

Federation of Community Councils Board of Delegates Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 | Hybrid
Final Minutes

PART I – THE BOARD MEETING

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

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

FCC Delegates in attendance (24)

Abbott Loop - Lizzie Newell

Airport Heights – Emily

Weiser

Basher – *Not Present*

Bayshore/Klatt – *Not Present*

Bear Valley – Kaitlyn Jackson

Birchwood – *Not Present*

Campbell Park – Kevin Fimon

Chugiak – Paul Schneider

Downtown – Barbara

Roberts

Eagle River – Cliff Cook

Eagle River Valley – Alex

Jorgensen

Eklutna Valley – *Not Present*

Fairview – Kelly Ittenbach

Girdwood (GBOS) – Mike Edgington

Glen Alps – *Not Present*

Government Hill – Bob French

Hillside – *Not Present*

Huffman/O'Malley – Jason Norris

Midtown – *Not Present*

Mountain View – Charlie Welch

North Star – *Not Present*

Northeast – Pamela Raygor

Old Seward/Oceanview – Gary Meaders

Portage Valley – *Not Present*

Rabbit Creek – John Riley

Rogers Park – *Not Present*

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 – *Not Present*

Tudor – *Not Present*

Turnagain - Cathy Gleason

Turnagain Arm – Michael Packard

University Area – Steven Callaghan

Others in attendance:

FCC Arianna Bellizzi, Executive Director

FCC Ali Rambo, Office Administrator

Marie Husa, Mayor's Office Representative

Melinda Gant, ACDA

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Agenda

b. Approval of Minutes

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

3. Committee Update:

a. Financial Committee, Q1 Update:

- i. Arianna begins the update with a reminder that the FCC has moved to Quarterly reports, this aligns with the Municipal reporting period the FCC already follows.
- ii. Arianna talks about the report made for the Municipality, and how the FCC has made some changes to the reporting style, outlining that currently spending is going as expected. The training grant is a little above the average from last year, primarily due to the Summit happening in spring, as opposed to the fall Town Hall sessions. All other expenditures are coming in as scheduled.
- iii. Arianna goes on to outline the profit and loss budget vs. actual budget, the only thing not reflected was the approval of funds from the Municipality for the 2025 Budget increase. That was received in Quarter 2, so it will be on the next Quarterly Report. Spending should be very consistent over time, nothing unusual to report. The FCC has paid the Payroll taxes as well, and wishes their accountant well on his post-tax vacation.

b. Bylaw Committee:

- i. Chair Mike Edgington gives the updates, the approximate timeline for a draft version for the updated FCC Bylaws is fall of 2025. The Committee did a brief review of the purposes of bylaws, and how they differ from policies & procedures.
- ii. The committee started reviewing the FCC's existing bylaws, finding some smaller and bigger issues within them. This began the first pass of potential problems within the pre-existing bylaws, Mike outlined an example of a potential change could look like specifying delegates selection for Community Councils. The committee also looked at best practices for the bylaws, within the context of the FCC as an organization.

4. Education Topic: New Website is Live!

- a. Arianna starts by announcing the new website is live and patience is appreciated as the FCC settles into the website transition. She starts off the update with a fun fact: the new website is actually 38 websites in one, meaning there can be some hiccups in data transfer.
- b. Arianna showcases some of the new functions in the website such as:
 - i. Google calendar that syncs all Community Council meetings, and displays them in one place, with all of their relevant meeting information.
 - ii. The ability to have maps up on the homepages of webpages to show meeting locations at a glance.
 - iii. A new search function to allow for an easy pull up of specific documents from different Community Councils
 - iv. Photo carousels on each Council webpage to allow for customization, and the potential to showcase photos from successful events easily.
 - v. The new website has protection from data-scraping, using Javascript to help protect emails from getting hit with spam.

- vi. There is now a Public Notice section on each Community Council page that anyone can sign up to receive updates whenever a new document is uploaded.
- c. There are some documents that are empty, the FCC staff is trying to find them all, and encourages anyone who finds one to email it to info@communitycouncils.org. Arianna also advises that old links won't lead to their original pages anymore, with the new website there are new links.
- d. Arianna encourages Councils to reach out to do a walk-through of the website to help clear out old or unnecessary content, or even teach members how to use it.

5. Discussion Topic: Executive Committee Nominations

- a. Mike Edgington informs that the voting will take place at the May meeting, and opens nominations.
 - i. Evan Leaf self nominates himself for Vice Chair, Kelly Ittenbach seconds.
- b. Mike Edgington briefly passes the position of Chair to Secretary Evan Leaf.
 - i. Patrick LeMay is nominated for Treasurer by Mike Edgington, seconded by Sarah Preskitt.
 - ii. Mike Edgington is nominated for Chair by John Thurber, seconded by Sarah Preskitt.
 - iii. Kaitlyn Jackson is nominated for Secretary by Jason Norris, seconded by Kevin Fimon.
 - iv. Sarah Preskitt self nominates herself for At-Large, seconded by Evan Leaf.

6. Discussion Topic: Review Digital Outreach Policy in light of public complaint

- a. The board discusses a complaint the FCC received as a result of sharing a survey from Representative Galvin regarding federal layoffs.
- b. Pamela from Northeast suggests forming a subcommittee to review the policy and complaint.
 - i. The board debates whether sharing the survey was partisan and if the FCC should filter information from state or federal sources. They consider clarifying the nonpartisanship policy and the scope of information the FCC should distribute.
- c. The discussion concludes with a motion to form an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the issue and make recommendations to the full board.
 - i. Motion is made by Charlie Welch, seconded by Evan Leaf.
- d. Volunteers for the Ad-Hoc Committee
 - i. Pamela Raygor – Northeast, Chair
 - ii. Charlie Welch – Mountain View
 - iii. Evan Leaf – Sand Lake
 - iv. Kelly Ittenbach – Fairview

7. Discussion Topic: Strategic Plan First Look

- a. The meeting also discussed the strategic plan updates, including the core purpose, core values, and vision of the Federation.
- b. The next steps to developing a strategic plan involve further workshopping of these elements in the Executive Committee, with an open invitation for anyone to participate.

- c. The Bylaw Committee was mentioned, which will review the organization's structure and make recommendations for bylaw updates. Once Bylaws have been voted on, the Bylaw Committee will come back and spend time on the Strategic Plan.
 - i. Someone requests the slideshow used for this section, and Arianna informs everyone that it will be included it in the recap for everyone.

8. Comment Period: None.

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** – working on a few things, providing ongoing comments about ongoing zoning changes, and comments on topics such as proposed tax incentives for increasing housing, establishing details for rezoning, and some movements to preserve solar access in town square in response to height limitations being lifted downtown. RCCC formed a new education committee as well to monitor and comment on both Assembly & Statewide education issues, they are proposing this committee be cross Community Council and invite anyone to reach out to be apart of it.
- ii. **Russian Jack** – New zoom has been working out well, there’s a new facility in the area that took over an old hotel whose opening has been pushed out till May due to structural issues. This recovery center will house 60-80 people, called Increase Recovery Center, they have attended the last couple of meetings and are really invested in the community. Merrill Field came and went over the Runway Construction Budget that’s going to happen this summer. There’s a new marijuana business moving in, RJCC had officers meet with the Mayor recently, and DOT came to present about roadway safety as well.
- iii. **Sand Lake** – Passed 2 resolutions, the resolution regarding the 10 year review of Community Council Boundaries, and the other to the Assembly for Traffic Calming on Blackberry st. The Airport presented about the construction that will be happening at Ted Stevens International Airport over the summer. There was a subcommittee created for the CIP Projects and they hope to have them submitted before the deadline.
- iv. **Scenic Foothills** – Getting ready to kick off Baxter Trail Grant for the second year, gravel to be put down in trail areas, clearing invasive species, dialoguing with the Municipality about some drainage issues, along with overgrowth in the bog that creating a flooding issue. Currently SFCC is working on the CIP list and looking at adding a Muni-owned bridge on DOT right of way over Muldoon at 36th, due to the bridge not having the capacity to carry snow removal equipment.
- v. **South Addition** – Chelsea Ward-Waller came to explain the mechanics of the CIP process, community members are frustrated with the CIP process due to not understanding how the Municipality chooses projects.
- vi. **Spenard** – Recently made the switch to hybrid meetings, as a group the council sent a letter to the Assembly about the Functional Classifications of Roadways in Spenard, they introduced a joint resolution between Midtown, Spenard, and North Star Community Councils for the development of a Master Plan for Cuddy Park that gets voted on in May. Spenard will be voting on the CIP list as well. They partnered with North Star Community Council applying for

the Mayor's Beyond the Beige Arts grant for a mural on Hillside Dr. They are still working on solutions for a camp that crosses multiple jurisdictions that has proven difficult to solve. There was a site visit of a recent pedestrian fatality, as an opportunity for education and feedback.

- vii. **Turnagain** – Recently held the West Anchorage Candidates Forum and due to some other events being scheduled it was a smaller than anticipated turnout. However, it was very productive. There was a resolution passed regarding the Land Use Committee getting a meeting rescheduled with the Fish Creek Trail Connection Project Team. Formed a CIP Ranking Committee, and will hopefully be voting on it at the May 1st meeting. They're trying to keep up with the growing amount of AO's, as well as the numerous amounts of Airport construction projects, including major road relocation changes to Woronzof Dr due to cargo development coming off of the active airfield now.
- viii. **Turnagain Arm** – Meet quarterly, and the next meeting is in the month of May.
- ix. **University Area** – Tudor Community Council has been attending recent meetings to prepare for the boundary changes and looking to do some outreach to bring in more members, 42nd ave construction is starting up again, and May is their last meeting before summer.
- x. **Fairview** – The Carrs on Gambell is closing, which is a devastating blow to the Fairview community. This takes away accessible groceries and services to those who live in the surrounding areas.

3. Education Topic:

- a. **Mayor's Office:** Marie Husa, Constituent Relations Director
 - i. Marie Husa shared updates about the city's projects. The Special Assembly passed a bond for port construction at Terminal One, with a completion date of 2029.
 - ii. There were also staff changes in the office, with Katie Scovic stepping down and Susanne Fleek-Green taking her place as the new Chief of Staff.
 - iii. The Arts Grants program received 30 applications for general grants and 12 for the Beyond the Beige program.
 - iv. The next visit for the Community Councils is scheduled for May.
 - Someone asked about follow-up actions for the mayor's plan for 10,000 homes in 10 years, and Marie mentioned that tax incentives are being worked on.
- b. **Assembly:** Christopher Constant, Chair
 - i. Not Present at this meeting
- c. **School Board:** Andy Hollman, President
 - i. Not Present at this meeting

4. Education Topic: Farina Brown, Mayor's Office - Recap of Coordinated Response to Homelessness Summit

- a. Not Present at this meeting

5. Comment Period:

- a. The Anchorage Transportation Fair was mentioned, & praised for it's improvement from last year, and how informative & helpful it was. Members felt fortunate that there was so much opportunity to provide feedback.

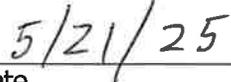
- b. Turnagain's rep mentions a need for a better way for people to give public input. Arianna informs the board of a potential to develop that with the "Better Public Meetings" Project that she is hoping Anchorage could get involved in to allow for more effective civic engagement and collaboration. Once she knows more, Arianna will bring more details to the board and Community Councils.

6. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

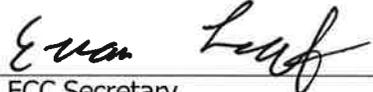
Minutes respectfully submitted by Alison Rambo.



FCC Chair



Date



FCC Secretary



Date