

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Sept. 8, 2022 — 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Call to Order - 7:01 pm

- Welcome and Introductions - 31 attendees with 7 guests
- Approval of September Agenda - Lindsey motions, James seconds
 - Amend agenda community comments after elected officials by SJ
- Approval of August 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes - motioned by Sharon, Loren seconds.

Elected Officials

- Senator Tom Begich
 - Reported on Read's Act - implementing universal pre-k and Indigenous education, etc. If the community is interested in the process, please reach out to the Begich office
 - Fairview PEL
 - Response from the DOT regarding the PEL website updates - indicated that there hasn't been an update due to nothing to update.
 - Working on the Mayor's suggestion for housing the homeless within Fairview and Spenard Rec Centers.

Questions/Comments

- SJ - Did we hear a response from the DOT? TB - answered above.
- Janel - is the delegation aware of the funding cuts to education? TB - Yes, we are aware. There is confusion regarding funds. \$57M outside of allocation, \$30M to Anchorage, reverse bonds are returning to Anchorage. Confused about the management of funds.
- Representative Zack Fields
 - Proposed school closures discussion - inflation funding has been added for the last four years. Yet, the Governor has adjusted this funding for the previous three years. This adds up to over \$20M. Many things were passed this year - the ASD has \$16M to roll into next year and \$100M in the capital. There has been declining enrollment in the last 4-8 years.
 - Alaska has the worst retirement for teachers in the United States.
 - Need inflation to adjust the BSA to meet the need.
 - Need support for social and homeless issues in the interests of the neighborhood. Focus on not having all services in a single neighborhood.
 - \$347K renovation capital for AWAKE shelter has passed.

Questions/Comments

- Stacey - FYI, our student numbers at Fairview Elementary are up quite a bit this school year.
- Janel - The state has left Anchorage to figure out the homeless issue, made it a city issue, and even more of a Fairview issue. Is there anything else happening on the state level to provide more appropriate low-income housing to help homelessness?
 - ZF - Bill passed the house to help fund childcare and a housing trust fund to complete more projects. Cook Inlet provides the most housing for low income, a failure in the state.
- SJ - is there any motion or action to increase funding to API?
 - ZF - there is a bill to work on the beds available. The state has cut capacity. API has not been privatized but needs to pass the bill to help. Hard to recruit and maintain staff due to pay.
 - CC - API max capacity was downsized from 150 to 75 in 2022. They have been operating with 25 or fewer clients.
- Owen H - The Alaska Housing Trust did receive an appropriation for standing up the structure and initial planning but did not receive an appropriation to the trust's endowment. If you are interested, www.alaskahousingtrust.org or email me at info@alaskahousingtrust.org
- Anchorage Assembly members Christopher Constant & Daniel Volland
 - Daniel
 - assembly to postpone muni clerk to not politicize elections.
 - Ordinance 411 and retail marijuana sales tax to go to early education will go to voters if passed.
 - Bring awareness to gynecologic cancers
 - There have been three confirmation hearings for roles that need to be filled.
 - When Allen writes the letter on the Fairview Rec Center, please send it to Harry Need. The South Addition CC wants to make a resolution of support
 - Chris

- Health department concerns and how to make sure issues like this will not happen again.
- The Muni manager is responsible for filling the library director position.
- Tudor and Elmore's site funding will be difficult.

Questions/Comments

- Janel - Also, will the HR director remain in place, given all the failures thus far in the health department?
 - Daniel - you can email the Mayor's office about this - this is something we don't have control over.
- Mayor's Representative - Portia
 - looking to have a conversation regarding the report of the Fairview Rec center option to house the homeless. Apologies to Sharon for miscommunicating in August that the FVRC wouldn't be an option. That has changed. The center is not the first choice; looking to use portables. Fairview and Spenard are on the list, looking to have something else by fall. The camp is closing, and there needs to be housing. Looking for buildings and reviewing permitting.
 - Emergency Shelter Plan from Administration:
https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Documents/Webpage%20-%20Committee%20on%20Housing%20and%20Homelessness/EmergencyShelterPlan_09072022.pdf

Questions/Comments

- SJ - there will be significant opposition to this plan from Fairview. Please let the Mayor's office know.
- CC - would recommend taking up the offer to meet with the chief of staff.
- Daniel V. - clarity on Mayor's press release - communicated that the rec centers are not the first choice. Having difficulty with this since this is the only option planned to date, even though it said it was the last option. Frustrating to assembly regarding portables, placement, and timeline. Need more info on the navigation center.
 - Portia - the end of November is the timeline to get a small number of individuals to the navigation center, working with the army corps of engineers. Correct on identified locations saying they would not be used but now will be used. We are trying to find locations as possible. At the 9/13 assembly meeting, there will be more information presented.
- Janel - said that doing the best but never mentioned not working with councils and homeless committees. Why is the Mayor not following the assembly plan that was in place? When will the damages to the Sullivan be fixed from the past shelter now that there are no more COVID funds? Who will repair the community damages as well?
 - Portia - the Mayor's office has been working with nonprofits and has worked hard to be with the community. We attend meetings and due diligence on responding to emails in the office. In terms of Sullivan arena, \$2.5M in ARPA funds for repairs can get more info. In operations and repairs after transition, funds are being held. Hoping that this will be a short stay and there will be other options.
- Karen - What is the hold up on the portables, and where will they be?
 - Portia - 20 portables can hold 10-12 individuals. Unable to provide more information at this time.
- SJ - I believe we need two resolutions tonight: First, defending our recreation center as the much-needed community resource it is. The second is advocating that Anchorage Parks and Recreation no longer have so much responsibility for responding to homelessness. Parks and Rec are intended to improve the quality of life for all Anchorage residents. Instead, we have Parks and Rec running Centennial, cleaning up after camps are abated. Now the facility is to be used as a shelter? We are suffering as the hours have been shortened. For example, we are meeting by zoom right now instead of in person...
- Sandra - Why is ONE building in ONE community the ONLY answer. It would seem if you put a small facility in each area, that would solve that argument for you.
- Loren - Considered any buildings in south Anchorage or the Hillside. Fairview has disbanded, and how can we begin to trust the Mayor's office and let us know how other neighborhoods got off the list.
 - Portia - be happy to share the building list. No South Anchorage facilities, some in Midtown.
- Sandra - If I could get the list of buildings available and deny for use, I'd like to take a common-sense approach.
- Maria - Mayor's press release about FVRC was released, and now the reading program and other events planned will end at the end of the month. Puts a damper on all community events until the spring. This impacts the children of the neighborhood. The indoor playground is to be shut down in the winter. What will happen to the staff that has minimal support? The other use of the Fairview Community Recreation Center for our neighbors experiencing food insecurity - Children's Lunchbox, the Food Bank, and others provide much-needed resources through our rec center daily, weekly, and monthly.
 - Portia - we are working with ASD on other options for activities.
- Charity - community partner for portables?
 - Portia - there is a partner, but more information will be released later.

- Janel - this is horrible!!!! Especially given the loss of bussing for ASD. I'm guessing they are going to have even more use since parents can't get their kids right after school due to lack of bussing
- SJ - revive dropped out of portables
 - Portia - they were looking for ARPA funds months back. These are different portables and projects.
- Sharon - what is the status of the Golden Lion?
 - Owen: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/Statement-From-Mayor-Dave-Bronson-2022-09-08.aspx>
- Charity - is Sullivan an option again?
 - Portia - no, this is not an option.
 - Chris C - This is a double standard if the Sullivan cannot be used just because of hockey since the rec center is also important. DOT is taking the Golden Lion and looking forward to a legal analysis of the letter. This building is empty and can be used.
- SJ - agreed that Rec centers shouldn't be used as shelters and wanted to lay a resolution on the table and send it to the Secretary for review. Inappropriate use of facilities to get assets back after COVID. When can we meet at your office?
 - Portia - in the next two weeks.
- Chris C - the chair can establish a process to call a meeting to get a timeline faster.
- James - a resolution to lay that the Fairview Rec Center should only be used as a rec center.
- Sharon - Point of Order From our by-laws: A resolution brought before the Council shall be voted on no earlier than the next regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting following the regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting at which the resolution is introduced and read.
- Karen - motion that the CC empowers the president to write a letter expressing disappointment in potentially losing the FVRC again. Janel and Sharon 1st and seconds.
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- Anchorage School Board member Kelly Lessens
 - The fiscal situation with ASD - started backward planning for the next school year. FY begins Jul 1 - administration needs board direction to confront the shortfall that has been years in the making due to inflation and loss of student enrollment.
 - No decisions have been made on any closures, etc.
 - Outreach and surveys will be sent to help understand how the public thinks we can close the gap. Encourage everyone to speak up on what they would like to see.
 - Finance meeting Sept 14 and board meeting Sept 20.
 - ASD is no longer the cheapest place for education.

Questions/Comments

- Stacey - Before cutting programs, look at top-heavy ASD and consider cutting positions in ASD that don't directly work with students. Let's not overlook cutting teachers and raising class sizes and programs AGAIN.
 - Teachers will not be cut - talking about cutting programs to help save money.
- SJ - I was asked to take the survey. Did you hear Zack F.'s suggestions?
 - KL - school bond debt reimbursements - money is going fast, and costs are rising. Money isn't going as far due to inflation - tackle the needed core maintenance.
- Janel - class sizes at high school are around 30++ kids per class at my school
- Daniel - is there a short list of schools considered to be closed? Is capacity the consideration or condition of the building? I would love to have an offline meeting with you to discuss this.
 - KI - no, not yet. Everything is being looked at.

Standing Reports

- President Allen Kemplen - SJ VP sub in
 - no report

Questions/Comments

- none

- Treasurer Sharon Chamard
 - Donations for block party received: \$650
 - \$947 on t-shirt and beer sales
 - \$97 in additional sales

- General Sub Acct - \$522
- Community Dev. Acct \$1013
- Beautification Fund \$574
- Block Party \$610
- Better Fairview \$10,275
- =Total 12,084

Questions/Comments

- None

Presentations

- none scheduled

Old Business

- Open Call - Nominations for Civic Heroes
 - looking for nominations for people who have impacted the community so they can be represented along the fences. You can share with the E-Board.

Motion to extend meeting 15 after the hour, James 1st, Janel 2nd.

- Seward to Glenn PEL Study
 - Details about the PEL are here <http://www.sewardglennmobility.com/>
 - waiting to hear back from the study to see where we are on this.

Questions/Comments

- None

New Business

Mayor's Winter Strategy for Homeless

- Owen Hutchinson
 - A task force emergency shelter plan in Anchorage was formed. The shelter must be provided to houseless, task force meetings twice a week with volunteers. Everything is recorded and available online. The Mayor's plan was released to everyone, and there was confusion about the plan since there was no task force involvement. The Mayor requests feedback by the end of the month, which is significantly accelerated. Identified needs, such as 24 shelters, personal hygiene accommodations, and more substantial food.
 - aceh.org/task-force
 - six locations considered: Alex Hotel, Arctic Rec Center, Barret Inn, Benson DMV, Sherwin building, and America's Best Value Inn.
- Julie Graham
 - was asked to be on the task force as a community member. good to learn a lot about this task force
 - What concerns would we like to pass on to the task force? Can put it in the chat. What is hoped to be achieved, and what would we want to know?

Questions/comments

- Ron A. - I am resigning, and Grubstake is vacating Fairview from the impacts of homelessness.
 - Sandra - Thank you, Ron. I'm sorry for what you and your family have lost. As a 4th generation Alaskan, I agree that watching what is happening to our city is extremely hard.
- Mary V - The Rec center used as an emergency shelter is a Band-Aid. I would like to know how many people will be housed there and for how long? How do we fix this?
 - Owen - cannot house more than 150 in a single area. There are around 350 houseless people - it doesn't account for inflow events. Based on recommendations, change to sheltered single adults for both locations. A solution that would help would be supportive and affordable housing.

Motioned to extend meeting 15 minutes - James motions and Karen seconds.

- Janel - how did Sullivan get more than 150 people if it's over the code? Why is the Mayor's office blowing off the assembly?
 - Owen - that was a specific COVID emergency.

- Chris C. - Defends assemblies work on the homeless.
- Daniel - a collaboration with the Mayor with an emergency shelter approach, the assembly is open to working.
- Julie - Questions for Task Force: What concerns would you have? Like us to pass on the task force? What do you hope will be achieved by having an emergency shelter plan? What would you like to know about this work?
 - Task force meetings are Monday and Wednesday from 11:30-1:30
- SJ - Thanks Julie; I am concerned about the traffic and proximity to Brother Francis for the Sherman Williams site.
 - Chris C - SJ, I welcome a formal communication from the Task Force about Sherwin Williams. Still, I am told the site is not forwarded for consideration.

Report and Updates

- Fairview Block Party Recap - skip
- EJ Grant Status - skip
- Re-Connecting Communities Grant nomination
 - Continuing to work on this with UAA.
- Ingra Community Garden Committee
 - official tour with Anchor gardens and good feedback. Looking for volunteers to help clean up.
- Merrill Field Committee
 - A new manager starts this month and will set up meetings.

Motion to extend meeting 5 minutes - James and Sharon

- Homelessness Committee
 - Janel shared photos of damage from around the Sullivan arena and graffiti

Community Comments

- Lindsey - Thanks all; also leaving now. Anchor Gardens has a few more great events, including a Gardening Pot and Perennial Plant exchange this weekend. All event details: <https://anchorgardens.org/calendar/>
- Dave R - Brother Francis's Shelter bed space is only 120, not 240 like rumors in the neighborhood. The capacity is 240, but it will not be that high.
 - Christopher - 120 people are slated to the Sherwin-Williams building; that is probably where this is coming from. They will not be choosing this site because of its close proximity.
 - SJ - no intent that the old beans will overflow? Dave - no, that will not be happening.

Motion to extend 5 minutes, James and Karen.

Adjourn Dave's move to adjourn, and Laura seconds at 9:38pm