

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

February 21, 2024, Minutes

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. Quorum attained.

Al Milspaugh read the guidelines for delegates joining via Zoom. Zoom meeting being recorded, including the “Chat”. No expectation of privacy. A link to the recording is available upon request.

FCC Delegates in attendance (24):

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Airport Heights | Amanda Moser |
| Bayshore/Klatt | Bob Laule |
| Bear Valley | Kaitlyn Jackson |
| Birchwood | Carol Perkins |
| Campbell Park | Kevin Fimon |
| Eagle River | Cliff Cook |
| Eagle River Valley | Tom Freeman |
| Girdwood (GBOS) | Mike Edgington |
| Government Hill | Bob French |
| Huffman/O’Malley | Gretchen Stoddard (FCC Chair) |
| Midtown | Kris Stoechner |
| Mountain View | Daniel George |
| North Star | Penny Gage |
| Northeast | Pamela Raygor |
| Old Seward/Oceanview | Gary Meaders |
| Rabbit Creek | Mike Kenny |
| Rogers Park | Linda Chase |
| Russian Jack | Kathleen Plunkett |
| Scenic Foothills | Patrick LeMay |
| South Addition | John Thurber |
| Spenard | Matt Duncan |
| Turnagain | Cathy Gleason |
| Turnagain Arm | Michael Packard |
| University Area | Al Milspaugh |

Others in attendance:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Office of the Mayor | Trista Espe |
| Anchorage Assembly | Christopher Constant |

Anchorage School Board Margo Bellamy
Clair Steffens (Bear Valley)
Julie Jessen
Arianna Bellizi

Presenters

Lisa Demer (ACEH)
Daniel Mckenna-Foster (MOA Planning Dept)
Austin Quinn-Davidson (ACCEE Fund)
Richard Whitney (Boards & Commissions)

Community Councils Center Jean Sauget, Acting Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Tabled pending making quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January minutes made by Al Milspaugh, seconded by Linda Chase.
MMSC.

4. Government Updates

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

Today the Mayor's Office announced the formation of the Southcentral Mayors' Energy Coalition Southcentral Mayors' Energy Coalition Technical Advisory Team. New website:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/MayorsEnergyCoalition/Pages/News.aspx>

The Mayor is joining with our electrical utilities to provide the city's drinking water supply, advocating for the preservation of the Eklutna Dam.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/Mayor-Bronson-Takes-Stance-on-Eklutna-Hydroelectric-Project,-Advocates-for-Safeguarding-Clean-Water-and-Energy-Security.aspx>

Reminder: be alert for signs of distress on snow-covered roofs, primarily flat roofs with parallel cord wood trusses. Recommend clearing the snow from these roofs, with a maximum snow load of 15 lbs. per sq. foot.

Anchorage was nominated and selected by the Domino's Pizza Plowing for Pizza Grant and awarded \$25,000 to go toward the city's snow removal budget.

Announced the grant awards totaling \$375,000 to organizations addressing specific community needs.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/PressReleases/Pages/Mayor-Bronson-Announces-2024-Community-Grant-Awardees.aspx>

b. Anchorage Assembly – Christopher Constant, Chair

On our agenda this week, we have a couple of ordinances relating to corrections to parking minimums as well as short term rentals. Also, a proposal to allow independent plan review for commercial construction, port financing for terminal 1, a proposal to provide additional protections for transit workers, trails plan for Girdwood. It's legislative season, so we have a whole crew down in Juneau advocating for and implementing the Assembly and the Municipality legislative program. We are still waiting for the 2022 audit. An ordinance will be introduced ensuring that the ombudsman is indemnified by the Municipality. The Administration, thru AWWU and Anchorage Hydropower, which is the Eklutna Power Plant, has signed away Assembly authority. The terms of the deal demand the appropriation of tax revenue and rate increases to pay for the 1991 agreement to restore the river.

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

We are in a \$98 million deficit caused by years of underfunding by the state, as well as decreased enrollment. Board Member Lessens, four students and I spent last week in Juneau getting trained and meeting with legislators regarding our needs. I came back a little deflated because there doesn't look to be a path forward for SB 140. We were going to vote on our budget last night, but we extended that to give the public more time for input.

The April 2024 bond focuses on our infrastructure projects. It impacts about 10,000 students throughout the Anchorage Bowl area.

Feb. 20, 2024 Meeting Recap (<https://communitycouncils.org/download/23574.pdf>).

5. Anchorage Child Care & Early Education Fund Update – Austin Quinn-Davidson

I'm here on behalf of Alaska Children's Trust and the Municipality. They've entered a public-private partnership to work on implementation of this new fund.

<https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/23572.pdf>

6. Next Step Initiative Overview – Lisa Demer

I'm with the Coalition to End Homelessness and we are really the backbone of the system. We have about 15 employees. Although our website says we don't provide direct service, we actually do. We've just launched a big new project, but we're already doing street outreach, we go to campus where people are living and provide support, and we also run the Coordinated Entry System.

<https://communitycouncils.org/download/23561.pdf>

7. Long Range Transportation Plan – Daniel McKenna-Foster

I'm here to talk about the Long Range Transportation Strategy document. Basically, it's an idea of how the Municipality is going to spend its money or privatizing its transportation funding going forward. We already have the metropolitan transportation plan that comes out of the National Planning Organization, the MPO, which is a mess. It's a different thing, it comes from federal funding. We are asking you to send our survey to your councils because the more feedback we get the better. Next week we'll be having an open house at the Library from 4 to 7 p.m.

<https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/23560.pdf>

8. Municipal Boards and Commissions Vacancies – Richard Whitney

I want to encourage people to apply. Currently in the Municipality we have 52 active boards and commissions with 449 seats and 119 vacancies. Applications are kept on file for 10 years.
<https://www.communitycouncils.org/download/23559.pdf>

9. FCC Transition Update – Amanda Moser, FCC Secretary

We worked with the Assembly to increase our funding for the FCC and got a substantial increase. We redrafted the position description and posted it as a director level position. We have received several applicants. The transition committee will begin interview process this week.

10. Council Updates

Airport Heights – Amanda Moser

Our council has spent a lot of time talking about the Seward-Glenn Highway Connection. We recognize that the plans they've presented impact both Fairview as well as Airport Heights. We wanted to make sure that our concerns don't switch the impacts to another neighborhood. Considering our housing crisis, the plans don't really communicate the housing that will be destroyed and the impact of that.

Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule

Reconstruction of Chugach substation at 100th & Southport, a 65-ft communications tower to support new technologies; proposed a resolution in opposition.

Bear Valley CC – Kaitlyn Jackson

We didn't have a meeting last, meet next in March.

Birchwood CC – Carol Perkins

Good presentations from all the appropriate government officials. We noticed that Eklutna is a council with 46 homes and 1.25 miles of road. They are entitled to be part of CBERRRSA and that will affect our mill rate. Alaska Long Trail presentation by Shaun Sexton.

Campbell Park CC – Kevin Fimon

We held elections last month (didn't meet quorum in January). All incumbents were reelected, including the FCC delegate.

Eagle River – Cliff Cook.

Eagle River Valley – Tom Freeman

Bond proposal to improve access to Chugach Park and upgrade parking on Cannon Road. Community Emergency Response Team training will be held in June.

Girdwood – Mike Edgington

Meet next week. Pushing initiatives for housing in our community because we have a lot of issues. One is short-term rentals; other issues are the use of land, etc. 80% is housing.

Government Hill CC – Bob French

Held our meeting last week and had a presentation from the Municipality and a Historical Building Commission about looking at the structural stability of the old AT&T wireless building. The only communication that Anchorage had from 1917 to 1935 was thru a Morse code station

on Government Hill. That building is still there to some structural distress, but good shape. We are also discussing CAPSIS funding and things like that.

Huffman/O'Malley – Gretchen Stoddard

No report.

Midtown – Kris Stoehner

Business and property owners just defeated a movement to have a BID in our area. The mayor is meeting next week with businesses that have been affected by the camps. We figure we've had about \$2 million in damage since last April. Another big fire out there, another motor home burned. Fire department is telling us they are out there one to two time a day. Felix Rivera has offered to give all of us in the Community Council world a class on the Assembly and the procedures that they use.

Mountain View – Daniel George

Biggest item discussed at the January meeting was a call to action, also large homeless camps are impacting daily lives.

Northeast CC – Pamela Raygor

We are recognizing Bob for his contribution to the FCC and NECC. That will be at our April meeting. The CIP committee worked diligently to put together our priorities list and forwarded that to our legislators. There was great concern at our last meeting about the school board budget and about our roadways near the school, particularly for after-school pickups. There are hazards for the children and those driving. We passed a resolution in opposition to traveling circles and roundabouts with the Nunaka Valley subdivision. We had a 1st reading for the resolution in opposition to the Boundary Avenue extension. We had a 1st reading for the Muldoon perimeter fire safety road resolution.

North Star – Penny Gage

We voted in favor of the joint resolution put forth by the Assembly and School Board in support of fair, inflation-adjusted state funding. Rep. Zack Fields presented his draft proposal to use Anchorage Park Foundation grant opportunities to support a pump track and other family friendly recreation in the Chester Creek corridor.

Old Seward/Oceanview CC – Gary Meaders

Nothing to report.

Rabbit Creek CC – Mike Kenny

Met last Thursday. Did quite a bit of work on the letter to the Assembly and Planning & Zoning on the latest AO 2024-Home Initiative. Invited Planning & Zoning people and one person came and he helped us out with a couple of our questions.

Rogers Park CC – Linda Chase

No report.

Russian Jack CC – Kathleen Plunkett

Meeting last month was really short.

Scenic Foothills – Patrick LeMay

Safety item: when you out the exit doors, you tell people not to leave the area, and where the assembly point is so 1st responders can account for everyone. Our board would like to network with other CC boards.

Spenard CC – Matt Duncan

We had our elections last month and I'm still the VP. New president Sarah Preskitt. We need guidance on accepting the proceeds from local community artists selling Spenard-branded items.

Turnagain – Cathy Gleason

I want to acknowledge the passing of Bob Reupke, a decades-long, active participant and delegate from the Northeast CC. We are following the Heritage Land Bank 2024 and 5-year Management Plan. I hope to testify in front of the Advisory Commission tomorrow and ultimately the assembly. We're following the Airport Master Plan update. We just attended briefings a couple of weeks ago on potential alternatives. It does include a second north-south runway if needed in the future. We're following the Home Initiative that the Assembly is working on. We've got some concerns with regard to the consolidation of a broad scale rezoning down to five, because it doesn't look like it conforms to the 2040 land use plan. We are working on putting together a West Anchorage candidates forum. And so we're excited about that we have not picked a date. We were very happy to see the Assembly approve the formal naming of three amenities within Luminary Park, that we took a multi-year effort to get done.

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard

University Area CC – Al Milspaugh

What is the status of our FCC manager? **Amanda** – we are beginning the interview process.

Where are we with upgrading the FCC website? **Amanda** – we are in a period of transition and so we aren't taking on any new responsibilities until we have a new director.

Treasurer report? **Amanda** – position is currently vacant, but the financials are online.

New Business

Motion made by Amanda Moser to nominate Kevin Fimon for treasurer. Seconded by Pam Raygor. MMSC. We will be looking for a new treasurer when we hold elections in May. Motion made by Daniel George to close nominations; seconded by Linda Chase. Voted to approve by acclamation.

Kevin shared a financial statement for January 2024.

11. Public Comment

Clair Steffens (Bear Valley) – Expressed concern that zoom meetings are not promoting "community" and would ask that the FCC put out a survey to find out how other council members feel.

Al Milspaugh - commented that he thought meeting at the FCC conference room made for better participation..

Patrick LeMay – related to my comment about councils meeting and networking.

Amanda Moser – we will be sending out information on the Anchorage Park Foundation’s grant opportunities.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Amanda Moser, seconded by Tom Freeman.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

January 17, 2024 – Zoom Chat

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