

Mid-Town Community Council (MTCC) General Meeting Minutes
Meeting will be located at 3000 C Street –First Floor Conference Room
Wednesday; October 16, 2024 (NOTE THIS DATE)
12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

Sign in and Call to Order – Kris Stoechner President – All MTCC businesses, residents, land owners and guests are welcome to participate and bring ideas forward to this meeting.

Kris Stoechner called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

MTCC Officers and Board Members Present:

Kris Stoechner, President
Ric Davidge, Vice President
Jason Bergerson, Treasurer
Megan Debenham, Secretary
Mike Mason, Board Member
Bill Borchardt, Board Member
Rosemary Borchardt, Board Member
Greg McDonald, Board Member

Approval of Minutes: 1 Minute

Ric moved and Mike seconded that the minutes from September 11, 2024 be approved. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda: 1 Minute

One addition – Kris added information to the back of the Police Department document
Greg moved and Bill seconded that the agenda be approved. Agenda was approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report – Jason Bergerson - Treasurer – 1 Minute

Jason reported we have \$345.
Kris explained the FCC is holding our money in trust. We can now take donations.

Assembly – Felix Rivera, Meg Zaletel, Chris Constant, or Daniel Volland – Update on relevant subjects – 7 Minutes
Total

Felix Rivera

- Budget – received proposed budgets from Mayor. Working this month and November. Public hearings – October 22, November 6. Mostly a continuation budget. Homelessness and public safety are priorities. For the first time ever winter shelter is included. Also included is funding for the 24/7 mobile crisis team (\$1.39 million). There is also interest in mobile Intervention team (police). Increasing salaries for judicial system.
- Homelessness – Catholic Social Services is taking over SWC (congregant shelter). Next week non-congregant shelters will come online – Alex Hotel, Merrill Field Inn, Chelsea Hotel, one more. If capacity is reached, warming facilities may be used.
- Boards and Commissions – It’s the season for reauthorizing and seat changes.
- Question from Mike – The city is behind on audits. Jeopardize federal funding if they don’t get finished. What is the plan to catch up?
 - 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports (ACFR) will likely be issued in 2025. 2024 ACFR also summer/fall 2025. There is now sufficient staffing.
- Question from Rosemary – if there is adequate shelter will all encampments be abated?
 - Administration is only clearing public safety risk locations. The city has a list of encampments and prioritizes based on public safety.
- Rosemary - Is there money in the budget to add additional attorneys?
 - 26 criminal division budgeted positions. Only 2 or 3 are vacant. Working to fulfill 120-day requirement.
- Rosemary – Has the police budget been reduced?
 - Actually increased from \$138 to \$145 million
- Kris – Is car camping allowed?

- Not aware of administration's policy. Address vehicle issues when moving to shelter.

Civic Presenters:

Mayor's Office – no one present

School Board – no one present

Legislators – Senator Gray-Jackson, House Representatives Alyse Galvin & Andy Josephson – 3 Minutes
Each if they are able to present

Bessie Odom from Rep. Galvin's office

- Visited largest mental health care facilities – correctional facilities. Asked legislature to increase funding and oversight of prisons.
- Concerned about rise in calls for first responders (much gang-related).
- Schools could lose \$17 million federal funding because of inequitable ARPA distributions.
- Landlord/Tenant discussion - tenants feel powerless, living in subpar conditions.
- Ric Davidge – social security cutting payments to low income households

Alexander from Rep. Josephson's office

- Homelessness – committee meeting right now. Winter cold shelter plan and general plan. Personally helped a homeless constituent with two children. Worked with 211. Highly recommends 211.
- Transportation – snow removal meeting today.
- Met with Chancellor of UAA.
- Visited new Alaska leaders archive.
- Hate crimes panel with chief of police. No hate crimes statute in the State.

Committees:

AMATS - Jason Bergerson – 2 Minutes

Jason – last two meetings have been cancelled along with bicycles and trails meetings

Marijuana and Alcohol – Brian Swartzentruber & Rosemary Borchardt – 2 minutes

Mostly neutral status on all alcohol and mj renewals unless there is an issue. License violation on Silk, but it was minor and corrected, so we are neutral. Next month we will vote on a new license.

MT District Plan – Melinda Gant – 3 Minutes

- Carlee from long range planning was also present.
- Next steering committee meeting is October 21. Focusing on 2040 land use plan and determining what the MT core is. How do we market MT in a way that attracts people?
- Public Meeting #2 was on September 27. Public Meeting #3 will be on January 27, 5:30 pm at the BP Energy Center and online.
- Focus on action items. Next step is a letter of support for action items that we want to see in our community. Action items will be presented to the MTCC next month for a vote. Kris would like to have a master plan for Cuddy Park and proposes that Fireweed Lane be a 3-lane road.
- Draft plan will be ready end of December/beginning of January. Comments can be made through the City View portal.
 - Rosemary – Confused about how all the moving parts with the 3 CCs will resolve.
 - Initial goals have changed dramatically. Each CC has specific action items for its boundary area.
- Hoping for Assembly approval by end of May. Assembly can make changes to the plan.

Web Page & Flyer – Megan Debenham – 3 Minutes We voted on the flyer...it was approved

- The MTCC now has a Facebook page. We are looking for someone to manage it.
- FNBA offered to pay for flyer promoting the MTCC and our goals next year. Mike moved and Greg seconded that the MTCC drafts and mails a flyer listing our Facebook page and what we want to do in the coming year. Motion passed unanimously.

Boundaries of the MTCC – Kris – 3 Minutes

Resolution probably in December.

Special Presenters:

Elections – Greg McDonald – 10 Minutes

Slate of current board members are all willing to serve again. No other nominations.

Jason moved and Ric seconded to elect the current board members. Vote to elect current board was unanimous.

Station 4 Fire Department – Patrick Barnes. Tudor and MacInnes.

- October is fire prevention month. Home escape plans. Check smoke and CO detectors.
- Station 4 is busiest in city. Homelessness population contributes to that. Any support for issues in the community is appreciated. Can be dangerous for first responders. FD would not respond to 40th and Fairbanks without police. The homeless population is very vulnerable.
- Advocated using 211. Can check shelter capacity on muni.org. Right now they are all full.
- Rosemary - Are fire blankets a valuable resource?
 - Prevention is better. Don't leave cooking unattended.
- Mike - Space heaters can also be an issue
 - Don't overload extension cords. Keep a barrier around the heater and make sure it has a tip over safety mechanism.
- Kris – The fire chief said that the FD appreciates baskets of fruit
 - True – would gladly accept baskets of fruit.

No Trespassing Document – Kris – 3 Minutes See back of document for insight when working with the police department

WNDJ, LLC - New license coming forward for onsite consumption and growing – Resolution 2024-4 Delayed until Nov due to attorney being out of town

Jim Renkert – Cuddy Chalet – 5 Minutes (a different gentleman actually presented)

- Been working over 40 years to make Cuddy Park what they hoped it would be. Has the potential to be crown jewel of Anchorage, but park is underused and little known.
- Have \$500,000 in bonds and contributions to build the chalet, 20% of what is needed.
- Pleading for support from CC and individuals through chalet funding, scheduling activities at the park, and generating support in government.
- Homelessness population around the park is a concern.
 - Encourage archive site development. More people that use it the safer it will be.
- UA business school showed that the facility can support staffing and overhead. Caldwell Idaho making over \$300,000 a year on a similar facility.

Officer Kyle Hemmesch – Anchorage APD - 15 minutes

Not present. Kris informed us that DA office has hired 14 people. New job at police dept (Lieutenant Brian Fuchs supervising HOPE group (homelessness) and CAP group. Invited to our November meeting.

FD mobile crisis team also helps address these issues. Only part time. Part of 2025 budget proposal to be staffed 24/7.

Jason McLaughlin (general manager SALA Medical) & David Parish - SALA Medical - Anchorage Safety Patrol – 15 Minutes

- ASP is a private company contracted under the Health Department (soon to be FD). 311 is Fire Department dispatch, then the FD dispatches ASP.
- Holistic approach. Have paramedic, EMT, intake specialist. 2 vans. One 24 hours, one 8 hours/day.
- Brought a report that will be attached to the minutes.

Kerry Lynch – Anchorage Park Foundation

- Challenge grant to Friends of Fish Creek to create signage in Cuddy Park. Unveiling will be Sunday, October 27, 2:00 pm.
- Rain garden project is done (hopefully help with goose poop)

Greg moved and Ric seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.