

UACC MINUTES

February 7, 2024

1. **Opening:** The meeting was called to order by President Steve Callaghan. Steve was the chair of the meeting, and Al presented the UACC Zoom Guidelines.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** Steve Callaghan asked for approval of the agenda. Mark Fink motioned for approval with a second by Adam Lees. With no objections, the agenda was approved.
3. **Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** Steve Callaghan asked the attendees to review the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Adam Lees motioned to approve the minutes with Mark Fink seconding the motion. Steve Callaghan then asked if there were any amendments. With none being heard, Steve Callaghan then stated without objections the minutes were approved.
4. **Informational Reports:**
 - A. **Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
 - 1.—**Senator Forrest Dunbar:** Legislature is a month into their session. Veto override of education funding did not meet the threshold. A bill to set up defined benefit pension plan for public workers including teachers, equipment operators, etc has passed the senate and is on to the house. The program is a compromise between old tier 1-3 plans and current tier 4 plan. His office is currently working on 9 pieces of legislation in the senate: bill expanding merit scholarships for UA system, resolution to amend the ANCSA, creation of state day of recognition for veterans, and develop a task force to regulate clinical use of psychedelics.
Marguerite chimes in to thank Forrest for his work on education funding and teacher pensions. Also appreciation from Ryan on behalf of UAA for increasing scholarships Heather says thank you as a past scholarship recipient and current UAA employee.
 - 2.—**Deirdre Goins for State Representative Andrew Gray:** Rep Gray has introduced a bill to increase warning labels on alcoholic beverages in include information about increased cancer risk. Rep Gray continues to advocate for a sizable increase to the per student BSA funding. Recent podcast guests include two current and one former state legislators. Town hall meeting for constituents will be held Feb 8 on zoom. Link is available at RepGray.com.
 - 3.—**Assembly Member Karen Bronga:** Parks bond will be on the ballot this spring including \$600k in Russian Jack Springs park and 3 area projects to increase access for those with mobility issues (east side Anchorage has

many parks that are not inclusive). Basher Drive parking expansion was cut from the CASA bond. Karen will try to get funding for this project in assembly budget revision process. Feb 27th meeting will have opportunity for public testimony on the short term rental regulation proposal. February 15th is the final date to get capital projects to legislators to add to CAPSIS.

Q from Mark: What playgrounds will be addressed in the bond package? A: Nunaka Valley North, Nunaka Valley South, and Ira Walker.

Karen has also been fielding complaints about snow storage/piles from some area residents and is coordinating with city road maintenance department. State DOT has also blocked a turn lane on Debarr near Costco until it can be inspected this spring.

Q from Marguerite clarifying one of the snow piles is at Sillary and Bisquire in front of her house. Thanks Karen for being responsive to concerns. Also a question about Karen's support for the public bathroom bond proposal. A: Karen was happy that the cost was brought down and that the city is not locked into a particular vendor. Points out that the total cost includes 10 years maintenance which can be spendy. Marguerite suggests using the existing bathrooms in the PAC instead of building new ones.

Q from Heather: Issue with short lights in morning traffic on Seward Highway/36th Ave. Doesn't know who to contact. A: Karen requests an email to her.

Comment from Al: Last year we had a committee for CIP and CAPSIS issues. Will submit last year's list for consideration – group consensus that this is a good idea. CAPSIS projects do not need to be on the CIP. Al will send to Rep. Gray and Sen. Dunbar staff.

4. Assembly Member Felix Rivera: Will begin debating a revenue bond package to continue work on Port of Alaska. This will only happen after depletion of other funding sources. Should be in front of the assembly in March. Assembly recently asked for a two year pause for the Eklutna River restoration project. Also mentions Assembly Member Volland's proposal to ban right turn on red in downtown. Emergency declaration allowing for homeless warming shelters will likely expire without renewal. Other work is focusing on winding down this winter's homeless response/shelters. Thirtyfive people have been permanently housed in the first phase of Next Step project.

Comment from Adam: Thanks for support of warming shelters, he has personally seen the benefit in volunteer work.

Q from Al: Will different road rules about right turns on red in different areas of town cause confusion? A: Set for a vote Tuesday but will likely be delayed as the assembly has not done a deep dive into the issue.

Q from Heather: What is the status of the Golden Lion? A: Assembly pushed

for use as substance misuse treatment but administration opened it as housing for the foreseeable future.

Q from Mark about right turn ordinance timeline. A: Felix expects it to be postponed.

Q from Steve: What consultation has been done with traffic and engineering departments about this ordinance? A: Unknown as Volland is the primary sponsor.

5.—School Board Member Carl Jacobs: Budget is primary focus this month, will be delivered to assembly in early March. Currently looking at a \$90 million structural deficit and exploring options to close it including class size increase, cuts to travel and administration, cuts to supply funding, and using emergency fund balance. Board is also examining K-3 reading data. Standardized testing results will be released in March. Have approved a parent engagement committee at the district level. Carl is also working on a change to district tobacco policy.

Q from Heather: Where does school counseling and social-emotional learning support fall in the budget discussions? A: ASD has created a mental health office to increase services but some positions remain vacant. Have also set up an anonymous bullying/harassment hot line.

6.—UAA VP Ryan Buchholdt (occurred after old business, item 6): UA system desperately hoping for more funding than has been proposed by Governor. UA has also been awarded a \$46 million 10 year grant by Department of Homeland Security for Arctic security research.

Mark Fink moves to reorder agenda, seconded by Russell. Al objects, vote held and the motion passes.

5. New Agenda Items:

- A. **Bill Popp** gives overview of his candidacy for Mayor of Anchorage. Lives on North Wesleyan, just outside our community council boundary. Encourages people to familiarize themselves with the candidates, there are several public forums and debates coming up. Also highlights that he responds to all inquiries on his website personally so those who have questions should reach out.
- B. **Neighborhood Watch Overview:** Unable to make it tonight, will present at a future meeting.
- C. **Planning and Zoning Overview:** Mark gives an overview of assembly push to reduce number of residential zoning types to allow more multi-family development in current single-family neighborhoods. Discussion from Steve and

Russell about need for this ordinance at this time. Karen points out that this is not as revolutionary as when first proposed. She is in support of the current iteration and sees it as a way to slowly increase housing units. Further discussion of the ordinance including timeline – next before assembly in June. Ultimate UACC decision is wait and see what planning and zoning commission decides and then potentially weigh in when the issue is back in front of the assembly.

- D. **Roger Marks** provides overview of CASA bond to be on spring election ballots. Gives a bit of history of the formation of the service area and highlights the improvements to Canyon Rd/south Flattop access that are a part of this bond package.
Q from Heather: Does this project include paving or parking expansion? A: Both.
Q from Mark: Any maintenance included in the bond? A: No.
- E. **Capital Projects** discussion of whether to add any additional projects to CAPSIS. Will submit list that has been previously agreed upon.

6. Old Business

- A. **Discussion of community newsletter:** Will save for another time.
- B. **Elections:**
 - Al elected FCC delegate #1.
 - Mark elected FCC delegate #2.
 - Adam and Paul elected members at large.
 - Mike elected Parks and Rec chair.
 - Mark elected Planning and Zoning chair.
 - Al elected Community Safety chair.
- C. **Letter in support of road bond:** Suggestion to conduct door-to-door outreach of affected neighbors on 42nd Ave.

7. UACC Committee Reports

- A. **P&Z Committee, Mark Fink:** Already discussed.
- B. **P&R Committee, Steven Callaghan:** No updates, may be starting a project to refresh the Goose Lake building. Parks foundation is also trying to get funding for more trail signage in UMed area.
- C. **Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh:** Be careful of roof snow load. Tall berms on side of road are hindering visibility.
- D. **FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh:** FCC is looking for executive director.

8. Public comments-Open Dialog

- A. Russell appreciated Marguerite's suggestion to use existing facilities instead of building new bathrooms.

- 9. Adjournment:** Al Milspaugh made a motion for adjournment. Mark Fink seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm, the in-person portion of the meeting left the facility, UAA Lyla Richards Room. The next meeting, hybrid format, is scheduled for *Wednesday, March 6, 2024.*

Signed

Ian Blake, UACC Secretary

Atchs:2

- 1.** Attendance Roster
- 2.** Links from Chat

Attachment 1 Attendance Roster

Attendance Roster	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Steve Callaghan	Member, President, in-person
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President, online
Heather Jensen	Member, online
Marguerite Iverson	Member, online
Bill Popp	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Mark Fink	Member, in-person
Arielle Wiggin	Guest, online, Staff for Senator Dunbar
Assembly Member Karen Brongra	Guest, Presenter, online
Assembly Member Meg Zaletel	Guest, Presenter, online
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Peggy Kugel	Member, online
Ryan Buchholdt	Member, UAA, in-person
Russell Kell	Member, in-person
Adam Lees	Member, in-person
Ahmbra Austin	Member, in-person
Deirdre Goins	Guest, in-person, Staff for Rep. Gray
Roger Marks	Guest, Presenter, online
Peggy Kugel	Member, online

Attachment 2 Chat Links

1. Anchorage HOME presentation:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/SiteAssets/Pages/FOCUS-Housing/HOME%20Initiative%20Slide%20Show%20-%20Community%20Version.pdf>