

**UACC MINUTES**  
October 4, 2023 Meeting

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Vice President Al Milspaugh at 7:03 pm. Al presented the UACC Zoom Guidelines. Al Milspaugh mentioned that our President Tyler Robinson will join us around 7:30 PM.
  
2. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh asked the attendees to review the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Mike Grunst motioned to approve the minutes with Russ Kell seconding the motion. Al Milspaugh then asked if there were any amendments. With none being heard Al Milspaugh then stated without objections the minutes were approved.
  
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Al Milspaugh asked for approval of the agenda. Mike Grunst motioned for approval with a second by Mary Weiss. With no one amending the agenda, Al Milspaugh then asked to add to New Business paragraph 5d “Recycling Composting and Sustainability” by Kelli Toth. With no objections the agenda was approved. Al Milspaugh asked if there were any first-time attendees. TJ Andrew introduced himself as a guest, with Campbell Park, asked to speak at the end of the meeting.
  
4. **Informational Reports:**
  - A. **Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
    1. **Senator Forrest Dunbar:** Mentioned working with the Native Village of Eklutna regarding their priorities for housing and energy costs, including removal of the Eklutna dam. He is currently working on Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) for renewable energy. This is a State of Alaska proposal to encourage renewable energy development and from power producers. Speeds are too fast on Tudor Road. Traffic needs to slow down. Senator Forrest Dunbar met with TJ Andrew from Campbell Park Community Council. TJ Andrew introduced himself earlier in the meeting and wants to discuss this with UACC. There are a lot of crashes. Possibly turn this into a pedestrian safety corridor. If you have issues with PFD or SNAP contact Senator Forrest Dunbar. Another action item is Poppy Day, Friday before Memorial Day, an effort led by the American Legion to honor the fallen and those people still living who have served in the military. The Eklutna dam was discussed. Mike Grunst mentioned there was 500 billion dollars available for renewable energy. Senator Forrest Dunbar is willing to contact the Federal Administration regarding this. Adam Lees asked about Poppy Day, regarding support in the house, and Senator Loki Tobin’s Energy Bill. Forrest mentioned he has someone supporting the bill in the House, and would be best to ask Senator

Loki Tobin or a cosponsor for details. Russ Kell asked about Senate Bill 77, a derelict property tax bill. Forrest answered, it does not apply to single family homes, and does not force you to remediate the property, requires a plan and good faith effort. Intent is for larger properties. Municipalities can build on this legislation.

2. **State Representative Andrew Gray:** A constituent meeting, an in-person town hall style, was held at Denny's, excellent turnout! Senator Forrest Dunbar, Representative Genevieve Mina and Representative Andrew Gray were all there. Travis Hedwig was on his podcast. He is a housing policy researcher and policy expert. Alexis Johnson was on the podcast as well. There is a play about the late Senator Ted Stevens at Cyrano's Theater. Bob Loeffler, an expert on mining, will be on the show. Usually there is a Zoom event on second Thursdays of the month, check RepGray.com. A lawyer will be on the podcast in the next few weeks discussing tenant rights.
3. **Assembly Member Meg Zaletel:** State Representative Andy Josephson and Assembly Member Meg Zaletel previously worked on Tudor Road Traffic Safety area. AKDOT wants to make urban pedestrian safety areas statewide. It may be possible to provide money to APD and try to set up a pilot project. There is some dialog regarding the possibility of getting salmon back in the Eklutna river. MOA, MEA, and CEA own the Eklutna hydro power plant, not necessarily in the best financial interest to remove it. CEA is applying to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) wanting a rate hike, first since purchasing ML&P. The 2024 MOA budget was presented and the OMB director quit that day. Passing the budget is a priority, and housing is a priority. The budget will be amended in November. A quarterly transportation committee meeting is going to be set up. Hopefully transportation hopefully will be tied together with land use. There is a new HR director, Tyler Anderson. MOA is looking to be more competitive in hiring. Right now, a thirty percent vacancy rate is typical in most departments.
4. **Assembly Member George Martinez:** Please continue to reach out after meetings if there are any concerns. Pipeline for workforce development and retention is a priority. Create opportunities for hands-on learning for our students earlier on. Early exposure is important. A housing action week is coming up, October 30<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup>. Includes a housing action summit. Working on language access within the MOA. Storm drain broke twice at Bragaw and Debarr, one on one side, and again on the other...need to invest in infrastructure. A lot of it is old, falling apart. Bus routes are changing and becoming more challenging, especially for the elderly. Meg mentioned bonding. Mike Grunst asked about the derelict property/blight bill. George mentioned it is a tool in the MOA tool-belt.

- 5.—Assembly Member Felix Rivera:** Anchorage housing week is coming up. APD will be starting to implement the body worn cameras., Start with 30 cameras then increase to 350. The MOA Radio Repair Dept. is trying to install these. Anchorage Health Dept. is moving forward with winter sheltering. Will cost roughly \$7.84 million, last year \$11 million was spent. A lot of COVID mass care was reimbursed. Some numbers regarding money that was spent on housing: January 1st, 2016 to September 20th, 2023 \$30 million in homelessness response; \$53 million in housing; \$61 million in homelessness prevention, and \$72 million in COVID mass care costs.  
*Tyler Robinson entered the Zoom portion of the meeting and Al Milspaugh passed the gavel to Tyler R.*
- 6.—ASD School Board Carl Jacobs:** ASD is adopting the Alaska Read Act. Students demonstrate benchmark proficiency for the appropriate grade level. Some positive signs form this, however, always room for improvements. Alaska has high benchmarks for demonstrating proficiency. Attendance it up from seventy-two percent to ninety percent. ASD will be implementing a career academy model, similar to King Tech, workforce and trade education. Tyler Robinson asked about the pool at East High, why it is closed all the time. Maybe need a lifeguard or two? Carl will look into this.
- 7.—Ryan Buchholdt:** A lot of activities at UAA going on, a concert, sports events, and hockey games. Chugach electric is looking for people for the Member Advisory Council. Ryan was on this council for two years. Anyone interested? Maybe Al Milspaugh?

## **B. Reports and Presentations From Guests**

- 1. Justin Keene:** CRW Engineering is at 95% design drawings for the 42<sup>nd</sup> avenue improvements. All we need is \$8.6 million from bond funding to make the first phase of construction happen. 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave is a very challenging road project, includes new water and road bed, sidewalk, path, new storm drain, water upgrades. Phase 2 is at 65% design. Hopefully if the bond passes, construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024, and continue into 2025. Marey Weiss had a few questions. Justin Keene mentioned the project is not intended to increase traffic on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Russ Kell had a question, Justin answered, Phase 1 completion is anticipated for fall 2025. Funding has not been determined for phase 2 at this time. Brooke Blessing is PME project Administrator. Russ Oswald is the PM&E Project Manager. Phase 2 construction is anticipated to begin in 2027. Originally this was a big project and then broken up into two phases for budget reasons...James Armstrong is the AWWU Project Manager. Paul Stang mentioned naming the project the Barbara Garner Memorial Road Work. Vote yes on the bonds!!!

2. **Chelsea Ward-Waller:** chatted about AMATS stuff. AMATS is the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that is required for potentially using federal highway and transportation funding. The area extends from roughly Potter Marsh to the Knik River bridge. The project list is created from an extensive public process. AMATS creates the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), short range and long-range plans. A Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), similar to a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). For the entire state of AK, there is a STIP, Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. STIP projects tend to be federally funded. Projects that are on these plans, MTP and STIP are eligible for federal funding. Interactive maps and websites are available for the public to view the projects and post comments. There were six hundred projects nominated on to the list, 200 made it onto the plan. Twenty criteria for the projects came out of the public involvement process. Long range plans are projects planned out to 2050. Plans and related documents are updated every four years. Dale and Folker Streets are on the plan. 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is in the plans, but will be constructed with bond funding. It is very unfortunate there is no federal funding available for this project. A project may get short range funding within a few years, however, receiving funding for a project is not quick. Easier to just bond projects. It is possible to amend the plan to include projects that are not on the list. If you want federal funds, it is good if it is on this list. It is possible to call leave voicemail, email, post comments online, attend AMTS meetings, etc. to provide public input. In summary it appears AMATS coordinates funding from the federal level, highly competitive, competing against other projects at the local level, state level, and nationwide. If the project is on the list it may or may not receive funding and it takes a very long time to receive funding.
3. **Tom Davis:** Discussed potential changes in the boundaries for the Community Council areas. Every ten years, around the time of the census, boundaries and population are looked at for changes. Community Council boundaries are looked at, there is criteria for these boundaries. The public provides input, an advisory committee is formed, draft boundary areas are created for public comment, the boundaries are revised, and recommendations are ultimately presented to the MOA Assembly for approval. There is some interest in potentially adding areas to UACC. The process has started and there is time. Should be a few months for providing input into the potential new boundaries of the Community Councils. Representative Andrew Gray, Russ Kell, and Tyler asked a few questions.
4. **Kelly Toth:** Presented on the topic of recycling in Anchorage. East High recycling center was shut down because people were dumping trash. The

compost coalition, the Anchorage Compost Coalition partnered with Anchortown Gardens, and classes were held. October is ewaste month. Oct 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day for compost. Kelly would like to present again in the future. Time to sort glass, aluminum cans and plastic bottles!

**5. Old Business:** None

**6. New Business:** None

**7. UACC Committee Reports:** None due to time constraints.

**8. Public Comments:** TJ Andrew discussed a pedestrian crossing over Tudor Road. He is also concerned about pedestrian and bicycle safety. TJ is interested in starting a discussion with UACC on these topics

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm, the in-person portion of the meeting had to leave the facility, UAA Lyla Richards Room, next meeting, hybrid format, is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 1, 2023.**

**Signed**

Steven Callaghan, UACC Secretary

Atchs: 2

1. Significant Links from the Chat
2. Attendance Roster

## **Attachment 1**

### **Significant Links from the Chat:**

Sen. Dunbar:

Email: [Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov)

Office #: 907-465-6944

Representative Andrew Gray: You can reach Rep. Gray at:

[rep.andrew.gray@akleg.gov](mailto:rep.andrew.gray@akleg.gov)

(907)465-4940

Listen to our podcast at:

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

Rep. Gray: Subscribe to our newsletter at: <https://repgray.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?>

MOA 2040 Land Use Plan

[https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorag e%202040%20Land%20Use%20Plan/2040\\_Land\\_Use\\_Plan\\_Map\\_Adopted\\_9-26-17.pdf](https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorag e%202040%20Land%20Use%20Plan/2040_Land_Use_Plan_Map_Adopted_9-26-17.pdf)

From Carl Jacobs, ASD School Board To Everyone:

Carl Jacobs (907)632-7285 [jacobs\\_carl@asdk12.org](mailto:jacobs_carl@asdk12.org)

Project website for 42nd Ave: <https://42ndavenueupgrade.com/>

From Info@communitycouncils.org To Everyone:

Here is a link to the Chugach Membership Advisory Committee.

<https://chugachelectric.com/board-of-directors/member-advisory-council>

From Info@communitycouncils.org To Everyone: And a link to the Assembly housing

webpage [https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/2023-Community-](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/2023-Community-Housing-Action-Summit.aspx)

[Housing-Action-Summit.aspx](https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/2023-Community-Housing-Action-Summit.aspx)

From Tom Davis - MOA Planning Dept To Everyone:

Tom Davis, Senior Planner, MOA Planning Dept.; (907) 343-7916;

[tom.davis@anchorageak.gov](mailto:tom.davis@anchorageak.gov); Project web page for the Community Council Boundaries

10-Year Review Project is:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/CommunityCouncilBoundariesReview.aspx>

From Guest - Kelli Toth, Recycling/Composting To Everyone: [Recycle@muni.org](mailto:Recycle@muni.org)

## Attachment 2

<b>Attendance Roster</b>	
<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Affiliation</i></u>
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President, online
Annie Collie	Member, online
Ian Blake	Member, online
Assembly Member George Martinez	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Genevieve Kikukawa, Assembly Aide	Guest, in-person
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Tyler Robinson	Member, President, online
Mike Grunst	Member, Zoom Co-host, in-person
Senator Forrest Dunbar	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Representative Andrew Gray	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Assembly Member Meg Zaletel	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Carl Jacobs, ASD	Guest, in-person
Marguerite Iverson	Member, online
Rosemary Mosby	Member, in-person
Ryan Buchholdt	Member, UAA, in-person
Kim Mahoney	Member, UAA, in-person
Peggy Kugel	Member, online
Steven Callaghan	Member, Secretary, in-person
Adam Lees	Member, in-person
Corrine	Member, online
Paul Stang	Member, online
TJ Andrew	Guest, in-person
Mary Weiss	Member, in-person
Karen Cameron	Guest, online
Joanne Kell	Member, in-person
Russell Kell	Member, in-person
Kelly Toth, MOA Recycling	Guest, Presenter, online
Tom Davis, MOA Planning	Guest, Presenter, online
Justin Keene, CRW	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Mandy Powers, Huddle	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Brook Blessing, MOA PME	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Chelsea Ward-Waller, MOA AMATS	Guest, Presenter, in-person