

**Federation of Community Councils, Inc.
Board of Delegates Meeting
In-Person at the FCC Office and via Zoom**

June 18, 2024, Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum: Amanda Moser, Delegated Chair

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Quorum attained.

Zoom meeting being recorded, including the “Chat”. There is no expectation of privacy.

FCC Delegates in attendance (21)

Abbott Loop - Lizzie Newell

Airport Heights – Amanda Moser

Basher – *Not Present*

Bayshore/Klatt – *Not Present*

Bear Valley – Kaitlyn Jackson

Birchwood – Carol Perkins

Campbell Park - Kevin Fimon

Chugiak – *Not Present*

Downtown – *Not Present*

Eagle River – Cliff Cook

Eagle River Valley – *Not Present*

Eklutna Valley – *Not Present*

Fairview – Allen Kemplen

Girdwood (GBOS) – Mike Edgington

Glen Alps – *Not Present*

Government Hill - *Not Present*

Hillside – Bruce Vergason

Huffman/O’Malley – *Not Present*

Midtown – Kris Stoeher

Mountain View – Daniel George

North Star – *Not Present*

Northeast - Pamela Raygor

Old Seward/Oceanview – *Not Present*

Portage Valley – *Not Present*

Rabbit Creek – John Riley

Rogers Park – Marilyn Pillifant

Russian Jack – Kathleen Plunkett

Sand Lake – *Not Present*

Scenic Foothills – Daniel Clift

South Addition – John Thurber

South Fork – *Not Present*

Spenard – Matt Duncan

Taku-Campbell – *Not Present*

Tudor – *Not Present*

Turnagain - Cathy Gleason

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard

University Area – Al Milspaugh

Others in attendance:

Community Councils Center Arianna Bellizzi, Executive Director

Community Councils Center Ali Rambo, Office Assistant

Jason Bergerson, Treasurer for Midtown CC

Mike Kenny, Co-Chair for Rabbit Creek CC

Steve Callaghan, Chair for University Area CC

2. Approval of Agenda – June 2024

Motion to approve made by Al Milspaugh and Marilyn Pillifant, approved by acclamation.

3. Approval of Minutes – May 2024

Motion to approve made by Al Milspaugh and Marilyn Pillifant, approved by acclamation.

4. Update from Executive Director

a. New Office Admin & Office Hours – Arianna Bellizzi

- i.** Arianna announced the hiring of new office administrator – Ali Rambo. She also announced that the new FCC office hours would be Monday>Thursday 12pm – 5pm. Arianna let the delegates know that the office could be available outside those hours by appointment.

- ii.** Al Milspaugh asked why those hours were picked. Arianna explained that the office saw very little interaction on Friday. She said they were hoping to hire for full time

should the budget allow for it next year. Amanda Moser also responded and said the decision to adjust the work week to four days was made after gathering data on office usage over the past few months.

5. **Executive Committee Resolutions** – Presentations by Arianna Bellizzi
 - a. Amanda Moser introduced both resolutions and provided an advisory on the format for the discussion. She also advised the Delegates that the executive committee had heard the presentation.
 - b. **2024-01: Digital Outreach Resolution**
 - i. See Attachment A for discussion on 2024-01
 - c. **2024-01: Fiscal Sponsorship Resolution**
 - i. See Attachment B for discussion on 2024-02
6. **Council Updates**
 - i. Skipped due to time.
7. **Next FCC Meeting** – Arianna Bellizzi
 - a. **July** – Picnic
 - i. To be had sometime the week of the normal meeting in July, pending park availability. FCC staff would advertise the event
 - b. **August** – Wednesday, August 21st
 - i. Arianna and Amanda said there would be more resolutions coming forward.
8. **Public Comment**
 - i. None
9. **Adjournment**
 - i. Motion to adjourn by Carol Perkins, seconded by Kevin Fimon. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Arianna Bellizzi

Attachment A
2024-01: Digital Outreach Resolution
Discussion

Arianna gave a presentation on the current policies for FCC Digital Outreach and what the resolution intended to do.

The presentation discussed the implementation of a new digital outreach policy in response to low engagement with their current email system. The new policy, if enacted, would limit the number of emails sent to the community councils to one or two per week, focusing on information that is directly relevant to their mission. The policy also aims to increase engagement by allowing presidents and chairs to request more targeted emails for their areas. The changes, if approved, would apply to emails to all regular contacts and would be potentially communicated through a newsletter format.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Kathleen Plunket and Marilyn Pillifant.

Arianna proposed creating a weekly newsletter to consolidate information from various sources, including the FCC, for distribution to all community councils. The newsletter would not apply to individual council communications or agendas. Bruce Vergason also asked for clarification that the proposed resolution does not address updating the FCC's webpage, which is a separate issue currently in the process of being addressed. The discussion also touched on the process for newcomers to join mailing lists and the removal of inactive subscribers. Arianna confirmed that aggregate data presented for digital subscribers and unsubscribers pertain to the entire council network.

The discussion centered around the communication strategies of the Community Councils. It was clarified that the staff could provide data on the success of email communications and also assured Allen Kemplen that emails were filtered by council or on whole. They further discussed the idea of consolidating all communication into a single newsletter format to avoid information overload.

However, Kris Stoechner raised concerns about the new policy potentially being dictated by the FCC and the potential impact on the council's autonomy. The issue was deferred for further discussion with Jason, a past president of the FCC. Jason Bergersen, a former president, suggests using multiple email subject lines like 'FCC Alert' or 'FCC Monthly Newsletter' to better categorize communications. Arianna said that was already done. Arianna and Amanda clarified that this resolution would only impact emails going out to all constituents on the list-serv; the purpose of the resolution not being the limitations of council chairs' communications.

There is debate around whether the policy should return to the full board for approval after being drafted by the executive director and executive committee. A motion was raised by Cathy Gleason and Al Milspaugh to alter the language of the resolution to remove "without constraining constituent attention" from the second to last Whereas. It passed 10 to 5, with 6 abstains.

A second motion to table to discussion so delegates could return to their councils for input was brought by Kris Stoechner. No one seconded and it was removed.

A third motion was brought by Al Milspaugh to edit the Now Therefore Be It Resolved to add a ratification of the policy by the board. This was seconded by Cathy Gleason. There was discussion on the language specifics, ending in the change being "...refrains from dilution of the mission, subject to ratification by the full Board." This was passed 14 to 3, with 4 abstains.

The edited resolution was passed 17 to 2, with 2 abstains.

Attachment B
2024-02: Fiscal Sponsorship Resolution
Discussion

Arianna gave a presentation on the current policies for FCC Fiscal Sponsorship and what the resolution intended to do.

The presentation discussed the organization's status as a nonprofit and its role as a fiscal sponsor for community councils. They explained the importance of maintaining the organization's tax-exempt status and the responsibilities that come with it, including filing annual reports and refraining from excessive lobbying. The representative also highlighted the need for better oversight and communication regarding the funding received by community councils, as the current system may put the organization's tax-exempt status at risk. They proposed creating a legal understanding between the Community Councils and the Federation, and working with a lawyer to establish a fund reporting structure and improve communication.

Motion to approve the resolution made by Bruce Vergason and Marilyn Pillifant.

Amanda Moser, representing the executive committee, discussed their goals and the need for better fiscal management. They agreed on a resolution to assist community councils in involving citizens in government processes, resolving community issues, and advising the city on policies while following IRS guidelines for nonprofit activities. The board also debated the risks and benefits of acting as a fiscal sponsor for community councils, with concerns raised about legal and financial responsibility. They decided to conduct an audit to ensure compliance and transparency, and to collaborate with a lawyer and accountant to move forward with this plan.

The discussion centered around changes in donation procedures for community councils, specifically those seeking tax-exempt status. Arianna clarified that tax-exempt donations would require approval and oversight, and this would be outlined in new policy. Donations of items not seeking tax-deductions would not need review. Daniel Clift expressed concerns about the impact of this on his council's immediate funding from the Parks Foundation. Arianna assured him that they were in talks with the Anchorage Park Foundation to find a temporary solution.

Allen Kemplen expressed concerns about the timing of presenting significant changes to the executive board and the community councils, questioning whether it was purposefully done during the summer to minimize engagement. Arianna clarified that the issue was not about people's summer vacations but about maintaining the organization's tax-exempt status. They also mentioned that they were trying to maximize engagement and were attempting to resolve the matter quickly due to its impact on councils. Kris Stohner emphasized the urgency due to issues his community council was facing and proposed moving forward with the policy. The discussion also included clarifications about the tax reporting deadlines and the need for transparency and clear record-keeping.

The discussion centered around the management and tracking of funds for community councils. The team discussed the need for a fair and equitable system to handle the money, with a focus on ensuring the funds are used in accordance with the organization's mission. They also highlighted the importance of creating a policy to distinguish between tax-exempt and other types of funding, and to prevent misuse of funds. The team acknowledged the complexity of the task due to compliance issues and the need for oversight, but agreed on the necessity of finding a solution to ensure proper management and reporting of funds.

A motion to vote on the resolution was made by Marilyn Pillifant and Bruce Vergason. The resolution was passed 18 to 1, with 2 abstains.