

UACC MINUTES
December 6, 2023 Meeting

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4 **1. Opening:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Vice President Al
5 Milspaugh at 7:05 pm. Al was the chair of the meeting and presented the UACC
6 Zoom Guidelines. Mike Grunst attended the in-person portion of the meeting and
7 was the in-person host. Attendees introduced themselves.
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9 **2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh asked the attendees to review
10 the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Mark Fink motioned to approve the
11 minutes with Ian Blake seconding the motion. Al Milspaugh then asked if there were
12 any amendments. With none being heard, Al Milspaugh then stated without
13 objections the minutes were approved.
14

15 **3. Approval of the Agenda:** Al Milspaugh asked for approval of the agenda. Mike
16 Grunst motioned for approval with a second by Mark Fink. With no objections, the
17 agenda was approved.
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19 **4. Informational Reports:**

20 **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**

21 **1. Seth Tigarian for Senator Forrest Dunbar:** Emailed a report to the
22 officers. Seth mentioned a few items Senator Forrest Dunbar is working on.
23 He is sending a letter of support for a variety of MOA projects including
24 increasing accessibility to MOA amenities, supporting parks and road bonds,
25 and supporting the Portland Potties. Working on housing legislation, using
26 AIDEA money for building affordable housing and multiplexes. Pre-filed a
27 mental health bill. Looking at legal pathways for using psychedelic drugs for
28 medicinal use. Trying to address the SNAP and public benefits backlog. Let
29 the good Senator know if you are having issues with SNAP or benefits.

30 **2. State Representative Andrew Gray:** Active with freshman bipartisan
31 caucus, meeting every two weeks, right now the main issue is natural gas.
32 Need more for Anchorage. Pre-filed a bill, subject of the bill is to know the
33 next day the ballot results. Results will be known daily, as the ballots are
34 submitted instead of waiting until all ballots are received. Representative
35 Andrew Gray recently held a podcast regarding foster care. Need more
36 foster parents. East High School swim team was using Bartlett for swim
37 practice. Need a lifeguard for East High.
38 Mark Fink had a question about the ballots being due...
39 Answer: postmarked by election day. There are 400 precincts, 260 scanners,
40 all votes that have been scanned will be counted and results provided the
41 next day.

42 Mike Grunst had a question or two about schools...the delayed start on
43 Mondays is working, and what is the chance of year-round schooling?
44 How does ASD plan to team with UAA for a teacher certification program?
45 Answer: Representative Andrew Gray will inquire about these questions.
46 Al Milspaugh had a question to all of the attendees regularly giving reports,
47 perhaps submit a report in writing...Representative Andrew Gray likes the
48 offer, when he cannot make it in-person. Assembly Member Karen Bronga
49 sits down and makes up the report at the meeting. Seth mentioned he and
50 Senator Forrest Dunbar both like being in attendance. It sounds like reports
51 and updates are very informal and typically last-minute, compiled right
52 before the meeting. It appears most attendees providing reports like being in
53 attendance to develop relationships with the community.
54

- 55 **3. Assembly Member Karen Bronga:** Assembly over road Mayor's vetos.
56 Spent way too much time discussing snow removal contracting and extend
57 contracts for additional \$2.8 million for more snow plowing. MOA needs a
58 well-staffed and prepared street maintenance department. Contracting
59 appears to cost more in the long run. Short term rental ordinance moved to
60 Jan 23rd , clear up Airbnb/BnB language. On the 9th of January, the
61 Portland Potties will be in front of the Assembly. It is reassuring to know
62 that a town in BC uses these. The Chugach access plan moved to January
63 9th, provide money to parking area at Basher, potential Portland Pottie at this
64 location widen, Canyon Road, build another parking lot, call it good. Easy-
65 peazy! Good luck, who knows where the Right-of-Way is! I might know
66 where some of it is...The Assembly is working on proposed bond language.
67 Hopefully 42nd Ave is not removed from the road bond! Big snow removal
68 powwow within MOA during which Assembly Member Karen mentioned
69 Tudor Road sidewalk clearing is not very good, and UAA Drive is still not
70 clear. MOA received \$35,000 for plowing a few AKDOT roads...does not
71 appear to be worth it. A legislative brochure with priorities was sent to the
72 legislature. The Mayor did not seem to support defined benefit retirements
73 for public employees and increasing the BSA amount for schools.
74 Mark Fink asked about the Chugach Access bond...Answer: the Chugach
75 Access bond will be separate from the Parks bond, about \$5.9 million, road
76 maintenance, parking etc. Assembly Member Felix Rivera chimed in, there
77 will be two bonds propositions, one for Chugach Access, and one for Parks.
78 Ian had a question, what is the final date for bond package projects and
79 getting things on the ballot??? Answer: Jan 23rd
80 Marguerite had a question regarding homeless in the downtown area,
81 specifically about the church she attends downtown at 8th and F, G Street,
82 the homeless have vandalized things and it is getting worse. Went

83 downtown to buy tickets at the PAC, had to be escorted in and out of the
84 building. Dress shop is closing, Coffman is moving to midtown, tourists are
85 finding locked doors, Kaladi's is closing. Concerned about tourists.
86 absolutely no reason for drug use, short on police, someone could crack the
87 whip, what can be done about this???...Answer: Assembly Member Bronga
88 mentioned something, about funding programs. Assembly Member Felix
89 Rivera mentioned something about the Anchorage Coalition to end
90 Homelessness. Marguerite continued, homeless people threatened to burn
91 church down, pastor called the police, concerned about drug use.
92 Seth confirmed the mayor was agnostic about defined benefit retirement
93 plans for public employees, and agnostic about the BSA.

- 94 **4. Assembly Member Felix Rivera:** Next up with his report, the Assembly
95 overrode the mayor's vetos, continue to make progress on much cherished
96 programs...continue with homelessness, went to the Alaska Municipal
97 conference, a delegation from Houston was in town, similar to ACEH, got a
98 chance to talk to the Houston Coalition to End Homelessness, there was a
99 town hall at Loussac, community members, Houston started to do
100 something, we are making the first steps to do this model, Housing First
101 with supports on steroids, a program called "Next Step", coordinated efforts
102 over the course of September to April, house 150 individuals. This should be
103 a big impact on our system. Hopefully get people quickly housed, create
104 beds in our community, first of many steps in Anchorage. Houston, Texas,
105 continued to meet housing goals for homelessness, over the course of a
106 decade, substantially reduced unsheltered population. Hopefully Anchorage
107 can accomplish this in five years. Money from Alcohol tax, \$1.5 million
108 and \$500,000 for housing, on December 19th Assembly Agenda.
- 109 **5. No ASD School Board Member in Attendance,** Assembly Member Karen
110 Bronga briefly mentioned that ASD had an event at the UAA Alaska Airlines
111 Center, the Career Academy educational model was the reason for the event.
112 Coordination with UAA on this program.
- 113 **6. Ryan Buchholdt, UAA:** Ryan has been involved in the career academy, a
114 lot of UAA has also been involved in this. The Board of Regents met in
115 Anchorage, the board thought it was too premature for requesting state
116 funding. There is a new program, Business and Data Analytics. UAA is
117 working with ASD to meet workforce needs. December 17th is winter
118 commencement ceremony. Spring semester is set to start, appears there is a
119 positive enrollment uptick in Anchorage, also a recovery in student other on-
120 campus activities. Seth mentioned an interest in studying data analytics at
121 UAA.

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5. Agenda Items 5A, 5B, 5C:

A. Nominations: Al Milspaugh briefly described the election process for board members, specifically asking for nominations this evening. Paul Stang mentioned Tyler is not running for President again. Mark Fink nominated Mike Grunst as a candidate for President. Al Milspaugh is still interested in being the FCC delegate and was nominated for Vice President. Ian nominated Al Milspaugh for Vice President. Steven Callaghan withdrew his nomination for Secretary/Treasurer. Mark Fink nominated Ian for Treasurer/Secretary and Steven Callaghan for President. Ian Blake nominated Steven Callaghan for President.

Summary of nominees:

Mike Grunst and Steven Callaghan, nominees for President

Al Milspaugh is a nominee for Vice-President.

Ian Blake is a nominee for Treasurer/Secretary.

B. January 3rd Meeting: Al Milspaugh confirmed the January 3rd meeting is going to be hybrid, in-person at UAA, the building will be open, the room should be available. This was confirmed by Ryan Buchholdt.

C. Three and Four Unit Development Ordinances/Amendments, P&Z Case 2023-0127, AO 20230-103: Mark Fink took the lead on this discussion, AO 2023-103, hearing on the 19th of December in front of Assembly. This AO will make it easier for 3 and 4-plex construction in residential zoning districts, public hearing on 19th, southside addition was irritated, snow removal will be an issue...P and Z meetings, lowest hanging fruit, this is a combination of title 21 and title 23, builders are very much for it, there is concern it may change the character of neighborhood. Other purposes are to make loans easier, simplifying zoning. Karen Brong had limited knowledge of this, other than it makes it easier to build 3 and 4-plexes in residential zoning districts. Three and four-plexes are considered commercial construction. Mark Fink mentioned it might change the character of the neighborhood. Mike Grunst, mentioned the commercial requirements for housing loans and taking down single-family houses, rebuilding three and four-plexes. Karen mentioned the zoning simplification has not passed. Only applies to R2M. There is concern about older homes in R2M being knocked down. Will apply to Anchorage only, not apply to Girdwood and Eagle River, separate zoning codes. Karen mentioned this ordinance is very controversial. Mark Fink mentioned this would help renters and might be a detriment to people wanting to buy single-family houses. Mike mentioned a program sponsored by Senator Forrest Dunbar, loans from AIDEA for housing.

5. Old Business: None

6. UACC Committee Reports

A. P&Z Committee, Mark Fink: triplex/fourplex ordinance. See above discussion.

- 164 **B. P&R Committee, Steven Callaghan:** Status Quo, nothing to report. Still closing
165 out projects from this year, hopefully park projects will be on the bond this year,
166 APF sent out a notice, APF will be running the challenge grant program at this
167 time, winter workshop at Fairview Rec Center, Eastchester Park Master Plan, APF
168 is looking for someone to work there.
- 169 **C. Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh:** Paul mentioned safety on Goose Lake, be
170 careful on the ice!
- 171 **D. Website:** Need to find someone to report on this.
- 172 **E. Agenda Item 5D, Navigation Center Advisory Committee, Ian Blake:** Nothing
173 new, public comments coming up, clean slate is moving forward. Housing First
174 initiatives are proceeding.
- 175 **F. FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh:** Still looking for someone to run this.
- 176 **7. Public comments-Open Dialog**
- 177 **A. Kathy Mantia, Rescue Mission:** The new kitchen is awesome! Need to finish
178 parking lot and landscaping. 25 people are participating in a new program for
179 going to work. Things are going very well in the new program. The rescue mission
180 is willing to help the community, there is a requirement for community service. Al
181 Milspaugh asked about how many people you served before the upgrade and now?
182 Answer from Kathy Mantia: always serve breakfast and dinner, some kids have
183 breakfast there and dinner is served every day. 7500 - 10000 meals a month, guests
184 typically stay overnight. When it is cold, can stay all day. Noticing fewer people,
185 possibly because other nonprofits are helping shoulder the load. Opened for
186 Thanksgiving dinner, Henry House, Beans Cafe, downtowners in the past migrated
187 to the Rescue Mission, are now staying downtown. Gave turkeys and hams to the
188 downtown soup kitchen, Fred Meyers helped with this. A lot of cooperation among
189 organizations...may not have it all together, but together we have it all! Sleeping
190 100 guests a night, a full house. Women are all employed. Men are staying there as
191 well, not making people leave after a given amount of time. Keep people until they
192 get their housing, full every night. SC asked about clarifying the meals, Answer
193 from Kathy Mantia: 7500-1000 meals a month, feed a lot of people from the
194 neighborhood. A number of families in the neighborhood come in for meals. State
195 is behind on SNAP and other benefits, so seeing an uptick.
196 Steven Callaghan asked about pedestrian incidents/accidents...
197 Answer from Kathy Mantia: no pedestrian street crossing incidents lately,
198 decriminalizing jaywalking has appeared to increase people trying to cross,
199 apartment dwellers cross over to the Holiday store. The Rescue Mission started
200 serving snacks at night. Opens at 6:00 pm people arrive via foot traffic, bus,
201 outdoor tent campers, may stay until 9 pm. If it is dangerously cold during the day,
202 people can stay all day. Some people leave on their own. The Rescue Mission
203 encourages the use and provides reflective tape, when crossing Tudor Road. Seth
204 Tagarian mentioned this is very thoughtful.

205 Al Milspaugh asked about inebriated:
206 Answer from Kathy Mantia: Stringent requirements for people coming in, high
207 barrier. Homeless and in recovery, the Rescue Mission is a place to support
208 recovery. It is hard to sit across from someone that is drunk. Everyone coming in
209 has to BrAC. If you fail the BrAC, you have to leave. People that are homeless are
210 not helpless. Regular schedule, activities, and structure to help yourself. There is a
211 tour option for individuals or groups, check the Anchorage Rescue Mission website.
212 Art classes and other activities, focus on native arts. Paul Stang mentioned this was
213 a very helpful report.

214 **B. Peter Johnson**, board member for the Anchorage Folk Music Festival, at Wendy
215 Williamson, free!!! there will be a ton of music, instrument swaps, silent auction all
216 kinds of fun!!! 35th year,,,at Wendy Williamson last two weekends of January.
217 <https://anchoragefolkfestival.org/>

218 **8. Adjournment:** Al Milspaugh asked for a motion for adjournment. Mike Grunst
219 motioned, Mark Fink seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm, the in-
220 person portion of the meeting left the facility, UAA Lyla Richards Room. The next
221 meeting, hybrid format, is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 3, 2024.**

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226 Steven Callaghan, UACC Secretary _____

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229 Atchs: 2

230 1. Significant Links from the Chat

231 2. Attendance Roster

232 **Attachment 1**

233 **Significant Links from the Chat:**

234 Sen. Dunbar:

235 Email: Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov

236 Office #: 907-465-6944

237

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

239 rep.andrew.gray@akleg.gov

240 (907)465-4940

241 Listen to our podcast at:

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

243 Rep. Gray: Subscribe to our newsletter at: [https://repgray.us8.list-](https://repgray.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?)

244 [manage.com/subscribe?](https://repgray.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?)

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246 MOA 2040 Land Use Plan

247 <https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorag>
248 [e%202040%20Land%20Use%20Plan/2040_Land_Use_Plan_Map_Adopted_9-26-](https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorag)
249 [17.pdf](https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorag)

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251 From Carl Jacobs, ASD School Board To Everyone:

252 Carl Jacobs (907)632-7285 jacobs_carl@asdk12.org

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

255

256 <https://anchoragefolkfestival.org/>

Attendance Roster	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President, online
Mike Grunst	Member, in-person
Ian Blake	Member, in-person
Representative Andrew Gray	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Mark Fink	Member, in-person
Seth Tigarian	Guest, online, Staff for Senator Forrest Dunbar
Assembly Member Karen Bronga	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Guest, Presenter, online
Karen Cameron	Member, online
Katy Mantia	Member, online, Rescue Mission
Ryan Buchholdt	Member, UAA, in-person
Karen Cameron	Member, online
Paul Stang	Member, online
Steven Callaghan	Member, Secretary, in-person
Adam Lees	Member, online
Peter Johnson	Member, in-person