

UACC MINUTES

September 2, 2015, Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Jacob Gondek at 7:06 pm.

MEMBERS & VISITORS PRESENT: There were 12 members and 6 visitors present.

INTRODUCTIONS: The Chairperson asked each individual to state their name and their address.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MONTHS MINUTES: The September 6, 2015 minutes were presented and approved as amended 11/0.

AMENDMENTS TO PRIOR MONTHS MINUTES: The following amendments were recommended and approved.

1. Page 1 item 6.A.3. line 4 corrected from Gardener to Garner.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: An amendment to the agenda was presented by Jacob Gondek. A presentation by Steve Rafuse on the University Lake Master Plan process would be added to the agenda under Business, Item 5, as item A1. The Anchorage Bowl Land use Plan Map would be moved down as item A2. The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM ELECTED & MOA DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS:

1. Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on several items that can be found in her assembly report within Attachment 1.
2. Andy Josephson provided extensive information on the last legislative session. He reported on getting a deferral on paying 200 million in oil tax credits in the upcoming fiscal year. He also reported that they were able to get full funding of the School BSA and that the Legislature honored the union raises, thought the Governor will need to find the money in the current budget. He also mentioned that the Democrats were able to get an additional 2 million for the AK Ferry system and that money will be made available for continuation of Alaska Public radio rural programming. He indicated that the total budget items the Democratic Caucus fought for were able to fund amounted to an additional \$60 million, which amounts to an additional 1.7 % over the projected 3.5 Billion deficit. Andy also mentioned that the Legislative Affairs Committee funded \$450 K to a private law firm to sue the Governor over his unilateral decision to undertake Medicaid expansion. Russ Kell asked what would be the final cost after the legislature is fully briefed. Andy did not speculate as he mentioned he was unsure where the case would go, possibly to the State Supreme Court or even to Federal Court.
3. Bill Wielowchowski- Bill reported on the lack of fiscal balance of the Oil and Refinery Tax Credit systems. He mentioned we are the only entity in the world to pay the oil industry to drill for our own oil. He also reported on the book drive that took in over 50,000 books and will disperse them to Mountain View children and to other entities such as AWAIC. He said that the new mayor may be more open to the use of speed bumps as a traffic control measure. He reported that the Gasline from the North Slope is close to a contract, possibly in October. Russ Kell mentioned that Medicare expansion is a partisan issue, and asked would there be a way to make a compromise, and

what ways can be used to fund the program. Bill replied that though it is a partisan issue, there may be different way to fund, i.e. copays, differing deductibles, or other methods.

4. Berta Gardner- She reported that the Senate Democrats are going to send a letter to the Senate leadership request that they drop the Medicare lawsuit. She indicated she felt there would be a special session to approve the Gasline contract if one is completed. She felt that the UMED Northern Access road is on the Anchorage Mayors "to do" list though he has not taken a position on it yet.

5. Pete Peterson- Pete major discussion item was the Elections Committee deliberations on the voting by mail possibility. They could not make the deadline for the April 2016 election, but hopes to have in place for the April 2017 elections. He indicated that the vote by mail is estimated to increase voter participation by up to 50%. He also said he is on a working group for updating the Cell Tower Ordinance. They want to make it simpler and update the standards. They are looking at ways to make the towers more efficient and possibly less obtrusive. They are also exploring ways to have multiple users on one tower to lessen the number of towers needed. There was a discussion with Pete on the need for traffic and speed control at the Byrne Mar and Wesleyan intersection. There is no signage that a school exists there and Community Council members indicated the speed bumps (which appear to be currently opposed to by the MOA Traffic Dept.) or other active speed control methods are needed at the intersection. Pete indicated that he would check with the Traffic Department to see what is being done to alleviate these safety concerns.

6. Max Gruenberg- Max discussed the possibility of needing to change to a proportional representative system rather than the current one minority member on the Legislative Committee and the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee. The indicated there are no checks and balances with the current system.

7. Mary Lu Harle- She handed out flyers for the upcoming Alaska Common Ground Forum. She said that it will be an interactive forum. Four citizens will develop scenarios on how they would fill the budget gap. After lunch the four would debate the merits of the four plans. After that they will try to come to consensus on one plan. Then various state policy makers would then give their perspectives. The forum will be held at the Wendy Williamson Auditorium on September 19 from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be available for \$15. One can register and prepay at

www.akcommonground.org

More information as well as a detailed agenda is available at this site.

UACC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Safety: No report was given.
2. Parks & Recreation: Barb Garner gave a report tonight on the situation around the Folker Park. She indicated that the Providence Horizon House was attempting to provide a more cohesive approach to address the homeless problem around Folker Park. Barbara indicated that the Folker Park did not get a Rasmussen Grant during this current cycle, and new grant proposals will not be taken for another couple of years. She indicated that the cost of trail construction for accessibility made her proposal too expensive to be competitive in the Grant process. Barbara also said that the Rescue Mission helped with the flower bed in Folker Park and that the bed received numerous complements for its beauty. Hannah Davis reported on the Castle Heights Park saying that the flower beds have been in for a couple of months. She said test she would like to have volunteers help to take down the flower beds at the end of September
3. AdHoc: no reports.

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS (FCC) REPORT: There was not August meeting so nothing to report.

BUSINESS:

A1. Steve Rafuse- Anchorage Parks and Recreation- University Lake Park Master Plan

Steve handed out a flyer on the upcoming Public Open House to be held September 10, from 5:30 to 7:30. It will be held at the BP Energy Center on 900 E. Benson Blvd. Steve also mentioned the first of the Working Group meeting to be held on Wednesday September 9th from 11:30 to 1:30 at Alaska Native Health Consortium Office Building, Conference Room 3. Barbara Garner volunteered to attend this first meeting as Steve Zemke and Hannah Davis are not available. The Community Council wishes to thank Barbara for her service. There is another Public Open House and two more Advisory Group Meeting planned in October and November. There were questions about the status of the proposal for the Goose Lake Curling Club. Steve indicated that the proposal is currently going nowhere. There is no funding currently available, and none in the foreseeable future. The Anchorage Tennis Club proposal for the land adjacent to Tikishla Park is in a similar situation. The proposal at East High to provide for indoor tennis needs is a more viable option,

B. Tom Davis – Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map

Tom Davis discussed the upcoming process for developing a Land Use Plan Map that is a comprehensive part of a guide for future growth and land use decisions in the Anchorage Bowl. He provided an 11 slide handout describing the process. The Muni is looking to develop a public Review Draft by November that would ID where growth would occur in the next 20 to 30 years. The Plan map would look low and high growth scenarios. Tom indicated ABPM could help guide zoning and would prioritize where services would be provided. The ABPM will respect the UMED Plan but need to generalize some of the UMED Plan use categories and standardize with other Plans across the Anchorage Bowl. It could also identify where appropriate opportunities to provide more housing exist. It may also identify transit supportive corridors exist, such as along Lake Otis and the opportunity to focus on pedestrian transit opportunities. There will be workshops and public hearings on September 18th or 25th to discuss issues in common. Tom is looking for someone from the UACC to provide input from our area. Star Marsett volunteered for this post. The ABPM is on a fast track and the draft map may be out before our October meeting. There would be a Regional Workshop in early October to develop the review draft. The MOA Long Range Planning would like a letter from the UACC President or a UACC resolution on the ABPM by November. There was considerable concern over the accelerated timeframe. To help alleviate some of this concern the MOA is developing an automated web based process that the MOA to facilitate comments. For more information on the ABPM Google search “Anchorage Bowl Land Use Plan Map.”

There were some questions about where the UMED Plan is compared to the ABPM. Kristine Bunnell indicated that the UMED Plan will be out September 4th. There will be a Planning and Zoning Commission Work session on September 16th at noon and a Planning Commission Meeting to adopt on October 16 at 6PM. Kristine said she will have hard copies available for the October Meeting if anyone wants one. She indicated that some of the highlights are the targeted studies for new housing and redevelopment. She also indicated that the Plan highlights some Mixed Use areas, such as along the strip mall areas along Tudor. Kristine also indicated that MOA is working on online comment form for the UMED Plan.

C. Northern Access Resolution.

Jacob Gondek introduced the resolution 2015-5 regarding the Northern Access to the University and Medical District Draft Design Study Report (DDSR) under review by the Planning and Zoning Commission. (PZC). The resolution was handed prior to the meeting. After reading the resolution the Community Council members agreed with to the points in the resolution. The resolution requests that

the PZC deny or reject the application and requests that the project management team revise and resubmit a plan that addresses the noted deficiencies. Russell Kell moved with Karen Workman seconding that the UACC pass the resolution. Kristine Bunnell made a motion to revise the resolution to include item 1. Into the Whereas statement. The resolution as amended would read, Whereas the PSZ is to evaluate the DDSR in accordance with MOA 21.03.190(8)4:1. Item 2 of the Resolution would become Item 1, with appropriate number revision of item 11. Russ and Karen agreed to Kristine's motion as a friendly amendment. The Resolution was approved as amended **12 for with none against**. Jacob Gondek agreed to put the Resolution into UACC current format before signing. The resolution is contained within attachment 2.

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on October 7th. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Signed

UACC Chairperson

Two Attachments:

Attachment 1

Elvi Gray-Jackson

University Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report-September 2, 2015

- The Berkowitz administration has put a “pause” on the MOA’s Enterprise Resource Plan aka SAP for four to six weeks while a review occurs lead by the new Deputy CFO – Alden Thern – and several industry knowledgeable members of the public.
- The Public Hearing on the Equal Rights Ordinance will be held on September 15th after 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Flynn will introduce a substitute version.
- The Administration has provided the Assembly with the 120 Day Preliminary 2016 Budget information. Some highlights are:
 - An overall decrease of \$12.4M in revenues - \$8.6 in changes in Program Fees, Interest and other revenues which includes a \$7M reduction of ML&P’s Utility Revenue Distribution due to the RCA’s decision and a decrease of \$4.8M in State Revenue Distribution.
 - Tax Cap Calculation – Limit on all property taxes that can be collected is up by \$8.6M.
 - The Administration’s priorities are public safety, facilitating new community development, and promoting more accessible and affordable housing.
- In terms of reorganizations for the 2016 budget, the proposed changes follows:
 - Office of Economic and Community Development – Development Services, Planning, Real Estate, Parks and Recreation, and the Library,
 - Public Works will be absorbed through the elevation to Department level – Traffic, Maintenance and Operations, and Project Management and Engineering.
- Proposed Capital Improvement Budget Bonds:
 - Fire - \$2M
 - Parks and Recreation - \$4M
 - Police - \$3.1
 - Public Transportation - \$600K
 - Public Works – \$49M
- TOTAL BONDS PROPOSAL FOR 2016 - \$58.7M
- Chair Traini and Vice-Chair Gray-Jackson brought First Lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! Program to Anchorage in February 2014. The Task Force has been working monthly to reach Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals in all five goals. On August 21st, Anchorage reached that Goal and the First Lady of the United States aka FLOTUS has invited Anchorage to join 53 other cities to the White House for a reception on September 16th from 9:00 – 3:30. Elvi Gray-Jackson and Alden Thern will represent Anchorage at this event.

Next Assembly Meeting: September 15, 2015

**UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL (UACC)
RESOLUTION 2015-5**

**A UACC Resolution Regarding
Northern Access to the University and Medical District
Draft Design Study Report (DDSR) under review by the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC)**

WHEREAS the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art, VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; and

Whereas the PZC is to evaluate the DDSR in accordance with MOA 21.03.190(B)4:

1. The DDSR violates the currently adopted U-Med District Framework Master Plan (last amended by the MOA in 2011) provisions for the recommended Integrated Campus approach, since it does not maintain the integrity of the central east/west ski trail over or under the proposed street (p. 42), might not maintain the integrity of the ski trail along Northern Lights, does not provide a landscaped median and separated pathways on each side of the street (p. 34), and north access is not in the current plan (p. 45),
2. The DDSR does not include an evaluation of the safety hazards the proposed road will cause along Bragaw Street due to increased traffic from the road (especially near East High School), and costs to accommodate cut-through traffic
3. The DDSR does not include necessary safety features due to inadequate budget (trail overcrossing at the project mid-point and mid-point roundabout which would act to slow traffic),
4. The DDSR and the project's previous work violate Title 21 and the State of Alaska Preconstruction Manual requirements to evaluate all feasible alternatives to accomplish the project purpose and need (it did not evaluate improving perimeter roads and intersections),
5. The DDSR does not include an updated alternatives evaluation of all feasible alternatives: the project's previous alternatives evaluation (in the 2011 Reconnaissance Report) was based on a four-lane road, whereas the current road is a two-lane road (significantly changing its effect on traffic delay),
6. Project purpose and need is in violation of BLM land patent, which restricts land use to "school purposes only" - not to relieve traffic congestion on surrounding arterial roads and to move goods and people within the District.
7. The DDSR cost estimate appears to be inadequate to account for removal of organic materials, replacement with suitable fill, conflicts with underground utilities, and resolving ROW issues,
8. The DDSR ignores the resolution made by the Watershed and Natural Resources Commission, by not providing a design which deters moose from crossing the roadway,
9. The DDSR indicates that the preferred alternative is not least environmentally damaging (p. 19 and 45) and the Corps of Engineers can only grant a permit for the Least Environmentally Damaging and Practicable Alternative,
10. The DDSR depicts a road alignment which adds pollutant-containing road runoff (such as oil and road salt in winter sanding material) into Chester Creek and thus will be in conflict with

numerous provisions of the Chester Creek management plan (which is designed to protect this important anadromous fish stream and provide runoff buffering capacity to reduce flooding).

Therefore, be it resolved that UACC Community Council respectfully requests the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny or reject the application and request that the project management team revise and resubmit a plan that addresses the noted deficiencies.

Resolution Vote: For 12 Against: 0 Abstain:

This resolution was approved by the University Area Community Council this day of September 2, 2015.

Jacob Gondek, Present, UACC