

UACC MINUTES

December 6, 2023 Meeting

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order via Zoom by Vice President Al Milspaugh at 7:05 pm. Al was the chair of the meeting and presented the UACC Zoom Guidelines. Mike Grunst attended the in-person portion of the meeting and was the in-person host. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Al Milspaugh asked the attendees to review the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Mark Fink motioned to approve the minutes with Ian Blake 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 Mark Fink. With no objections, the agenda was approved.
4. **Informational Reports:**
 - A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
 1. **Seth Tigarian for Senator Forrest Dunbar:** Emailed a report to the officers. Seth mentioned a few items Senator Forrest Dunbar is working on. He is sending a letter of support for a variety of MOA projects including increasing accessibility to MOA amenities, supporting parks and road bonds, and supporting the Portland Potties. Working on housing legislation, using AIDEA money for building affordable housing and multiplexes. Pre-filed a mental health bill. Looking at legal pathways for using psychedelic drugs for medicinal use. Trying to address the SNAP and public benefits backlog. Let the good Senator know if you are having issues with SNAP or benefits.
 2. **State Representative Andrew Gray:** Active with freshman bipartisan caucus, meeting every two weeks, right now the main issue is natural gas. Need more for Anchorage. Pre-filed a bill, subject of the bill is to know the next day the ballot results. Results will be known daily, as the ballots are submitted instead of waiting until all ballots are received. Representative Andrew Gray recently held a podcast regarding foster care. Need more foster parents. East High School swim team was using Bartlett for swim practice. Need a lifeguard for East High. Mark Fink had a question about the ballots being due... Answer: postmarked by election day. There are 400 precincts, 260 scanners, all votes that have been scanned will be counted and results provided the next day.

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

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

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

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

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.

- B. P&R Committee, Steven Callaghan:** Status Quo, nothing to report. Still closing out projects from this year, hopefully park projects will be on the bond this year, APF sent out a notice, APF will be running the challenge grant program at this time, winter workshop at Fairview Rec Center, Eastchester Park Master Plan, APF is looking for someone to work there.
- C. Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh:** Paul mentioned safety on Goose Lake, be careful on the ice!
- D. Website:** Need to find someone to report on this.
- E. Agenda Item 5D, Navigation Center Advisory Committee, Ian Blake:** Nothing new, public comments coming up, clean slate is moving forward. Housing First initiatives are proceeding.
- F. FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh:** Still looking for someone to run this.

7. Public comments-Open Dialog

- A. Kathy Mantia, Rescue Mission:** The new kitchen is awesome! Need to finish parking lot and landscaping. 25 people are participating in a new program for going to work. Things are going very well in the new program. The rescue mission is willing to help the community, there is a requirement for community service. Al Milspaugh asked about how many people you served before the upgrade and now? Answer from Kathy Mantia: always serve breakfast and dinner, some kids have breakfast there and dinner is served every day. 7500 - 10000 meals a month, guests typically stay overnight. When it is cold, can stay all day. Noticing fewer people, possibly because other nonprofits are helping shoulder the load. Opened for Thanksgiving dinner, Henry House, Beans Cafe, downtowners in the past migrated to the Rescue Mission, are now staying downtown. Gave turkeys and hams to the downtown soup kitchen, Fred Meyers helped with this. A lot of cooperation among organizations...may not have it all together, but together we have it all! Sleeping 100 guests a night, a full house. Women are all employed. Men are staying there as well, not making people leave after a given amount of time. Keep people until they get their housing, full every night. SC asked about clarifying the meals, Answer from Kathy Mantia: 7500-1000 meals a month, feed a lot of people from the neighborhood. A number of families in the neighborhood come in for meals. State is behind on SNAP and other benefits, so seeing an uptick. Steven Callaghan asked about pedestrian incidents/accidents... Answer from Kathy Mantia: no pedestrian street crossing incidents lately, decriminalizing jaywalking has appeared to increase people trying to cross, apartment dwellers cross over to the Holiday store. The Rescue Mission started serving snacks at night. Opens at 6:00 pm people arrive via foot traffic, bus, outdoor tent campers, may stay until 9 pm. If it is dangerously cold during the day, people can stay all day. Some people leave on their own. The Rescue Mission encourages the use and provides reflective tape, when crossing Tudor Road. Seth Tagarian mentioned this is very thoughtful.

Al Milspaugh asked about inebriated:

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

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

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

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

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

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MOA 2040 Land Use Plan

https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Anchorage%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

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

<https://anchoragefolkfestival.org/>

Attachment 2

Attendance Roster	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President, online
Mike Grunst	Member, in-person
Ian Blake	Member, in-person
Rep Andrew Gray	Guest, in-person
Mark Fink	Member, in-person
Seth Tigarian (Staff to Sen Dunbar)	Guest, online
Assembly Member Karen Bronga	Guest, in-person
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Guest, online
Karen Cameron	Member, online
Katy Mantia (Rescue Mission)	Member, online
Ryan Buchholdt (UAA)	Member, 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