

# **UACC MINUTES**

March 6, 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 Prior Month Minutes:** Steve Callaghan asked the attendees to review the minutes and asked for a motion of approval. Mike Grunst motioned to approve the minutes with Mark Fink seconding the motion. Steve Callaghan then asked if there were any amendments. Trouble pulling up the minutes electronically so moved to item 3 before returning to this item. With none being heard, Steve Callaghan then stated without objections the minutes were approved.
3. **Approval of the Agenda:** Steve Callaghan asked for approval of the agenda. Ian Blake motioned for approval with a second by Adam Lees. Steve suggested adding 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave to the end of New Business (6). With no objections, the agenda was approved.

## 4. **Informational Reports:**

### A. **Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**

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

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

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

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

trailer park regulations and issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. Old Business:

None.

## 6. New Business:

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

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

Interested parties can reach out to Patti Higgins at 907.360.2561

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 7. UACC Committee Reports

- A. P&Z Committee, Mark Fink:** triplex/fourplex ordinance. See above discussion.
- B. P&R Committee, Mike Grunst:** No updates
- C. Safety Committee, Al Milspaugh:** Review of emergency procedures for in-person meeting
- D. FCC Delegate, Al Milspaugh:** No meeting in December, nothing to report.

## 8. Public comments-Open Dialog

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

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

***Signed***

Ian Blake, UACC Secretary

Atch: Attendance Roster

## Attachment 1 Attendance Roster

<b>Attendance Roster</b>	
<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