- Sen Begich – 24 Apr – Vic Fischer and Jack Coghill Day – Vic is last living delegate to the AK Constitution
- Daniel Volland – will be running for 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly seat (new North Anchorage seat). He's an eye doctor with a practice downtown and the vice president of the South Addition CC.

Motion to adjourn – Barbara; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Geran; unanimous consent