

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.
Board of Delegates Meeting
In-Person at the BP Energy Center and via Zoom

January 17, 2024, Minutes

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum: Gretchen Stoddard, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. Quorum was not attained.

Al Milspaugh read the guidelines for delegates joining via Zoom. Zoom meeting being recorded, including the “Chat”. No expectation of privacy

FCC Delegates in attendance (24):

Abbott Loop	Lizzie Newell
Airport Heights	Amanda Moser
Bayshore/Klatt	Bob Laule
Bear Valley	Kaitlyn Jackson
Birchwood	Carol Perkins
Campbell Park	Kevin Fimon
Chugiak	Darryl Parks
Eagle River	Jamie Lytton
Eagle River Valley	Joy Webb
Fairview	James Thornton
Girdwood (GBOS)	Mike Edgington
Government Hill	Bob French
Hillside	Carmela Warfield
Huffman/O’Malley	Gretchen Stoddard (FCC Chair)
Mountain View	Daniel George
North Star	Penny Gage
Northeast	Ron Meehan / Pamela Raygor
Old Seward/Oceanview	Gary Meaders
Rabbit Creek	Mike Kenny
Rogers Park	Linda Chase
Russian Jack	Kathleen Plunkett
Turnagain	Cathy Gleason
Turnagain Arm	Michael Packard
University Area	Al Milspaugh

Others in attendance:

Office of the Mayor	Trista Espe, Michelle Hodel
Anchorage Assembly	Christopher Constant, Anna Brawley
Anchorage School Board	Margo Bellamy

Community Councils Center Jean Sauget, Acting Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Tabled pending making quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Tabled pending making quorum.

4. Government Updates

a. Office of the Mayor – Trista Espe, Director of Community Engagement

The Port of Anchorage has been officially renamed the Don Young Port of Anchorage.

The Property Assessment “green cards” are in the mail. Assessed values are up by an average of 9% this year, reflecting continued demand for housing. These are a property’s assessed value, not a tax bill.

The application processes for the Mayor’s grants and Arts grants are now open. These grants are awarded to local charities and nonprofits working to improve our community in the areas of economic opportunities, workforce development, education, public safety, and social services. The Mayor’s Arts grants focus on creative expression, fostering local talent and hosting local events that bring the community together.

Thank you to everyone for your patience as we continue to dig out from this unprecedented, record-breaking snowfall. City crews are working hard at plowing and removing snow, widening roads, and other safety improvements.

The Mayor has a new weekly newsletter. We invite you to sign up for “The Mayor’s Minutes” to stay up to date on all the happenings in our office.

b. Anchorage Assembly – Christopher Constant, Chair

We had a great celebration across the community in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Signed a joint resolution with the Anchorage School District requesting the Legislature increase the base student allocation (BSA) for the Anchorage School District to ensure our schools are funded. Also passed a resolution that adopted a labor guidance that we continue working on recruitment and retention. We were 35% under on labor last year. It is a priority for the Assembly to figure out how to get jobs filled. We have several openings on the Board of Equalization; members of the community who have business, real estate, or tax system experience are urged to apply.

Several bond proposals have been passed and will appear on the April ballot, including a restroom program to purchase and install facilities across the municipality. We also have coming up the parks bond, public safety bonds and cemetery bond.

Vote by Mail ballots should be mailed March 15; deadline to return them is 8 pm on April 2, at one of the Anchorage Vote Centers, put your ballot in a secure dropbox or by USPS. Sign up for Ballottrax and you'll know when your ballot has left the print shop, delivered to your house, and when it's received at the Election Center.

The contract for the FCC's increased funding is waiting for signatures after this meeting. I have tasked Assembly members to begin a process to review the Community Council section of the code; it's been about 10 years since the last review. There will be an opportunity for good public input.

c. Anchorage School Board (ASD) – Margo Bellamy, President

I'd like to thank the Assembly for the resolution in support of increasing the BSA, and the Rabbit Creek and Rogers Parks community councils, as well. We are ready to head to Juneau to advocate for students before the Legislature.

There's a change to my written report – the new item at the very top will take you to an overview of the board's business and what's on the docket to come.

At our January 9 meeting, we approved the guidance for the administration to build a balanced budget. More details are available online.

5. Legislative Update

a. Rep. Donna Mears –

I am one of Anchorage delegation co-chairs. We've met with the Anchorage Assembly and the Anchorage School District leadership groups, along with Mayor Bronson and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation.

I'm hopeful that all your local representatives and senators come to your community council meetings; let me know if they don't. I come from a community council background (NECC) and believe it's important for there to be discussions between community councils and legislators. One of the things you can do is to attend the Anchorage delegation Townhall, March 9, 2-4pm at Cuddy Hall, UAA. My contact information is in the chat.

b. Sen. James Kaufman –

Regarding the Legislative Program, we don't see any mention of increased participation by the mental health customer, whether funding or contribution of assets.

One of the challenges for Anchorage is we are a complicated network of different organizations responsible for road maintenance, snow removal, etc. If there was something we could do at some point to simplify the ownership of the roads, it's a huge issue.

My website is in the chat with everything you need to get ahold of me: signing up for my newsletter, how to contact my office. Reach out and we can set up a little time for a conversation.

6. 2024 Legislative Program – Assembly Member Anna Brawley

a. Top Priorities

Port of Alaska Modernization Program - Many milestones reached in 2023: the Petroleum Cement Terminal opened, parties came together to agree on a Basis-of-Design, tariff structure was approved, Anchorage hosted a successful visit from USDOT Secretary Buttigieg. Port officials now preparing cost analysis data and other materials for Terminal 2 to move the project forward on time.

Increasing Housing Supply & Addressing Homelessness

Legislative Requests - \$10 million capital request in the FY25 budget for Housing Alaskans: A Public Private Partnership. \$4 million operating request in the FY25 budget to provide a 100% match for the Municipality of Anchorage to operate year-round shelter. Location pending.

Administrative Requests – Encourage relevant agencies to exercise their existing bonding, lending and financing abilities to create a state infrastructure revolving fund encourage additional housing development. The Governor should commission an update to Alaska’s Plan to End Long Term Homelessness.

State Support for Mental & Behavioral Health Needs

Legislative Requests – Grant \$650,000 to the Municipality of Anchorage to support integrated medical and behavioral health outreach services. Change state labor laws to allow behavioral health staff to work 12-hour shifts.

Administrative Requests – As the Alaska Department of Health undergoes the Medicaid 1115 waiver billing renewal process, it should remove barriers currently preventing more participation among behavioral health providers. An Alaska Department of Health review of regulations and processes to allow for easier enrollment and access to services such as Medicaid, Social Security, and SSI for people experiencing homelessness.

b. Municipality-Wide Priorities

Statutory and Policy Requests

- Support full restoration of the Eklutna River
- Strengthen benefits for public employees
- Reform election regulations for voter registration
- Expand municipal tax exemptions for new development and taxing blight properties

Funding Requests

- Road maintenance & snow removal – Fully fund a robust level of service for State snow removal operations within the Municipality and improve State and Municipal road maintenance coordination.
- Community Assistance Program – Make a full contribution for 2024 and fully recapitalize the fund.
- Increase public school funding – Raise the Base Student Allocation to account for inflation since 2017 by no less than \$1,655 to \$7,615 and increase its transportation funding by at least \$209 per pupil to \$690 per pupil by FY25.
- Invest in infrastructure capital projects - \$2 million for each senate district to help with badly needed road improvement and rehabilitation. \$10 million grant to match federal capital funds for airport improvements to help Merrill Field with future expansion and better utilization of assets for economic development.
- Prioritize road safety corridors – Identify state roads in the municipality that have high incidences of vehicle collisions and fund \$500,000 for data collection and enforcement.
- Support redevelopment of the Ship Creek Small Boat Launch – Determine management structure and fund \$500,000 for maintenance.

Emerging Priority – Energy Reliability & Affordability

We strongly encourage the Legislature and the Governor to craft sound policy that ensures Anchorage can meet the gas and electrical needs of its citizens, businesses, and schools. These policy changes must prioritize energy reliability and affordability. Because there is no time to waste, we urge swift, bipartisan action during the 2024 legislative session.

District Priorities – In addition to the Municipality’s areawide priorities, the State can address local needs and improve quality of life at the neighborhood level with projects highly prioritized by the residents in the surrounding areas.

7. FCC E-Board Transitions – Gretchen Stoddard

Our treasurer, Carolyn Hall, has resigned to run for legislative office. We appreciate her hard work. We are accepting nominations and will hold an election next month.

8. FCC Transition Update – Amanda Moser, FCC Secretary

The Assembly had us review the needs of the FCC and recommended that we hire an executive level position, with a budget amendment to fund it.

9. FCC Officer Reports – None.

Al Milspaugh – You can call Jean or I to get the link for the Zoom recordings. The Owl is available to check out so you can get familiar with it.

10. Council Updates

Abbott Loop CC – Lizzie Newell. Haven't had a meeting for a couple of months, but the next meeting will be the last Thursday of Jan. at Abbott Loop Elementary and also on Zoom.

Airport Heights –

Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule. Meet tomorrow. Key subject is the Chugach substation at 100th & Southport, a 65-ft communications tower; Chugach will be there to support their position.

Bear Valley CC – Kaitlyn Jackson. **CC wants to put together a phone tree for people who may need help during bad weather.**

Birchwood CC – Carol Perkins. We've been using an OWL for the past year and really like it. We had several presentations: outdoor toilets; Eklutna Dam by MEA; and long-trail hiking.

Campbell Park CC – Kevin Fimon. We meet tomorrow night and will have elections. Will be looking at several resolutions including the Base Student Allocation.

Chugiak – Darryl Parks. No meeting in December, meet tomorrow night. Code enforcement will discuss properties with a lot of junk. Trout Unlimited coming to talk about Eklutna Dam.

Eagle River – Jamie Lytton. Met on Jan. 11th, discussed the Parks & Rec opening on the board. Discussing resolution in support of a opening up a bus route in Eagle River from Chugiak High School to Walmart. Interested in the cemetery bond in partnership with Anchorage.

Eagle River Valley –

Fairview – Allen Kemplen. Continuing to struggle with the homeless problem. Kick-off potluck for our Reconnecting Communities grant. We received final contractual documents from FHWA, so we're good to go. Have been having regular coordination meeting with DOT regarding Seward-Glenn Connectivity.

Girdwood –

Government Hill CC – Bob French. Meeting tomorrow; having board elections.

Hillside – Carmela Warfield. At the December meeting, had a listening session/discussion on the challenges with the Rockridge Rd construction. Didn't meet in January. Will have a speaker to discuss the Green Cards. AO regarding the Rockridge Dr. & the de-annex project will be voted on Jan. 23rd.

Huffman/O'Malley – Gretchen Stoddard. No report.

Mountain View – Daniel George. Potluck in December.

Northeast CC – Pamela Raygor. Traffic calming presentation. Meetings moved to Creekside Elementary.

North Star – Penny Gage. Met last week. Had issues, now resolved, with Zoom for the December meeting. The Executive board passed a resolution in support of full education funding.

Old Seward/Oceanview CC – Gary Meaders. Met last Friday, major topics: 10-year review of CC boundaries; our part of long-trail (part of the Alaska Railroad).

Rabbit Creek CC – Mike Kenny. CASA is a big issue. Support for educational override to Juneau, worked on HLB work program for this year, and CAPSIS.

Rogers Park CC – Linda Chase. Joined with Rabbit Creek on their resolution to increase education funding. Currently meeting at Rogers Park Elementary.

Russian Jack CC – Kathleen Plunkett. Elections and a potluck last month. Putting together a letter to the Assembly and the Administration of community concerns covering all areas. Presentation on smoke detectors; learned that they have a half-life and can't go into the landfill.

Turnagain – Cathy Gleason. Met on the 2nd Thursday of January. Continuing to follow the Muni's code change proposals, will have serious ramifications. Discussed the HLB work program & 5 year management plan. The Clitheroe Center is vacating their facilities. Discussed working with other west Anchorage councils to hold a candidate forum. Working with Spenard CC on the Minnesota barrier.

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard. Next meeting in February.

University Area CC – Al Mispaugh. Held elections – Steve Callaghan is the new president, I am vice president and Ian Blake is secretary-treasurer.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kevin Fimon, seconded by Al Milspaugh.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jean Sauget, Community Councils Center Acting Manager.

January 17, 2024 – Zoom Chat

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Follow the legislature @ [akleg.gov](https://www.akleg.gov)
2024 Legislative Program: <https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/23337.pdf>

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