

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2025-6:30-8:30 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm.

Attending: James Thornton, Sharon Chamard, Kelly Ittenbach, Allen Kemplen, Loki Tobin, Harrison Smith, Mary Vittone. Zoom: Lindsey Hajduk, Eric Montoya (Canna Get Happy/Hashy), Scot & Roger (Raven Bar), Alexis Johnson (Henning), Chris Campbell & Amanda Andros, Carl Jacobs (ASD), Sandra Millhouse (Canna Get Hashy/Happy), Denise Janson, Chris Constant, SJ Klein, Dan Volland, David Evans (Rogers Park), Kay Gajewski

January 9, 2025 Agenda approved by Allen, second by Harrison
Allen: 2024-17 not ready for action. move to remove from agenda. Sharon second. Allen approved amended agenda, Harrison second.
December 12, 2024 Minutes approved by Mary, second by Sharon.

Elected Officials

~Senator Loki Tobin: Today Law Enforcement Day. Thankful for their service. T-11 days to legislative session. Majority formed coalition. Chairing education, maybe transportation again. State derelict of support service payments again. Reintroduce defined benefit program. Looking for salary study to be released by the governor. Board of parole legislation, electronic backhaul from rural communities. Suicide prevention legislation. Acknowledge chronic fatigue syndrome legislation. 1st podcast released Jan 19th. Jan 26th "Empty Office" podcast talking to Dave Reamer about Fairview. Jan 16th at 6PM Members of Beacon Staff will be here to talk about how they do reporting. Also, we need your comments on Fairview PEL.

Anchorage School Board Member (Carl Jacobs): Finalized right size plan. District working on operating budget for FY26. Facing deficit of 60 million due to lack of state funding and increasing costs. Submit budget by 1st week March. ASDK12/FY26 survey to visualize ASD's budget and suggest tweaks. Survey closes Friday. At assembly meeting, school bond prop 63 million approved for April 1 ballot.

Anchorage Assembly Member Dan Volland: Sales tax proposal 3rd public hearing last Tuesday night. 4 different versions available at muni.org - assembly icon-Project Anchorage icon. Co-sponsor of S2A version: Original proposal has largest beneficiary of 2/3 offset would be commercial property tax owners to out of staters. Meg and I suggest Split: 25% tax offset, 25% to local projects, 25% general gov't, 25% dedicated general gov't. Marijuana and alcohol to be exempted. Project list pared down to 7; come up with robust public process to consider wants vs. needs. Ultimately voters approve projects. Assembly approved special election in September. Majority public vote needed to approve. Per Sharon's question - thought about geography and usage, not community council lines. Want to increase \$20,000 property tax exemption to \$250,000. Exempt all 60% AMI. Sign up for muni services application. Trying to limit regressivity of tax burden. More meetings to synthesize proposals and pick out best version. Assembly approved 2 levies for April 1 ballot: 3.5 million each to upgrade snow removal and police department fleets. Chris Constant: No interest to fund council system more. Want to use CIP list for funding council projects.

Presentations

SnowFighters (AARP) grant wrap up: Allen: Able to implement wintertime AARP grant. Medfra St east to Orca St and south to 17th Ave. Installed yellow snow marker rods in expansion joints on Medfra due to street design. Volunteers cleared sidewalks after 1st snowfall. Average snowblower not robust enough. Left east side of Medfra alone to show the difference. After 2nd snowfall, even after meeting with street maintenance - lack of communication, pushed snow onto sidewalk. Had to replace marker rods and re-shovel after graders came in. Have to have better communication next time. Street forms are important. Medfra has rolled curb design, while Nelchina and Orca have curb and gutter which has better design. Shrubs need to be cut back from sidewalks to allow snow cleaning. Education of grader operators is a must. Need coordination meeting in the fall? Also, need serious equipment. Would like to expand project in the future. To make bigger impact, take it to the assembly; Council could put in request for changing snow management plan & tasking street maintenance to coordinate with councils and neighborhoods. With increased density, it's a bigger issue. Great opportunity for building community at the grass roots level. Neighbors very appreciative. Chris Campbell: I cleared diverters north of 15th. Graders could have put snow 5 feet further to make everyone's lives easier so we don't have to keep clearing old snow.

Committee Reports (Ad-Hoc)

Fun: Loki T: Some discussion about a winter block party. Try to triangulate with Fur Rondy or Iditarod. With current climate, hesitant to move forward. 4 community cleanups planned in the summer.

Parks and Rec/Community Gardens: James: Working on MOA between muni and Parks and Rec. on activating 2 garden sites.

Allen: Muni feels confident that MOA will be signed and we'll be able to move forward with project. Master Plan resolution approved. Will see positive things in Woodside Park.

Transportation/Merrill Field: Allen: JBER expanded runway to north, so airspace changed. East/west runway at Merrill Field being reconstructed in May & June - aircraft will have different pattern. Could experience more noise.

James: Can report if noise is too loud.

Allen: Contact municipal manager's office and also department of health. Merrill Field/Fairview Elementary STEAM program opportunity has potential. Orca St. enhancement conversation ongoing.

Design/CIP: Allen: Design: important as we saw with SnowFighters program. Legislative CIP funding to support SnowFighters would be appreciated.

Standing Reports

Presidents Report: James: Reminder Seward/Glenn Connection PEL study public comments ends January 23. Please comment. Project Anchorage has another public hearing January 21. Look at ProjectAnchorage.org. Project Development map that Allen will talk about. Many ways to be involved in our community and council. Small Food Pantry here. Also, Feeling for all our friends suffering because of all the fires.

Reconnecting Fairview Committee:Allen: Met with Arup - contractor selected to implement Reconnecting Communities grant. Participated in citizens advisory committee on PEL alternatives. Other councils don't want anything to impact their neighborhood.

Lindsey: Meet 1st Thursday of the month. End of Feb. lots of activities for design week. Arup will be in town for that.

Public Safety/Homelessness committee: James: Committee did meet. Looking at items to help here and now. Next meeting is Jan 21 at 5:30 pm at 3150 C Street, Suite 200.

Old Business

PEL alternatives update: Lindsey: Online open house on Seward/Glenn website. Alternatives all listed on this site. MTP Plus site is implementable now. All the alternatives have key goals that Fairview wants based on feedback. Trying to find what we can say yes to. Will have more info for February meeting. Focus on short or medium term goals. Working on traffic modeling with Arup. Loki questioned about Midtown Congestion Relief Project and concern that traffic will be routed into midtown community. Any DOT pushback? L: Challenging that they separated out these projects. Some of that is projected number of vehicles. Dropped vehicle number now. Modeling and approaches to rapid transit would be smart want to invest in our network. How integrating midtown congestion relief? Please submit comments, join our committees. Feb 19-23 is Design Week all around museum and community. James: shout out to museum. Really impactful.

David: I'm from Rogers Park and Co-chair of transportation committee. Formulating resolution for community council on Monday that says Rogers Park opposes option "D." Bad in so many ways. Leaning toward MTP alternative.

James: Trying to get councils together to talk about alternatives.

Loki made motion to extend meeting by 5 minutes. Allen second.

New Business

Treasurer's Report: Sharon: not much action, but there was a pledge donation from ACDA for block party. My next report will show this.

Community Comments/Concerns

Loki: Saturday at 10 am at the railroad depot will have annual print signing as a fundraiser for Scott Clendaniel (Real Art is Better).

Allen: Motion to adjourn; Sharon second. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.