

UACC MINUTES

October 7, 2015, Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Jacob Gondek at 7:04 pm.

MEMBERS & VISITORS PRESENT: There were 11 members and 10 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 line 29. Jacobsen was changed to Josephson. Page 1 line 38 was changed to read Medicaid rather than Medicare. Attachment 1 was added to Elvi Gray-Jackson's written report.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: An amendment to the agenda was presented by Jacob Gondek. The item "Business 5. A. Providence Horizon House" was clarified as an item for discussion of the status of Folker Park. The Agenda was approved as amended unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS:

REPORTS FROM ELECTED & MOA DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS:

1. Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on several items, which may be found in her MOA Assembly report within attachment 1.

2. Dick Traini reported that assembly would examine whether to enter into agreement with Conoco Philips for Beluga natural gas. He felt entering into such a long term agreement would be beneficial to residents of Anchorage. He indicated the Assembly would know by Friday 10/16 what the price would be. Dick also mentioned that the current MOA budget does not include any additional funds for animal control activities.

3. Pete Peterson reported on his activities as chair of the working group dealing with cell towers. He indicated they were near a rough draft of a cell tower ordinance. He said the next meeting was at 11:30 to 1230 Wednesday 10/14 at the 47 Elmore, Room 170. Pete said that a couple of camouflaged cell towers would be constructed this year. Barbara Garner asked why multiple receivers could not be put up on one tower so as to reduce the overall towers needed for the cell service. Pete said that he didn't know why usual norm is one company one tower, and would check at the next meeting why multiple company antennae could not be put on one tower.

4. Bill Wielechowski- Bill reported on the lack of fiscal balance of the Oil and Refinery Tax Credit systems. He reported on the upcoming special session on the Natural Gasline upcoming in 2 ½ weeks. He said the topics were the possibility of a gas reserve tax, which would tax gas that is not committed to the Pipeline, and whether the State of Alaska should buy out Trans Canada portion of the pipeline.

A member from Rogers Park Community Council provided a counterpoint to Senator Wielechowski's presentation. He provided 3 information packets. One was a fact sheet titled "Oil

Revenue Talking Points. The Second was handout from Corri Feige, Director of the Alaska Division of Oil and Gas, to Senator Giessel Working Group, on Cook Inlet Overview. The third is presentation materials from the Alaska Department of Revenue on the Oil and Gas Credits with a Cook Inlet Focus, given to the State Tax Credit Working Group. There was exchange between The Senator and the Rogers Park representative on meaning of these materials, the efficacy of the Oil and Gas credits, and their financial burden to the State.

4. Max Gruenberg- Max discussed his activities which included his work on Bills dealing with Elder fraud, and another that deals with military personnel exemption for dues and fees while serving on overseas assignments.

5. Paul Honeman- Paul described his activities on the Public Safety committee. He talked about the increase in budgets to the Anchorage Fire and Police Departments. He described the need for the city to deal with the certification of massage therapist so as to combat the sex trade problems of unregulated massage parlors and services. He also reported on the safety committee effort to draft regulations based on a law in Texas that describes the prohibition of Spice in terms of generic synthetic cannabinoid mixture function, rather than specific lists of ingredients. This should combat the ability of sellers to evade prosecution by just changing the mixture list. Barbara Garner had a question about the large construction crane parked next to Folker Park, which she feels presents safety concern. Paul said this is the first he heard of it, and will check into the matter to see if the situation can be rectified.

6. Berta Gardner- Noah Hanson was there as Berta's representative. He fielded questions, and mentioned that Berta is working to try to cut down the travel expenses incurred by legislators.

UACC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Safety: No report was given.

2. Parks & Recreation: Barb Garner gave a brief presentation of Park and Recreation subcommittee concerns. She mentioned that the University Lake Master Plan is in progress. There will an open house on October 19th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the BP Energy Center. Steve Zemke is the UACC representative on the Plan. Barbara mentioned that homeless people continue to be a problem in Folker Park. Dick Traini mentioned that "low ending", or removing the lower limbs of trees would be useful in the Park to reduce the safety concern by providing better site distance and reducing "hiding" areas for illegal activities. Barbara Garner has replied that entire park had limbs below 5 feet removed in June by Mission men (excepting young short spruces.)

3. AdHoc: **UMED Northern Access-** Paul Stang gave an update on the Planning and Zoning meeting dealing with road. Paul said our UACC Resolution was not included in the package to the Commission even though it was submitted 4 ½ hours before the deadline. He indicated there was considerable testimony given in opposition to the road approval. Barbara Garner mentioned that she felt that such testimony was ignored. The severing of the ski trail connectivity was acknowledged, with DOT saving they "dropped the ball", even though it was mentioned as a major concern in the previous meetings. It was indicated they (road design team?) would work with the Nordic Ski Club of Anchorage to try to provide a solution to this problem. Unfortunately, P&Z Commission amendment to involve Nordic ski club failed 5-2. It appears the Jim Mahaffey ski trails will be severed by the construction of the road. The P & Z Commission indicated that the Mayor has left the decision, of whether the road should proceed, up to Commission. Dick Traini

indicated that he will check with the Mayor's Office to see if this is the case. Paul said the Commission passed the action to allow the project to proceed.

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS (FCC) REPORT: Joanie Nardini gave a report on last month's FCC meeting. She said there was a presentation on the Anchorage Bowl Land Use Maps. The FCC passed a resolution requesting a 60 day extension on the date for comments. There were also presentations on the Public Transportation Planning efforts, the UMED Plan, and the University Lake Master Plan.

BUSINESS:

A1. Karen Strash-Purtzer- Folker Park

Karen gave a presentation on Folker Park and how it interfaces with the objectives of Providence Horizon House (PHH). First she thanked Barbara Garner on her diligent work to help provide mobility challenged accessibility within the park. She indicated that a wheel chair accessible perimeter trail that provides for Elders, with a playground for kids toward the interior, is what is envisioned by PHH. It was mentioned that over 340 PHH residences exists with an average of 3 residents, which amounts to the potential for over 1000 people could use such a trail system. She reported that Barbara Garner had put together a 2015 Rasmussen Grant proposal that met these needs, but unfortunately it was not funded. The rationale for not funding in 2015 was that it was very expensive for the amount of trail that would be built as the accessible trails would be paved, and this would require deep excavation to provide for a suitable subgrade needed for a stable paved trail system. The next Rasmussen Grant cycle will be in a couple of years. There is a need to round up nonprofit organizations, such as Providence Foundation, for matching grants to provide better leverage for the project funding in the next cycle.

An Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) representative indicated they are planning to have the Park "clear-cut", which by her definition is the removal of the lower tree limbs to provide site distance needed for safety purposes, when they can round up enough volunteers. This is in the contrast to the classic forestry definition which is the removal of all vegetation within a stand of tree. She indicated that Folker Park is currently low on the APF list. She said the park was originally designed with natural park features in mind. The bark trails are in concert with this objective, but are not up to ADA standards. She indicated that children do not go "deep" into to the park due to the homeless situation. There was a general discussion on what to do about the homeless situation in the Park and within the lot to the north. Consensus was that providing for the cutting of the lower tree limbs is a logical first step.

B. Jed Smith – Public Transportation Planning

Jed gave a presentation on what the Public Transit Advisory Board envisions for the Transit system in the upcoming years. Jed indicated that they are currently trying to hold the line and not have a net cut in services. He said there would be no recommendations for enhanced services in the near future. He said they would use the next 6 months as a visioning process for future public transportation developments. Jed discussed the problems with the downtown Transit Center, with the sex, drugs and public inebriation that is occurring there. He indicated that the scope of the businesses within the building may not be appropriate for providing a safe and secure feeling environment. He also indicated that a redesign of the interior spaces to a more open area with fewer nooks and crannies could also make the building safer. He also mentioned is the devolving of the Eagle River bus route is indicative of the failure of the Transit system. The service to this area has declined, and as a result the ridership has further declined to such an extent that it makes the route non-viable. This is a downward self-realized prophecy. Jed said that the Transit Advisory Board meets every 2nd Thursday at 5:30 at City

Hall.

UACC members gave Jed some feedback. Paul Honeman said that Transit needs to offer more programs to become relevant. They need more feeder lines, faster main transit lines, and need to partner with Mat Su Valley. Barbara Garner indicated that the Transit Center should be moved out its current downtown location. There was some support of the Midtown Transit center proposal. Jed said the Midtown Transit proposal is waning, as there are not good connections now. They do not have good data on the use of the Downtown Center. There were suggestions to look at the current Anchorage 2010 Bicycle Plan, and use this information source in developing for future routes or timetables to meet the growing use of this user group were given. There was also the suggestion that a substation approach, where Midtown and Mat Su Valley substations might make sense given the changing demographics of the Anchorage Bowl and surrounding areas..

ADJOURNMENT: The Chairperson stated that the next meeting will be held on November 4th. A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Signed

UACC Chairperson

One Attachment:

Attachment 1

Elvi Gray-Jackson

University Community Council Meeting – Assembly Report-October 7, 2015

- Mayor Berkowitz's SAP Executive Review Team has provided a report and recommendation to the Mayor. The Assembly will be provided with the report and recommendation at a work session on Friday, October 9th at 2:00 p.m.
- The Public Hearing on the Equal Rights Ordinance was held on September 15th and 16th. On September 29th, the Assembly approved AO 2015-96 (S-1) which added Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to the grounds of prohibited discrimination in Title 5 of the Municipal Code. The vote was 9-2.
- The Mayor's proposed 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets were submitted to the Assembly by the required deadline – October 2nd. The budget ordinances will be introduced at the October 13th meeting.
 - The first Public Hearing will be held at the October 27th meeting.
 - The second Public Hearing will be held on November 10th.
 - Action on the budget will take place at the November 24th meeting.

Work Sessions:

- The first Work Session was held on October 2nd 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
- The second Work Session will be held on October 9th from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- The third Work Session will be held on October 23rd from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- Tentative Work Session on Assembly proposed amendments on November 13th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Tentative Work Session on Assembly proposed amendments on November 20th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Next Assembly Meeting: October 13, 2015