

# Federation of Community Councils Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2024 | Hybrid  
Draft Minutes

## **PART I – THE BOARD MEETING**

### **1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum:** Mike Edgington, Chair

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

*Zoom meeting being recorded, including the "Chat". There is no expectation of privacy.*

---

#### **FCC Delegates in attendance (28)**

Abbott Loop - Lizzie Newell

Airport Heights – *Not Present*

Basher – Donald Crafts

Bayshore/Klatt – Bob Laule

Bear Valley – Kaitlyn Jackson

Birchwood – *Not Present*

Campbell Park – Kevin Fimon

Chugiak – Darryl Parks

Downtown – Barbara Roberts

Eagle River – *Not Present*

Eagle River Valley – Alex Jorgensen

Eklutna Valley – *Not Present*

Fairview – James Thorton

Girdwood (GBOS) – Mike Edgington

Glen Alps – *Not Present*

Government Hill – Bob French

Hillside – Bruce Vergason

Huffman/O'Malley – Jason Norris

Midtown – *Not Present*

Mountain View – Daniel George

North Star – *Not Present*

Northeast – Monica Schwingendorf

Old Seward/Oceanview – Gary Meaders

Portage Valley – *Not Present*

Rabbit Creek – John Riley

Rogers Park – Marilyn Pillifant

Russian Jack – Kathleen Plunkett

Sand Lake – Evan Leaf

Scenic Foothills – Patrick LeMay

South Addition – John Thurber

South Fork – *Not Present*

Spenard – Sarah Preskitt

Taku-Campbell – Kandi Hayes

Tudor – *Not Present*

Turnagain - Cathy Gleason

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard

University Area – Steven Callaghan

#### **Others in attendance:**

FCC Arianna Bellizzi, Executive Director

Marie Husa, Mayor's Office Representative

Silva Villamedes, DTCC Alternate

David Weber, NECC Alternate

---

### **2. Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Agenda**

- b. **Approval of Minutes**

- i. Consent agenda approved by assent, passed unanimously.

### **3. Education Topic:** 2024 MOA Grant Annual Report

- a. Staff presented the 2024 MOA Grant Annual Report includes topics such as sample notifications, newsletters, training events success, and more. The Executive Director explained how the report is an annual requirement for the FCC grant and hopes to bring more attention to it as a measure of success, rather than something ignored.
- b. The 2024 budget was not ready and will be presented at the February Delegates meeting.

### **4. Discussion Topic:** Retention Policy

- a. The policy aims to retain Community Council work products for as long as possible, with a focus on keeping the material produced by the councils.
- b. The discussion also touched on the issue of Zoom meeting recordings, with an idea suggesting that these should be uploaded to YouTube for long-term storage. However, it was decided that this decision should be left to the discretion of the councils.
- c. Also discussed was the need for a policy on how long Community Councils should keep their records, with a suggestion that this should be at least 5 years for digital databases and 10 years for physical copies.
- d. The Executive Committee will review these notes and present an updated version of the Retention Policy at the February Delegates meeting.

### **5. Discussion Topic:** 2025 Meeting Dates

- a. Motion to approve the schedule was made by Daniel George & seconded by Cathy Gleason.
- b. There was an inquiry on if summer month meetings could / would be cancelled due to low participation, but the dates remained on the schedule.
- c. The motion was passed unanimously by assent.

### **6. Comment Period**

- a. Russian Jack thanked the FCC for the zoom login help – everything went smoothly.
- b. The Federation's website update was also discussed, with plans to have a version by the end of the week and a launch in February.

## **PART II – FCC COMMUNITY COUNCIL COLLABORATION MEETING**

### **1. Meeting Opener:** Chair Edgington

### **2. Education Topic**

- a. **Council Updates:** Rabbit Creek thru University Area

- i. **Rabbit Creek** – Concerns about a growing erosion issue on the hillside from runoff, as well as a proposal to wave design standards out in the Rabbit Creek area, as opposed to just suspending the design standards for 3 years.
- ii. **Rogers Park** – They are working with other councils to eliminate Version D of the viaduct (Chester Creek Greenbelt)– They’ve sent a letter to Assembly opposing Version D, & urge anyone to comment on it as the comment period ends January 23, 2025.
- iii. **Russian Jack** – Resolution on school closures, working on their CIP list, had a few homeless camp issues handled with some success, as well as Community Council boundaries.
- iv. **Sand Lake** – Did not meet in January – But passed a resolution on the Diamond Self Storage project, Sand Lake also received 2 grants in December.
- v. **Scenic Foothills** – Council had a special meeting in December for School closures - they fought to keep Baxter Elementary School open & were successful, working with Jon on the firebreak for Campbell Airstrip road, concerns with the pedestrian bridge over Muldoon – they’re working with DOT on the issue, Pedestrian walkways are a concern as well, waiting on DOT to finalize designs for traffic calming on Tudor Road as well, starting to plan for summer on Baxter Trail work as well.
- vi. **South Addition** – Project on a set of stairs on I Street that has been shut down since summer is being pursued, after much leg work & reaching out to many different departments / officials.
- vii. **Spenard** – Elections next month, looking to move to hybrid in March, large homeless encampment on Fish Creek Trail that needs clearing, working on the Midtown District Plan, & has been focused on safe transportation for all.
- viii. **Taku / Campbell** - There was discussion about the Community Council Boundary Study; they do not wish to lose any of the Taku/Campbell Boundary. They’re putting in a request via CIP to have traffic evaluated in a few select areas with concerns for children who walk to bus-stops without sidewalks or curbs.
- ix. **Turnagain** – worked on Community Council Boundaries, in support of sharing Spenard Beach Park between Turnagain & Spenard, as well as opposed losing the coastal area boundary of Turnagain, approved comments to the 1 year & 5 year Heritage Land Bank Plan, continued discussions on the airport as well as Fish Creek Trail connection
- x. **Turnagain Arm** – The police chief visited at the last meeting after having a hard time getting reports, update on the Safer Seward Highway – looking at new signage & rock fall mitigation this summer, also looking at replacing the railroad bridge @ Bird Creek, approved a resolution for the Community Council Boundaries

- xi. **University Area** - planning to merge with the Tudor Area Community Council based on the recommendation from the Community Council Boundary Commission.

### 3. Education Topic

**Mayor's office:** Marie Husa, Constituent Relations Director

- a. The Mayor's Office outlined a commitment to have a representative at each Community Council meeting twice a year, either in person or online, and to provide updates and information. There will also be a representative at every Delegates meeting.
- b. The reasoning behind the number of visits was explained as due to the Mayor's Office being mindful of tax-payer dollars and using Municipal resources and staff.
- c. Staff have visited Downtown, Midtown, Mountain View, Northeast, Russian Jack, Fairview, North Star, South Addition, and Turnagain Community Councils.
- d. Marie asked for Councils to let the Mayor's Office know if they should plan to attend specific meetings.
- e. The Mayor's Office will have an online place to request a meeting for Councils.

FCC Staff inquired whether the Mayor's Staff would be present for the entire meeting or only for a specific portion. Marie responded that the staff would provide an update and would remain at the meeting if notified in advance. FCC Staff also requested clarification regarding the scheduling process for unrequested visits and the communication protocol between the Councils and the Mayor's Staff. Furthermore, FCC Staff noted that the Mayor's staff might wish to prioritize visiting Councils that have not yet been visited. DTCC Delegate asked if the Mayor would be meeting monthly with Downtown businesses. Staff responded it was on the agenda.

**4. Assembly:** Christopher Constant, Chair

- i. Not Present at this meeting

**5. School Board:** Andy Holleman, President

- i. Not Present at this meeting

### 6. Education Topic

a. **Property Assessments** – Jack Gadamus, MOA Municipal Assessor

- i. Jack discussed the real property assessment process, focusing on exemptions and property valuations. The Assessor's office administers exemptions and values property, with a significant effort put into reviewing exemptions annually. He also touched on the composition of exemptions, with the residential exemption being the biggest one.
- ii. Covered the distribution of taxable value, with residential properties making up around 65% of the tax base. The value of new construction was also discussed, with a significant increase in the

value of single-family homes and condominiums.

- iii. Jack explains the timeline and process for appealing property tax valuations in the municipality. Evaluation notices were recently mailed out, giving property owners 30 days to file an appeal if they disagree with the assessed value. He encourages owners to contact the office early if they have questions, as working through issues informally avoids having to file a formal appeal. Most appeals are resolved without going to the Board of Equalization by the appraiser and owner agreeing on a value.
- iv. A motion to extend was made by Kathleen Plunket & seconded by unknown.
- v. Jack also discusses exemption deadlines, with March 15th being the cutoff to apply for residential, senior, and other exemptions. A new exemption this year is available for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel.

## **7. Comment Period – None**

**Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Rambo.

\_\_\_\_\_  
FCC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
FCC Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date