

Fairview Community Council
General Membership Meeting
October 10, 2024

Present: James Thornton, Bryan Hawkins, Sharon Chamard, Allen Kemplen, Maria Crawford, Chris Crawford, David Rittenberg, Daniel Volland, Julie Greene-Graham, Sgt. Kenny Anglin, Karen, Donna Goldsmith, Larissa Wright-Elson, Tom Davis, Josh Sy, on ZOOM – Janel Walton, Chris Constant, SJ Klein, Scott and Roger, Eric Montoya, Suzie Alexander, Tamia Bunton, Megan Kenyon, Lizzie Newell, Margo Bellamy

Call to order: 6:35 pm

It was moved by Karen Gonné-Harrell and seconded by Maria Crawford to approve the agenda. The motion passed without objection.

It was moved by Allen Kemplen and seconded by Karen Gonné-Harrell to approve the September 2024 minutes. The motion passed without objection.

Muni Reports and Government Officials

Capt. Minkler, Anchorage Fire Department - AFD is looking to hire 24 new firefighters. Chris Constant - it is fire safety and fire prevention month, a good time to check your smoke and CO detectors. Janel Walton - there was a big fire a few days ago at 15th and Fairbanks. We were surprised at how long the response was and why only one truck responded given it was so close to residents and got so high. Capt. Minkler - response depends on the size of dumpster fire and location of other structures/exposures. At the time of the call all Engine 1 apparatus was out. Had to send truck from Engine 4 at McInnes and Tudor. Janel - why was there no APD response? Capt. Minkler - they wouldn't come unless there was someone around callers said set the fire. A dumpster fire would not be seriously investigated. Only trash is burnt. Only loss are the dumpster plastic lids. Janel - why was it classified as just a dumpster fire when the parking lot was on fire too? Capt. Minkler - all the 911 calls described it as a dumpster fire. Janel – two blocks away, my husband was burned on hand by embers. There were several pallets on that site. They've rebuilt the encampment within 12 hours.

Man in back – how do we go about setting up a tour of the fire station? Capt. Minkler – call Public Relations if it is a school tour. If it's just you, stop in any day between 10 am – 8 pm. Fire station is the community's fire station. We are just lucky enough to work here. Come in and meet the crew members at Station 1. It's great to meet community members in a non-emergent manner.

Bryan Hawkins – Truck or Treat is coming up. Capt. Minkler – it's a different shift than mine. But the D shift officers will be contacting you to make arrangements.

Sgt. Kenny Anglin, APD CAP team - We can only clean a certain number of camps at same time. Understand the frustration. Currently in CAP focusing on trespass letters, we are going to look through them to ensure the business wants to keep them in place, go out to locations and make sure signage is current.

Man in back – what is the process for camp abatement? Sgt. Anglin – we try to send HOPE team out a few days before we go in and do 10-day posting. After 10 days they need to have cleared out and Parks and Rec goes in and cleaned it up.

Allen Kemplen – many people have reported to APD bad behavior of neighbors, also shootings at 13th and Medfra. How can we engage the CAP team? Sgt. Anglin – contact me or Lt. Fuchs. We're a little under-resourced

now because of dealing with the camps. When that demand is reduced we'll want to get back more into interaction with the community.

Janel Walton – at the Black Angus there were a bunch of old vending machines next to the dumpster that caught on fire, probably from Black Angus. There must be enough CFS from Black Angus. Also, what if there is drug dealing in nearby house? Sgt. Anglin – businesses get 100 CFS per year, drug dealing would be dealt with by vice.

David Rittenberg – thanks to APD and HOPE team for orderly abatement of encampment on Karlu and 3rd Ave. Sgt. Anglin – HOPE team is really effective. Has relationships with lots of providers. Are able to get people housed.

Margo Bellamy, Anchorage School Board – ASD meetings can be watched on ASD YouTube channel. Have begun right-sizing conversations again given current resources and number of students. Developing rubrics to guide right-sizing. Proposed bond package – safety and security upgrades and repairs, \$60m. Second bond for snow removal equipment, upgrade 14 pieces, \$2.8m. School will be held remotely on Nov. 5, election day, for safety reasons due to high traffic we are expecting. Legislative luncheon on Oct. 16th at Service High School. Free flu shot clinic Oct. 17 at Ed Center.

Allen Kemplen – we are working with FV Elementary to make it a STEAM school of choice, interacting with Merrill Field on aviation. What is the process? Margo – start with principal, I will forward you the policy, complete an application, it will come to board for approval.

Daniel Volland, Anchorage Assembly – I met with the mayor today. She was impressed by recent FV walking tour. Budget process – mayor's priorities – expanding Mobile Crisis Team, focusing on homelessness, fully funding Anchorage Safety Patrol – putting under AFD rather than Health Dept, raising snow plow operator pay, increasing child care funds, new grants team to make it easier to apply for grants. Capital – traffic calming and pedestrian safety, revitalizing Town Square, trail improvement. Proposed levies – snow equipment. Transportation Committee meeting next week – proposed solutions to deal with pedestrian deaths- better lighting, PR campaign for drivers and pedestrians. Update on snow removal. First work session today on "Choice Anchorage" – 3% sales tax in Anchorage, would last for 7 years, 2/3 will offset property tax, 1/3 for community projects. Sprung tent structure is going to be sold to Port of Alaska.

Christopher Constant, Anchorage Assembly – skeptic of the sales tax proposal. The major beneficiaries are major land owners like Weidner and Wal-Mart. Pushes burden to residential property owners. Would have to hire many new employees to manage the tax.

Janel Walton – people are coming in from Wasilla and Palmer and using our infrastructure for free, getting a free ride, don't contribute. Chris Constant – we're looking into whether we can have the property tax offset just for residential properties, also considering exempting all food. Daniel Volland – I agree with Chris, but also with Janel. We are leaving a lot of money on the table.

Allen Kemplen – during the walking tour with the mayor, there was discussion about the Fairview Greenway. The best way for us to build it is to use bonds. How can we get construction on the road bond? Can we do it this year? Chris Constant – we'd need to put it into the CIP, there is a 5-7 year work plan. There are other priorities. Need to do the work, get a plan, a budget, then we can work it through the process. Will take a few years.

Presentations

Donna Goldsmith – Alaskans for Fair Courts – we defend judiciary and judges who come under attack, judges are not political and don't run campaigns. So they are unable to respond to attacks at the 11th hour. We have a unique system in AK, potential judges are vetted by the Alaska Judicial Council and the top three candidates are forwarded to the governor who chooses from the list. AJC staff do background checks. Surveys are sent out to people who have come in contact with judges professionally and to all members of the bar. AJC has 3 lawyers, 3 judges, and Chief Justice. There are no lifetime appointments, framers of constitution didn't want judges to be political or partisan, or have to run for office, because the judges might feel beholden to big donors. Every three years judges stand for retention, they have all been evaluated by AJC. Are the judges fair, impartial, timely? Are they doing their job? Are they following the law? We have the best system in the country. Judges don't want power, they want to serve their community. We have a Judicial Conduct Committee that looks at judges who are allegedly engaging in misconduct.

Tom Davis – Muni Planning Dept – re: community council boundaries. Would like to you to select a few people to review the possible boundary changes and then have those folks present a resolution to the whole council membership. We want you to have enough time to deliberate and review. We'd like the resolution approved by January 2025. Presented a poster with map showing the community council boundaries. We sent a survey to 9,500 households through FCC website. Received 400 respondents. Most were satisfied. About 1/5 suggested changes. We looked at the comments relative to the boundary criteria. Tomorrow we will be releasing our recommendations. There are 40 boundary study areas. Of those 40, 6 involve Fairview. The Boundary Advisory Committee at the Planning Dept only recommended approving 1 of these changes, which is to transfer area south of 15th and west of A St to South Addition. But now we want the community's input. Would be grateful if Fairview CC could take a look at this and give us your response. This will all go the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Larissa Wright-Elson – Anchor Gardens – presented on resources available to the community provided by Anchor Gardens – things needed to build a garden (containers, manure, wood chips, etc.), access to neighborhood coaches, seed exchanges. Serenity Garden just put in at 13th and Karluk. Karen Gonne-Harrell – there are a lot of empty lots in Fairview. Anchor Gardens got a grant, Karen asked homeowner and she agreed to have garden put in on her lot. If anyone is interested in having a plot at Serenity Garden they can contact Karen.

Committee Reports

Parks and Rec – Karen Gonné-Harrell - final approval paperwork for community garden of 14th and Ingra is about to be processed by Muni. Will be able to get garden going next year. If you know of any beetle-killed trees, let Allen know because he has plans to use the logs for greenhouse at the community garden.

Allen Kemplen – there will be exterior signage going up at Fairview Rec Ctr. Parks bonds has money for implementing Eastchester Park plan.

Public Safety – James Thornton (to Chris Constant) – any update on locations of non-congregate homeless shelters? Chris Constant – probably same locations as last year, issues with proposed vendor

Transportation – Allen Kemplen – had a meeting with Merrill Field manager re: relationship with FV elementary school. Bryan Hawkins -this is an excellent opportunity for synergy between school and Merrill Field.

President – James Thornton – AARP Challenge grant, winter snow removal component going forward, thanks to Allen. FCC Town Hall series – “Navigating Community Councils,” Oct 21, 7-8 pm at Wilda Marston.

Reconnecting Fairview – Allen Kemplen - Design workshop on Fairview Main Street held on Sept 29. Had a flyer we distributed all along Gambell Street. B Street Gumbo food, sponsored by James. Produced a workshop report, in final draft now. Should influence decision-making of DOT and PEL and other players in the municipality. Walk with the mayor – met at Carrs, went to 15th, over to Karluk, Serenity Gardens, past Civic Heroes signage on 13th. Mayor was impressed by our enthusiasm. She seems totally on board with our efforts and wants to work with us during her administration. Will have a pilot along Hyder St where we work together on a grant through national foundation (AARP), work with groups in community to reimagine Hyder St.

Treasurers Report – Sharon Chamard - No change to balances.

Old Business

Second reading of Resolution 2024-11 Actions supporting Fairview Prosperity & Establishing Ecosystem of Innovation Moved by Allen Kemplen and seconded by David Rittenberg. No opposition to adoption of resolution.

Resolution 2024-12 referred to committee, will be on agenda in November for second reading.

New Business

Julie Greene-Graham presented a copy of a proposed Good Neighbor's Policy for In Our Backyard. James Thornton referred it to Executive Board.

Resolution 2024-14(?) – to support pedestrian safety – laid on table for first reading by Allen Kemplen.

Community Comments and Concerns

David Rittenberg – encouraging applicants for Housing and Homelessness and Neighborhood Development Commission.

Bryan Hawkins moved to extend meeting 10 minutes. Dave Rittenberg seconded. No objection.

Julie Greene-Graham - In Our Backyard is having an open house, Oct 26, 11 am -2 pm.

Chris Crawford – Tiny Food Pantry, 1st and 4th Thursdays of each month, 10th and Latouche, bags of food enough for one person for three days. Come hang out.

Maria Crawford – Trunk or Treat, Oct. 31, Fairview Elementary seeking donations of candy

Allen Kemplen moved to adjourn the meeting, Dave Rittenberg seconded. No objection.

Adjournment at 8:32 pm.