

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Agenda
June 8, 2023-7:00-9:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting - Central Lutheran Church

Meeting called to order. In attendance: Allen Kemplen, Karen Gonne-Harrell, Kelly Ittenbach, ?, Cliff Groh, Heidi? (Neighborworks Alaska), ? (Anchorage Downtown Partnership), ?, ?, Maria & Chris Crawford, ?, James Thornton, Sharon Chamard, Suzie Alexander, Dana Gilliam, Keelan Baughman, SJ Klein, Brian Hawkins, Denise Janson, Kay Gajewski, Loki Tobin, Chris Constant, Dan Volland, Loren Hill, Lindsey Hajduk
Agenda approved with no changes.

No May minutes to approve.

Elected Officials:

Loki Tobin: End of session: We saw balanced budget; hoping governor will call back legislators for conversation about how to get the state on more financial footing. Right now, PF only earnings being used for funding. 75% went to state services, 25% into pockets of folks as PFD. I am chair of the senate education committee and advocated hard to stabilize our struggling schools. Flat funding for almost 10 years. We are losing a lot of teachers because of funding lack. SB 52, if passed, will increase funding by \$175 million. In the budget is \$1 million for re-entry programs. Many folks in the Sullivan Arena are just coming out of incarceration. If they have access to re-entry resources, they are more likely to get stable employment, and therefore housing. We put money into childcare as well as DOT. We are losing state employees, especially in behavioral and mental health areas. Did a salary survey, are we competitive enough? Do we need defined benefits? Governor's survey, required every year, showed job seekers are looking for a diverse workplace. Different voices bring different viewpoints which is important. Seeing attacks on LGBTQ community. Big issue right now is trans girls in sports. Looking for volunteers for block party as well.

James: Thank you for bringing positive energy to the state legislature.

Loki: I like talking to everybody. Grew up in diverse, eclectic Nome. I appreciate other views.

James: The diversity conversation is all of a sudden coming out. A lot of dark stuff out there right now.

Loki: When I was young, I was told straightening my hair would be more acceptable. Telling people they need to change to be more acceptable shouldn't be okay anywhere.

Allen: How do we create super awesomeness in Fairview? That's your assignment for next month. What have you done to instill super awesomeness in our neighborhood?

Cliff Groh: I agree with Loki on the budget; I would have liked a higher BSA as well as a higher PFD. Should have better roads along with more money for schools. We need money for public safety. We need additional revenues. Oil prices bounce around and we are producing less oil. I introduced legislation to raise taxes on the oil industry. Also, sponsored a higher earner tax as well as on folks who travel to the state to work. We should have more affordable healthcare. Banning non disclosures between insurance companies and providers would help. I mainly came to listen, but I have three meetings on Saturday where you can ask me more questions at the Lucky Wishbone, and two other locations and times.

Assembly Members:

Dan Volland: We passed recognition resolutions celebrating Juneteenth and Pride Month. We passed a plan supporting allowed camps. Two task forces convened: one on sanctioned camping, and behavioral health. The behavioral health committee tasked to come up with urgent, immediate needs in the municipality. Sanctioned camping task force came up with five locations. Recommended every district needs to be part of the conversation. It doesn't work fiscally to have five different locations around the muni, so they chose one: in midtown at the former Archives site. A sanctioned camp includes: 30-60 individuals, low barrier, would include support services, water, sanitation, electricity, food, gathering space, security, neighbor agreement, WI-Fi, and fire suppression services. I co-sponsored a resolution for a hunt for disabled folks in Kincaid Park. There is a lawsuit which is arguing that you can't have special populations hunt. The navigation center at Tudor and Elmore is estimated to cost \$15 million. Acting CFO says there is no money. It would affect our bond rating. Will be back before us June 20th. We have had three town halls centering on homelessness.

SJ: Clean Slate is really a tactic to delay or cancel any action in the short term on homelessness. Is that accurate? Is there any hope that a plan will come out of the process that the assembly can approve and act on?

Chris Constant: Our own CFO has said there is no money for the navigation center, so the mayor is putting forth a fake document that has no backing behind it. He's already spent \$5 million he didn't have legal authority to spend. He's ready to spend \$10 million that doesn't even exist. Sanctioned camps means really I don't have to see those people in my neighborhood. I voted against the sanctioned camping proposal because they're not going to provide Wi-Fi, and security. Half a million dollars in Fairview didn't mean a thing. They just spent the money. A sanctioned camp is more expensive than a shelter, which is more expensive than housing and it's too expensive to provide all the things they say they're going to provide a sanctioned camp. We are working every day for hours a day trying to figure out a path. The mayor, who says the navigation center could hold up to 650, has never demonstrated a plan.

Dan: As far as a delay tactic, a couple of things: it's not a delay tactic. I wish I could spend less time in all of these task forces and extra meetings, but the reality is, if we're going to spend a lot of money, but we have to do our due diligence. The muni didn't spend a lot on shelter prior to 2018. It was non profits. Tudor and Elmore is still in play as part of the clean slate strategy. We're considering other locations as well. What is the actual plan for operating it? There were never any details for what this would take.

Chris: Those of you who lived through the SAP experience under Mayor Sullivan... The project was going to cost \$9 million. SAP ended up costing us \$105 million before the dam thing worked. The practical reality is they made a promise for a \$7 million, then a \$15 million, then \$24 million building that's an actual tent, not a building. All that money we could spend on an actual building or buildings, and we did have a plan for that. They have intentionally used delay tactics to cancel and stop any forward progress. We're turning on hundreds of housing units this summer. We're looking closely at what places may function for long term shelter by November 1st. Having a sanctioned camp for 30-50 people isn't enough.

Dan: I brought forth two amendments, both of which passed: The Golden Lion needed to receive tenants before ...(garbled)..and before we appropriate \$10 million, if it exists, they have to hire a cost manager, and they need to present an operating budget.

Chris: Two things: Issue to the Title 21 amendment. The planning staff has been asked to meet with the FCC. Look forward to a presentation hopefully in August. The meeting talks about

some changes in west Fairview. There has been a conversation going on with Ray Ward, who is seeking for a second facility to be named after his father. Finally, there was a group trying to ban a sexual education book for teens and young adults the assembly intervened. Turned out the library board had been utilizing it's position as an advisory board not a adjudicatory board. We made changes to the code that said the library advisory board is an advisory board, not a quasi judicial board. We invested the authority in the library director to set a policy that the assembly would approve or not relating to the reconsideration process for books or collections. I think it's an important 1st amendment win, and takes politics out of the conversation. We closed the Sullivan; we're going to get back on track.

Loren: Question about the clean slate strategy: does it still exclude many facilities in other districts?

Dan: Nope. It did not remove Tudor and Elmore for consideration.

Loren: Did we spend over \$2 million a month for the Sullivan so when we're talking about facilities in the \$10 million range, that's one year of emergency shelter operations?

Chris: Except you would still need to add the operational costs on top of the construction, which has never been given to us in a concrete number. Jointly, the muni and assembly have authored a resolution reaching out to our congressional delegation and to HUD. Houston is getting \$47 million a year for 3,000 homeless, and we're getting \$3 million. We're trying to get Washington to understand, we're funding people who want to be housed, not unhoused. The taxpayer of Anchorage can't afford to fund it all. We're spending \$7-10 million of alcohol tax money on the solutions. We're having a hard time moving enough people so that it feels like the community is improving.

? For someone like me who isn't aware of the clean slate strategy, what is it?

Dan: If you go to muni.org, the assembly icon, then go to the assembly page, there is an icon that has a key. That has the homeless information and the clean slate strategy.

James: Any plans for the Sullivan this winter? We're running out of time and it's going to be the default.

Chris: Tons of work right now that isn't the Sullivan Arena by November 1st. I'm told there was a massive water break, and it's not usable right now. A complete failure of the water main - over \$1 million in repairs, so we have some major infrastructure challenges there that might make it impossible this fall to go back to where we were.

Dan: Today we had a homeless committee meeting, and that topic was addressed. The council should be considering the future of the Sullivan Arena.

James: What if the Sullivan didn't exist?

Dan: What if that area was turned into an innovation zone and fabrication lab?

Chris: Last thing: the municipal clerk has retired. Working on recruitment process. Anticipate having a new clerk on board within the month. The clerk is responsible for the execution of elections on behalf of the assembly, as well as for the implementation of the administrative functions of the assembly branch, as well as other important functions. There was some confusion as to who the Planning Board thought they were talking to - the Fairview Council itself or the board.

Presentations:

none

Committee Reports:

Homelessness: Allen: Dan and Chris covered that pretty well.

Community Gardens: Allen: Karen is on hold because DOT requires that the Parks Department sign a Memorandum of Agreement before we can actually do the work on the two gardens. We haven't been successful getting support from the Parks Department. Maybe Chris we can have a conversation offline regarding moving this forward.

Merrill Field: Allen: I went to the advisory commission last week. Brought up three things: 1. partnering with the neighborhood to help us get rid of some of those abandoned camps around Sitka Park. 2. Opportunity for MF to take advantage of Parks Chester Creek Master Plan and come up with an approach that includes Chester Creek Sitka Parks. 3. Noise from out of pattern planes: commission folks circled the wagons but they said they need data about the violations. So, we are placing cameras and recorders to capture the non compliant planes. Will have a time stamp so we can collect the data they need.

Grant Implementation:**EPA Environmental Justice Grant:**

Lindsey: We have an update about the air quality monitors that we placed around Fairview. The Department of Conservation did an analysis of the data. We now get to comb through the data and see what we learned. If anyone is interested in combing through the data, let me know. The ball is now in our court. The council can keep using these devices; the council owns them.

US DOT Reconnecting Communities Grant:

Lindsey: We're the recipient of a new US Department of Transportation Grant to reconnect Fairview. Right now, we're in the process of working on a grant agreement with the Feds and our local contacts. We're starting to dig into the details and now we have to figure out how to make it happen. We're working on a timeline about the linkages of the corridor and we can make sure we have real community-led planning going forward. We're hoping the agreement can be done by this fall so that we can launch more public engagement, doing economic studies, looking at getting mixed use dwellings in the area, what revitalization in the corridor looks like, and how we can design a greenway to be integrated into the corridor planning process.

Allen: The next couple of years will see some super cool stuff coming. We want to strengthen the sense of who we are as Fairviewers.

Public Safety:

Allen: At the last meeting, a resolution was made. There has been some discussion.

Maria: We came up with a draft. We're trying to get more data and calling APD when there are issues. For a while, I stopped calling. We've had 13 shootings in front of our house. We have security cameras, and it's uncomfortable to see the footage. We are looking at safety as a

public health issue. Posting posters that say “ see something, say something” at events around town is one way we can get the word out. If there are conflict mediators, that could help de-escalate situations before they turn violent.

Karen: Do you know if the 13 incidents are the same people?

Maria: I don't know. They are at all times of the day. There have been shootings toward the rec center with the kids going to school, and also at night. All the situations have been different.

Karen: The stuff that used to happen in front of my place were all drug related and as soon as the place was gone, it stopped.

Maria: APD told us we should move. But, the last times we called, they actually took photos and asked for footage and have been more respectful the last few times we've called.

Allen: We have so many rentals, and it's hard when bad characters move into the neighborhood. If we can localize the building or area that everything radiates around, we can work with the CAP team and take care of it systematically.

Loren: I'm sorry that's happening. Last year we had a handful of shootings in front of my home but has largely disappeared with APD getting rid of a certain alleyway tenant. I have noticed more patrols in my part of Fairview and it's gotten better in the last five weeks or so.

Standing Reports:

Allen: I have been participating in sanctioned camping and the number of hours and people participating is huge. Stay tuned; it's a gnarly issue. I wouldn't have high expectations of a 100% solution, but people are doing the best they can and working in good faith. Chester Creek Master Plan effort: the park planners would like to have a BBQ event at Woodside Park on 20th Ave. August 16-17 for folks to give their thoughts on park improvements. It needs some TLC. Voters approved some money; this can create something cool in the neighborhood.

Treasurer Report:

Sharon: The last three months we have \$350 in revenue: Henning Inc. donation to the Fairview Community Gardens and Zoom case action suit settlement. No expenses. We have \$15,649.54 total assets in six sub accounts, and no liabilities.

Old Business:

Lindsey: April 29th Community workshop report: “scenario planning for the future of Fairview”. We're putting together a report. It's very close. Hopefully it will be ready by the next meeting. We were looking at four big areas: environmental, reconnecting communities (the greenways, what the Ingra corridor would look like, the innovation area, and how to integrate green spaces into our city design). We need all kinds of things to give us places to connect. Those themes will continue into the DOT's planning process the next two years or so. DOT planning manager, Galen, and I have been meeting to plan their May 18th event. He was wondering if anyone had any feedback from the last meeting as they're writing their report.

Allen: Key thing is to not filter the comments and input from participants.

Lindsey: Folks said it was great. They were really listening to everything.

Block Party: Loki needs help; the more people participate, the higher the level of awesomeness.

James: We are going to have a beer garden this year. We are close to submitting the application through the board. We are looking for people with TAP cards to serve the beer.

Allen: Live music will be at the event, maybe a dunk tank. Woodside Park improvements: started because of challenge grant application that was successful. Will be planting about 15 trees and installing two planter boxes with shrubs and Alaska flowers or berry bushes.

Karen: trees and planters will block kids view to the street. Some of them just run out into the street without looking.

Allen: It's a concern the board will talk about. Traffic calming on 20th: AARP likes the idea and we're talking with them about painting three dimension barriers that look like something is in the road. We are always looking for opportunities to better the neighborhood.

New Business:

Allen: AO2023-66 is an ordinance brought forth by the assembly.

SJ: I'll lay a resolution on the table in support of this.

Allen: What they're proposing is to have fewer residential categories that will address density.

SJ: I'm not sure how it will impact us. I think we need to watch it closely and be a part of the discussion and take a position once we understand it. It creates new zoning districts. It doesn't really define them. It's a work in progress.

Community Comments and Concerns:

James: Thanks to residents and a lot of concerned people that you all saw the bootlegger that was taken down for a misdemeanor. Want to thank everyone involved there for making Fairview a better place. I don't think it would have happened if it wasn't for concerned citizens speaking their mind and calling out someone who was preying on those less fortunate.

Allen: It's a positive thing to see the system work.

Keelan: Our summer reading program has started(Summer Discovery); it's open to everyone. All of our summer activities are Thursdays at 4 pm.

?: The rec. center this month on Tuesdays from 3-7 pm will have many activities as well as food trucks.

Allen: Did everyone see the ADN opinion piece by David Reamer on Fairview? He talked about it's history and the bottom line is that the issues Fairview is bringing up are well and true. Social injustice has been done to the Fairview neighborhood. It means we need to make things right. Reconnecting communities is part of making this right and help heal Fairview. Keep the pressure on.

Meeting adjourned at 9.

