

Federation of Community Councils, Inc.

Board of Delegates

Minutes of December 16, 2015 meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair Bonnie Harris.

Meeting proceeded until a quorum was achieved.

FCC Delegates in attendance (15):

Airport Heights	Sharon Cissna
Basher	Don Crafts
Birchwood	Dave Wolfe
Campbell Park	Kevin Fimon
Chugiak	Deborah Jones
Eagle River Valley	Tom Freeman
Fairview	Harry Need
Government Hill	Kyle Stevens
Mid-Hillside	Lance Powell
Rabbit Creek	Dianne Holmes
Rogers Park	Bob Churchill
Russian Jack	Daniel George
Scenic Foothills	Mark Hill
South Addition	Bonnie Harris
University Area	Al Millspaugh

Others in attendance included:

Ethan Berkowitz	Mayor
Dick Traini	Anchorage Assembly
Amy Coffman	Mayor's Office
Amanda Moser	Deputy Clerk
DJ Summers	Alaska Journal of Commerce
Nick Miller	
Devin Kelly	Alaska Dispatch News
Steve Gervel	GHCC
Kim Kole	Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA)
Bruce Schulte	Alaska Marijuana Industry Association (AMIA)
David Bender	

Assembly Report: Chair Dick Traini said the ballot package should be introduced to the Assembly by December 22nd. Other tax-related issues like a sales tax and a proposed marijuana tax will also have a public hearing soon. It is recommended that a tax on marijuana start out low and perhaps climb to 12% because it isn't known how much money it will bring in, nor what added public services will be needed. The goal is not to force marijuana sales underground by overtaxing. The tax will be outside the tax cap. Chair Traini wants each council to form a committee that can function year-round to review all marijuana applications.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Berkowitz said there will be a homeless census on January 23rd. Volunteers are needed. He also believes there is a way to find beds for the homeless. The bond package will be released tomorrow. Even though State funds are drying up due to the fiscal crisis, he says the city must continue to grow and invest in projects that will aid the economy and growth.

FCC Delegates in attendance: Quorum reached

Agenda: Motion to amend the agenda by moving the FCC Outreach Committee to the Standing Committee Reports was made by Bob Churchill seconded by Lance Powell. Passed.

Question was raised whether a person can represent two councils. Chair Harris ruled that a person can sign-in for one council only, but she will be researching the topic.

Minutes: Motion to approve the November minutes made by Bob Churchill with a second by Kyle Stevens. Approved with three abstentions.

Standing Committee & Officers Reports:

FCC Chair Harris: The FCC helped Government Hill apply for a mayoral community grant. The FCC will manage the grant, if awarded. Steve Gerlick said the grant would be used in partnership with DOT and the school to use DOT's empty land for community gardens and an orchard. All features will be moveable in case DOT needs the land. A kick-off charrette will be held at the Government Hill school on January 29th, 6:30 pm.

FCC Outreach Committee: Kyle Stevens reported councils may receive \$75 per year to aid in communication efforts, which can cover a variety of means. More councils are encouraged to participate by sending delegates to FCC meetings.

Presentations:

Vote By Mail: Amanda Moser, Deputy Municipal Clerk for elections spoke on the challenges of running an election from low voter turnout, to problems finding and training election workers. The Assembly unanimously approved a resolution last week to Vote by Mail in 2017. Ballots will be mailed out to registered voters two to three weeks before the election and can be mailed back or dropped off to a secure box. Ms. Moser is available to speak to councils. Questions included transient population voting—there will be options for in-person voting centers, to using technology to print out ballots.

Marijuana Industry: Bruce Schulte and Kim Kole of the Alaska Marijuana Industry Assoc (AMIA) spoke on the issues surrounding the application and regulation process for marijuana businesses. The AMIA is a non-profit statewide trade organization to promote responsible use, sale and manufacturing of the product.

Councils are encouraged to be active because starting in February 24, 2016, applications for marijuana licenses will be accepted. It is expected the licenses will be issued in May with the process similar to that of alcohol licensing. There is a short 21-day period in which councils can comment on the required Municipality Special Use Permit application for a marijuana business. Delegates said this time frame is too short for councils to respond.

Old Business:

FCC Marijuana Committee: Harry Need reported that the 's goal is to help councils with the potential impacts of the marijuana industry in their areas. Councils need a way to be noticed when applications are to be reviewed. Councils should be aware that failure to comment on marijuana applications may be considered as “no objection.” Thus councils need to be prepared to review and comment on applications. Some councils say they welcome the economic development and the filling of empty store fronts. Colorado found that off-site impacts were minimal to neighborhoods.

Council Sharing: yes

Adjournment: 9:05 pm