

UACC MINUTES

March 6, 2024

1
2
3
4 **1. Opening:** The meeting was called to order by President Steve Callaghan. Steve was
5 the chair of the meeting, and Al presented the UACC Zoom Guidelines.
6

7 **2. Approval of Prior Month Minutes:** Steve Callaghan asked the attendees to review
8 the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Mike Grunst motioned to approve
9 the minutes with Mark Fink seconding the motion. Steve Callaghan then asked if
10 there were any amendments. Trouble pulling up the minutes electronically so moved
11 to item 3 before returning to this item. With none being heard, Steve Callaghan then
12 stated without objections the minutes were approved.
13

14 **3. Approval of the Agenda:** Steve Callaghan asked for approval of the agenda. Ian
15 Blake motioned for approval with a second by Adam Lees. Steve suggested adding
16 42nd Ave to the end of New Business (6). With no objections, the agenda was
17 approved.
18
19

4. Informational Reports:

A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials

20
21
22 **1.—Seth for Senator Forrest Dunbar:** Technical issues, went to Rep Gray first
23 before returning. Education omnibus passed nearly unanimously, includes
24 increased BSA funding and internet upgrades. SR13 passed unanimously
25 asking for the return of ANSCA lands that were designated for assignment to
26 village corporations that will likely never exist. Alaska veterans' poppy day
27 to recognize AK vets. Also passed increased funding for Alaska Legal
28 Services fund. All are waiting on house action. AK UA performance
29 scholarship increase has passed through senate committees and will be
30 combined with the house version soon. Mental health and psychedelic
31 medicine task force to review these therapies for potential use in Alaska
32 (legalization requires federal action). Sen. Dunbar's work on budget
33 subcommittees transportation, resources, and revenue continues.

34 **Q from Steve regarding land transfer** – is that a part of the original 1200?

35 A: Not sure, there is legislation at the federal level that this is meant to
36 support.

37 **2.—Diedre Goins for State Representative Andrew Gray:** New bill for
38 increased alcohol warnings for cancer at point of sale. House bill 320 is a
39 bill to help foster children maintain legal sibling connections post-adoption
40 to strengthen familial ties. Recent podcast guests include foster youth and
41 recently graduated adults. March 14th – town hall meeting via zoom about

42 trailer park regulations and issues.

43 **3.—Assembly Member Felix Rivera:** Emergency cold weather shelter reports
44 from 3rd party oversight have been generally positive. Assembly will be
45 appropriating funds to keep shelter through May 31st (originally slated to
46 close in April). One of the main state legislature requests is for \$4 million to
47 continue to operate the SWS shelter for the summer. Mayor has proposed
48 new regulations for camp abatement – to be discussed on March 19
49 assembly meeting and upcoming work session. Proposal includes limits on
50 camp location and proximity to existing shelter (excludes emergency cold
51 weather shelter), no encampments in central business district (downtown
52 area), size (maximum of 50 individuals), creates “wastewater nuisance”
53 mechanism to accelerate abatement, limits allowable proximity to trails and
54 parks, and creates a safe parking zones for those living in vehicles or RVs.
55 Next step pilot program has housed 69 people, goal is 150 by the end of
56 emergency cold weather shelter. Partners have set another goal of 150 this
57 summer, emulating Houston model: abatement -> permanent housing.

58 **Q from Marguerite:** What is the definition of “encampment?” Describes
59 situation at her church downtown with homeless issues. A: Felix to add to
60 chat.

61 **Q from Marguerite:** Her snow pile, referenced in February meeting, has
62 been removed.

63 **4.—Assembly Member George Martinez:** Highlights partnership with ACDA
64 (easy park) to get federal funds to activate vacant and abandoned properties.
65 Sub-committee meeting March 14th to get an update from the HLB on their
66 work plan. Working on plans to help support front line transit workers and
67 operators. Funding with help ameliorate safety issues that are increasing
68 nationally and locally re-transit. Also working to improve bike and
69 pedestrian safety on multi-modal trails with mixed use between walkers,
70 bikes, e-bikes, etc.

71 **5.—School Board member Carl Jacobs:** Begins by sharing a presentation on
72 bond proposition 1 on April election. Bond will focus on safety and security
73 for staff and students as well as extend the life of existing facility. 17 schools
74 will receive capital improvements in this bond. ASD operating budget was
75 passed by school board, anticipating an increase to BSA funding from the
76 state (not fully known/guaranteed). Budget retains many positions that were
77 eligible for cuts in previous discussions.

78 **Q from Mark:** Is this the first time the school district has passed a budget
79 without the money in hand? A: (slightly misunderstood question) Budget
80 always has to be to assembly before legislature finishes its budget process.

81 **6.—UAA VP Ryan Buchholdt:** UA is also working on public-private
82 partnership to build a new ice hockey arena/facility. 4800 boxes of Ted

83 Stevens' archives to be delivered to UAA library. Will expand their "Alaska
84 Leaders" collection. This Friday UA will host an emergency preparedness
85 exercise for earthquake response. UAA is active participant in emergency
86 prep for the municipality as a whole. Spring break is next week and then
87 ramp up to commencement in May.

88 Q from Mark: What about returning to Sullivan? A: There are program
89 concerns about practicing on one sheet of ice and playing on another and
90 past experiences of playing in an empty (and therefore very quiet) arena. In
91 addition, unsure of the condition of the ice-making facilities there.
92

93 **5. Old Business:**

94 None.

95 **6. New Business:**

96 **A.** Presentation from Patti Higgins and Elizabeth Patrick regarding community
97 patrols. Elizabeth talked about her experiences in the college gate community
98 patrol. Patti represents all community patrols (gave background on program).
99 They check on homeless camps, open houses/garages, and keep an eye on the
100 community. All volunteers must have a background check and conduct a ride
101 along with APD or experienced community patrollers before joining. They talk
102 about other experiences including helping direct traffic for the Polar Plunge at
103 Goose Lake.

104 Q from Mark: How much time is required? A: it can vary, usually about 35
105 hours per month.

106 Interested parties can reach out to Patti Higgins at 907.360.2561

107 Al lists several positive impressions of this program and highlights the benefit
108 of knowing and being friendly with neighbors.

109 **B. Jana Weltzin from Green Grocer:** Shop owners will look for variances on
110 municipal distances. Shop is fine with state requirements but too close to
111 College Gate and ASD administration building as per municipal code. Jane
112 outlines the specific distance variances they will be asking for and their
113 reasoning to support their position. They would like the University Area
114 Community Council to draft a resolution or letter in support of their variance
115 ask (which must be granted by the assembly). Lots of community questions
116 and discussion involving zoning, nearby business uses, input from the College
117 Gate Elementary principal, nearby business owner concerns with existing
118 nighttime activity in the area, proximity to churches, bus stops, school-age
119 activities, and more. Chris Hoke made a motion for a community council
120 resolution to oppose granting this variance. Al seconds. After some further
121 discussion, motion to oppose the variance passes 11 in favor, 2 opposed, 1
122 abstention, and 2 recused.

123 **C. Tommy O'Malley:** Presentation on bond proposition 7 which will provide

124 funds for maintenance of downtown cemetery as well as creating new
125 cemeteries in Eagle River (1) and Girdwood (1).

126 Q from Paul: Tommy, what is your phone number for contact? A:
127 907.382.0502

128 **D. Al Milspaugh** gave an overview of the projects in the upcoming road bond.
129 Some text and ???

130 **E. Nancy Pease** from Rabbit Creek CC to share analysis and concerns on
131 upcoming planning and zoning commission action PZC: 2024-0006 [AO 2023-
132 87]. Says the supporters of this are misrepresenting its derivation from the land
133 use plan. Nancy says the plan calls for targeted up-zoning vs this all in one
134 approach. Also does not comply with hillside land use plan. This plan would
135 result in scattered density that would increase infrastructure strain and car
136 usage instead of targeted infill. Adam Lees with a motion to support Rabbit
137 Creek CC's comments in opposition to the ordinance. Seconded by Mark Fink.
138 Question from Chris regarding the specific impact to UACC area. Clarification
139 from Steve about existing zoning in the area. After discussion, motion passes
140 with 11 yays, 1 nay, 3 abstention.
141

142 7. UACC Committee Reports

143 **A. P&Z Committee, Mark Fink:** triplex/fourplex ordinance. See above discussion.

144 **B. P&R Committee, Mike Grunst:** No updates

145 **C. Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh:** Review of emergency procedures for in-person
146 meeting

147 **D. FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh:** No meeting in December, nothing to report.
148

149 8. Public comments-Open Dialog

150 A. Paul Stang regarding 42nd Ave. project and future public outreach. Paul wants to
151 make sure that Barbara has a contact at the project to listen to her concerns. Steve
152 listed contact people at the engineering firm.

153 **9. Adjournment:** Adam Lees made a motion for adjournment. Mark Fink seconded.
154 The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm, the in-person portion of the meeting left the
155 facility, UAA Lyla Richards Room. The next meeting, hybrid format, is scheduled for
156 **Wednesday April 3, 2024.**
157
158

159 _____
160 Ian Blake, UACC Secretary
161

162 Atch: Attendance Roster

163 **Attachment 1 Attendance Roster**

164

Attendance Roster	
<u><i>Name</i></u>	<u><i>Affiliation</i></u>
Steve Callaghan	Member, President, in-person
Al Milspaugh	Member, Vice-President, online
Mike Grunst	Member, in-person
Ian Blake	Member, in-person
Deirdre Goins	Guest, online, Staff for Rep. Gray
Mark Fink	Member, in-person
Seth Tigarian	Guest, online, Staff for Senator Dunbar
Assembly Member George Martinez	Guest, Presenter, online
Assembly Member Felix Rivera	Guest, Presenter, online
Dianne Holmes	Guest, Presenter, online
Nancy Pease	Guest, Presenter, online
Karen Cameron	Member, online
Ryan Buchholdt	Member, UAA, in-person
Barbara Garner	Member, online
Paul Stang	Member, online
Marguerite Iverson	Member, online
Darrell Brinsten	Member, online
Chris Capps	Member, online
Hanna Davis	Member, online
Elizabeth Patrick	Member, in-person
Chris Hoke	Member, in-person
Marissa Beninati	Member, in-person
Jana Weltzen	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Hyon Yun	Guest, in-person
Dan Kim	Guest, in-person
Tommy O'Malley	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Patti Higgins	Guest, Presenter, in-person
Adams Lees	Member, in-person

165