

UACC MINUTES

April 5, 2023 Meeting

- 1. Opening:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Al Milspaugh at 7:05 pm. Mike Grunst presented the UACC Zoom Guidelines. Al started the meeting and asked the attendees to review the minutes and requested corrections/edits of the March 1, 2023, UACC meeting minutes.
- 2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al asked for a motion to approve the March 1, 2023 minutes, Krista Scott motioned to approve the minutes, Mark Fink seconded. There were no objections to the minutes for the March 1, 2023, UACC meeting. The minutes were approved.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda:** Al asked for a motion to approve tonight's agenda. Mark Fink motioned to approve the April 5, 2023 agenda. Krista Scott seconded. The agenda was approved without objection.

4. Informational Reports:

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

- 1. Senator Forrest Dunbar,** A few updates: SB77 is a bill for allowing municipal tax exemptions and a tax on blighted property, there was a second reading today, on the floor for passage next week. SB103 moved out of committee this bill has to do with providing confidentiality for peer support counselors for police and first responders. Forrest Dunbar also proposed SB104, an increase in paying legal services fund for out of court fees that goes to Alaska Legal Services, which is the largest provider of civil legal services to survivors of domestic violence in Alaska and other vulnerable groups. SB112 right to repair bill, hasn't had a hearing yet, farmers and miners have an interest in because companies like John Deere Caterpillar, but also companies like Apple, use software to prevent people, except their own licensed dealers from conducting any kind of repairs. It is sort of monopolistic behavior we've seen other places. And as soon as it was introduced Apple hired a lobbyist in Alaska to stop it. This was something that the Attorney General of Alaska supported under this administration. Forrest Dunbar co-sponsored SJR 10, which is coming to the health committee to try and ask the federal government to raise the Medicare reimbursement rate. SB 74 passed the Labor and Commerce Committee, a SB 74, which allows licensure compacts between for physical therapists and SB 75 for audiologists to try to increase the number of those professionals here in Alaska. Mike Grunst thanked Forrest Dunbar for meeting in-person at UAA, and had a question regarding funding...funding for schools was

stripped out from the operations in the House Committee, Forest Dunbar mentioned the house passed a one-time increase in school funding, the majority rescinded the amendment and funding, a number of house members left the house, returned after a few hours. Best to contact the Majority House Caucus Representatives. Alaska Senate is more organized with a bipartisan coalition. There are problems in our schools, losing teachers, and young professionals, a lot of people are moving to Washington State because there is no future here. More funding, better salaries, teachers will stay. Mike Grunst asked about HB 99, the Equal Housing bill, eliminating gender bias in housing rentals. Forrest responded, no one likes being kicked out of their house, if the bill passes the house, it will more than likely pass the Senate. Right now, focused on fiscal issues. Al Milspaugh asked about car dealers having access to private information. Forrest asked Al Milspaugh to email him specifics regarding this.

2. **Assembly Member Pete Petersen**, The Assembly passed the annual school budget, \$598.6 million. Not one person testified at the meeting about the school budget. This is the only time this has happened during his time on the Anchorage Assembly. \$4.5 million for new school buses. Firehouse subs donated \$28,000 for rapid response bicycles; school resource officers go on bike patrol when school is not busy. Anchorage property taxes are due June 30, July 3rd taxes are delinquent, and taxes are also due August 3, delinquent September 1. Currently, updating the MOA conflict of interest code. The MOA has a bunch of safety violations, some from last year, a bit of a scramble to fix these to eliminate potential fine, the administration is well aware of this and is supposedly working on towards resolving these safety violations. Al Milspaugh asked about the new buses, specifically if any will be electric. Pete answered that the buses will probably be the normal diesel type, not electric. Mike Grunst added to the discussion regarding electric buses and mentioned that DOE has a grant program for electrifying buses. ASD claims the electric buses will not save money because of the way the buses in Anchorage are used. Pete mentioned he is open to further discussion about the grant.
3. **State Representative Andrew Gray**, Following up on Senator Forrest Dunbar's commentary on what happened in the State House today. A one-time appropriation, \$174 million (a base student allocation increase of \$680) for schools was passed, the House Minority Caucus voted for this because it is a compromise. The following day the House Majority Caucus rescinded the increase, the minority caucus walked out, returned to the Capital after about three hours. The Minority Caucus felt they were tricked and cheated. More than likely the funding will be restored from the budget reserve, voting against education is not going to happen,

forcing to make a massive draw from the budget reserve. Andrew Gray is the co-chair of the freshman caucus, and he is usually in Ways-and-Means on Wednesdays. Today was an unfortunate turn of events...asked for questions. Mike Grunst asked about the bill, Andrew mentioned that DeLena Johnson from Palmer, brought forth an amendment, it passed, 39-1. The next morning, DeLena Johnson moved to rescind the funding. Amendment 26 did not pass. No money for education right now. \$174 million will probably come out of the constitutional budget reserve. Ian Blake had a question, who offered the second amendment? Andrew Gray answered: Johnson on as well, the co-chair of finance, in charge of operating budget was the lead author. Andrew Gray mentioned a bunch of stuff failed budget wise, domestic violence shelters, senior care, pre-K, fixed costs at UAA, all failed. Al Milspaugh asked about what was going on, not much is getting done. Andrew Gray responded, hopefully there will be funding for stuff that was rejected.

4. **UAA Representative, Kim Mahoney** UAA Facilities issued an RFP for a ground lease for the Laurel Street property, corner of Providence and Laurel Street, SE corner, will also be listing office space for lease in the Bragaw office building. Trying to compress footprint and generate revenue, trying to create economic stability and sustainability. Student enrollments are up, hopefully this continues. One change in the last five years is looking at diversifying investments, reinvestment opportunities, and possibility of community investments. May ask for a longer agenda item next month at UACC meeting, one item is the urban forest park, develop a collaborative community, electric vehicle charging stations, invite people to campus, use trails, use it as a community wide asset, bring vibrancy to the UAA campus. Paul had a question for Kim Mahoney, could you elaborate on this afternoon's meeting, what was covered and what people said? Kim Mahoney response, an area north of Mallard Lane trying to create a project, with an education component, possible interpretive signage, there may be a \$3.5 billion federal nationwide earmark for this type of project, moneys that might be available for this through grants, assistance from APF, and engagement with community. Paul mentioned something positive about the meeting regarding this project, using non-motorized modes of transportation. Mike Grunst mentioned something about the BLM looking at the BLM non-motorized plan, allowing E-bike usage on trails, at Campbell Tract, 17,000 people flow into the UMed area. People are invited to comment on BLM trail use. Ryan Buchholdt momentarily appeared in the meeting, did not join the meeting had connectivity issues.
5. **Assembly Member Felix Rivera**, Felix had three items he wanted to mention, thanked us for support to get him re-elected, first item, election results are forthcoming, and should be certified without issues. Second

item, body worn cameras for APD, apparently there is an issue with the cameras, APD should start using these soon. Third item, homelessness, quickly approaching demobilization of these facilities, no plan to extend contracts, ends usage of Sullivan arena, end of a long saga in Fairview. What is next? Possible usage of Aviator Hotel, 72 rooms for emergency shelter purposes, not many rental units out there, possibility of hotel conversion to homeless shelter, Golden Lion is moving very slowly. There will be an increase in unsheltered homeless in May, unless hotels have rooms available. Steven Callaghan had a question about Covenant House, Felix Rivera responded the gym was being used for 18-25 year olds. Al Milspaugh asked about getting a discount on the rental rates from the hotels, Felix mentioned they are probably not getting a really good deal, not a huge discount. Mike Grunst mentioned the reduced room turnover should lead to cheaper rates. Felix Rivera responded that there have been negotiations regarding rentals through the current administration, he is not privy to these negotiations.

6. **Assembly Member Meg Zalatel**, First quarter budget revisions are the big item, two budgets to make note of, the alcohol tax budget (\$16 million) was underspent, \$11 million in programming for alcohol awareness programs did not happen, \$4.4 million was already appropriated for cold weather sheltering. Prevention is a huge part of the alcohol tax, \$6.5 million left. The second budget is the general fund balance predicted to have a \$10-11 million fund balance. There is an outstanding FEMA debt, may need to pay this, however, FEMA money is coming in. May choose not to hold back whatever is owed to FEMA, nothing put forward, still a lot of vacancy rates, continue to grow, things may stabilize, right before April 25th there are amendments, last minute fire academy was funded, additional snow removal, \$200,000 for snow removal. Trombley resigned, Mario Bird is now chief of staff, Anna Helzer confirmation is tomorrow as MOA Attorney, a bit of churn on the administration side, no rapid fulfillment of vacancies, rash of retirements on horizon, positions are funded, 92 vacancies at APD, MOA needs to recruit and retain workforce. Paul Stang had a question regarding the 2022 fund balance. Meg Zalatel responded, the left-over money becomes operating funds for 2023, some flexibility in using the funds. Mike Grunst had a question, why was money not spent? Meg Zalatel responded, the mobile crisis team in the AFD was funded, but not at 24 hours a day 7 days a week levels. There were a number of grant issues that prevented funding from being spent, delayed in getting money out, in 2023, made changes, positions funded within the MOA, homelessness was funded, late in signing the contracts.
7. **Assembly Member Joey Sweet**, not present
8. **School Board Member Carl Jacobs**, not present

9. **Mayor's office**, No representative in attendance in-person or via phone, and no written report was provided.

5. **New Business**: Al briefly went over the rest of the agenda, three items:

A. Daniella Delozier Castle Heights Park, A park is located at 4913 Vance Drive, started a conversation with a neighbor, the park is looking worn out and there are issues with the drainage. APF report card from fifteen years ago listed improvements, there will be a walk-through April 24th at 3:30 pm Castle Heights Park walk through. Perhaps make an unofficial list of improvements, the Castle Heights Park is the entry to the neighborhood. Could possibly be placed on a CIP list, apply for a challenge grant.

B. Kim Mahoney, UAA has meeting space, high tech stuff, parking fees can be waived, alternate solution, find a location on campus to have a meeting. Any questions? Al asked about a hybrid meeting, four hands up, Mark Fink asked a question about the zoom meeting and tech help, someone will be available. Steven Callaghan asked about parking. Parking will be available.

6. **UACC Committee Reports**

A. P&Z Committee, Mark Fink: There is a TIPS amended list of projects, bus barn, not all funded yet, improvements for 36th Ave stopped short of Elmore, University Lake Drive Improvements. Air quality improvement program is also out for comments.

B. P&R Committee, Steven Callaghan: Chugach State Park Improvement Area, came out of the LRSA/Community Council. No new major projects. Steve Zemke, had a questions about the University Lake Park improvements. Steve Callaghan will look into this.

C. Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh: April 5, 2023 still slippery, watch out weather is changing, freezing at night, thawing in the day.

D. Website: April 5, 2023 no report

E. Navigation Center Advisory Committee, Ian Blake: Contentious Assembly meeting in early March, regarding settling bill with Roger Hickel Construction, \$2.5 million or so Assembly made it clear funds were not available. Last week, Hickel filed a lawsuit. A lot of discussion about additional shelter sites. A political rally was held at the Arctic Rec Center, succeeded in politically motivating people. The project is not dead, a joint effort between ACEH, planning a robust public process over the summer, including town hall style meetings, timeline is developing criteria for selecting shelter sites, June public hearing and more town hall meetings, year-round low barrier shelter. Tudor and Elmore project may still be alive, Assembly work session on April 12th, will discuss the settlement with Hickel. Not a lot of current activity, there will be some foreseeable action on this, 150 bed shelter, opportunity to participate.

F. FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh: Free medical care April 15-16th. Open to

everyone. Will not refuse anyone.

7. Old Business:

A. UACC Hybrid Meeting – Al Milspaugh:

Al stated that next month we will be having a hybrid meeting at UAA, location to be determined. The Zoom Link is the same. Notification will be forthcoming in the next agenda and will be posted on the FCC UACC web.

8. Public comments-Open Dialog

A. Eric Lawson, maybe Karen Cameron? UACC needs a Capital project committee. Board handled the Capital projects. Al Milspaugh and Paul Stang discussed this, in the past the Board Members would prioritize the projects. The priorities have been the same for a long time. Kim Mahoney might be able to provide a list of potential projects. Al Milspaugh mentioned the Port is the big project right now in MOA.

B. Pete Petersen mentioned the port is the number one capital project. MOA is still working on the final design...need a billion dollars! There has not been a large amount of State capital project funding lately. Muni bonding is required for most projects in MOA. 42nd Ave improvements may start next year. This is Pete Petersen's last meeting...he will be playing guitar at the Muldoon Farmer's market. Al thanked Pete for his many years of support to UACC and that he will be receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from UACC.

9. Adjournment: Al Milspaugh asked for a motion to adjourn. Mike Grunst motioned for adjournment; Paul Stang seconded. The next meeting will be held via Hybrid/Zoom and in person at UAA, with a hybrid format on **Wednesday, May 3, 2023.**

Signed

Al Milspaugh, UACC Vice President

Atchs: 2

1. Significant Links from the Chat
2. Attendance Roster

Attachment 1

Significant Links from the Chat:

Alliana S., COS to Sen. Dunbar: Email: Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

Office #: 465-6944

UA-Karen Cameron HD 23 L: member 248-8421 karenc@alaska.net

Website on the UMED TDMS: <https://www.destinationumedstudy.com>

<https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/castleheights.pdf>

Daniella DeLozier:email danielladelozier@gmail.com

Maya-Staff Rep. Gray: You can reach Rep. Gray at:

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Listen to our podcast at:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2119966>

Maya-Staff Rep. Gray: Subscribe to our newsletter at:

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Attachment 2

Attendance Roster	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President
Mark Fink	Member, P&Z Committee
Steve Zemke/Kate Wedemeyer	Member
Assembly Member Pete Petersen	Visitor, Presenter
Annie Collie	Member
Ian Blake	Member
Assembly Member Meg Zalatel	Visitor, Presenter
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Visitor, Presenter
Daniella DeLozier	Member
Steven Callaghan	Member, Secretary, Treasurer, P&R
Mike Grunst	Member, Zoom Host
Senator Forrest Dunbar	Visitor, Presenter
Karen Cameron	Member
Maya Narang	Visitor, Representative Gray Staff
Corrine	Visitor
Alliana Salanguit	Visitor, Chief of Staff to Senator Dunbar
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Visitor, Presenter
Peter J.	Visitor
Krista Scott	Member
Paul Stang	Member
Joanne Kell	Member
Eric Lawson	Visitor
Kim Mahoney	Visitor, UAA
Ryan Buchholdt	Member, UAA