

Campbell Park Community Council

Minutes

Via Zoom and in-person,

7pm start time, August 15, 2024

At St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Cay's Room

I.. **Call to Order by President Nicole Cupp at 7:03pm**, 8 CPCC residents were present (5 in person,3 online), including the required minimum of one officer. A quorum was not declared.

Others present: Remington (Rep. Andrew Gray's office); Sen. Forrest Dunbar, Assembly Member Felix Rivera.

II. **Approval of Minute (Lacking a quorum, no action was taken.)**

III. **Approval of Agenda: (Lacking a quorum, no action was taken.)**

IV. **Expressions of Gratitude:** Thanksgiving were given for seasonal weather and for Rep. Josephson's walk-around visiting homeless camps in and near the neighborhood.

V. **Guest Speaker:** Felix Rivera, substituting for Colin Ede, Northern Compass Group, Project Anchorage, speaking on the:

3% (total) Anchorage Municipality Sales Tax.

The report included an online slide deck presentation, including the background of the proposal. Early movers were a committee of 16 business community members.

2%: A 2% portion would be "under the tax cap" and would directly offset property taxes, saving property owners property taxes.

Goals:

- ✓ Increased housing affordability.
- ✓ Reduced cost of doing business.
- ✓ Capture visitor spending.

1%: The additional 1% is intended for Community Investment Projects.

Goals:

- ✓ Improved quality of place.
- ✓ Increased retention and attraction of talent.
- ✓ Attract Private investment.
- ✓ Capture visitor spending.

One-fifth (of the total tax of 3% tax) is anticipated being paid by visitors who are not Municipality of Anchorage residents.

Primary categories of the types of Community Investment Projects in the resident survey were shared.

Items proposed to be *exempted from the tax* were discussed:

- ✓ - Most groceries
- ✓ - Medical Care
- ✓ - Rental housing
- ✓ - Financial services and transactions
- ✓ - Gasoline
- ✓ - Childcare and products such as diapers and formula
- ✓ - There would be a cap on taxes of amount over \$1000.

A robust campaign will be run to win approval by Anchorage voters in the April 2025 Municipal election.

VI. Unfinished Business:

VII. Reports:

- 1.) Housing and Homelessness Committee – Brief report given by Michael Burke.
- 2.) FCC – Kevin Fimon – Brief report given.
- 3.) Vice Chair – Andrew Satterfield – No report this month.
- 4.) Treasurer TJ Andrew - Not present / No report.

- 5.) CPCC Chair, Nicole Cupp – Brief Report given.
- 6.) Legislature – Sen. Jackson and/ or Sen. Dunbar. No one was present from Sen. Jackson’s office. Report was given by Sen. Forrest Dunbar:
- 7.) Discussion of capital item vetoes by the Governor; It was noted that CPCC area had no items for this past year’s capital budget. Funds were approved for Shiloh Community Development and Habitat for Humanity. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is required to override a Governor’s veto. There is community concern about the vetoes of the matching funds (to match federal funds available) that would have provided more support for hiring nurses at Anchorage Native Medical Center. The Governor did not provide a full explanation of his reasoning on vetoing this particular item.
- 8.) Legislature – Rep. Josephson and/or Rep. Gray. Ms. Keller, staff to Rep. Josephson reported on the visits to the encampments of unhoused residents. It was noted that different camps were quite different in character, especially as campers cared for their camp and the surrounding area and those who did not. There was a meeting with representatives from AHFC Housing, and 3000 housing vouchers for Anchorage were currently in process or use. Anchorage Community Action on Toxins August 26th at 11:30 am at the Anchorage Legislative Information Office (LIO).
Representative Gray was unable to be present; their staffer Remington made the report. Their audio level was low and the entirety of the report was not captured. The new director of FCC (Federation of Community Councils) was referenced. 907 269-0123 is their office number and CPCC members are invited to contact their office with feedback and/or concerns.
- 9.) Assembly members Rivera and/or Zalatel. Assembly Member Rivera updated the CPCC on the Anchorage Police Department body-worn cameras and he will continue to push for a shorter timeline for disclosure of footage. He had concerns about understaffing at critical parts in implementing the disclosure procedures. Mr. Rivera discussed aspects of the “from-camp-direct-to-housing” plan that is being worked on actively. The \$4 million grant from the State of Alaska will enable the old Municipal solid waste services building being used as shelter will continue to operate until Municipal funds kick in. This will reduce the number of people sheltering in our woods and public spaces.

Abatement was discussed: Proximity to uses such as major trail systems, childcare facilities, schools, etc. Also given special priority is large camps or those within .5 (one half) mile from a licensed shelter. Abatement is proceeding sequentially and in deliberate order to increase the success of the abatement efforts. A number of high priority locations were mentioned. The report concluded with a discussion of the recent officer-involved shooting. A high number of people are experiencing considerable distress in the wake of this most recent shooting by police and he is advocating for a renewed focus on de-escalation trainings and alternatives to lethal force. Discussion ensued about how to report encampments in the woods and public spaces. Mr. Rivera provided clear instructions to those present.

It was presumed that Assembly Member Meg Zalatel was otherwise engaged in the first day of school activities as she has a school-aged child.

- 10.) Mayor's Office; No one was present from the Mayor's office.
- 11.) School Board: No one was present from the Anchorage School Board.

IX. Open Forum

X. Next Meeting: September 19, 2024 at 7pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 2222 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage AK.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.