

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Welcome & Introductions

Participants: Silvia Villamides, Jason Motyka, Richard Irwin, Andrea McCormick, Amanda Moser, Kristine Bunnell, Bill Falsey, Tom Begich, Sue Spyker, Chris Constant, Brix Hahn, Tristan Walsh, Chris Jones, Edgar Blatchford, Tony S, Zach Fields, Zachariah Hughes, Richard Mandsager, David Walberg, Megan Davey, Greg Cerbana, Jim Lottsfeldt, Melinda Gant, Michelle Weston, Steve Callaghan, Dave Scordina

Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda. – Rasmussen Foundation and Dept. of Health & Social Services were added to the agenda.

Richard Irwin-moved to approve the meeting agenda for March 3, 2021. The motion was seconded by Andrea McCormick. Call for any opposed. No opposition. The motion passed. Agenda was approved.

Approval of February meeting minutes

Russ Reno moved to approve the February meeting minutes. Richard Irwin seconded the motion. Call for any opposed. No opposition. The motion passed. February meeting minutes have been approved.

Reports: 3 minutes limit

Assembly Report – Chris Constant

- ASD budget – next week meeting,
- Ordinance passed last week allowing for businesses to continue on with outdoor service.
- loosening of restrictions on businesses will come this week
- economic recovery, grants for small businesses
- Put in list of requests for projects to Senator Begich and Downtown Community Council

Senate Representative Report – Tom Begich

- There are good relations between minority and majority
- Educational reform bill – being reworked
- State income tax bill to be presented on Friday
- Working on ideas to thank front line workers like grocery store clerks, etc. with tuition.
- Continued work on the Jones Act
- \$800 million for the state – can focus on mortgage relief, small business relief
- 2nd round of federal government money – Send me the list of disbursement programs that are working for you.
- Proposing a recess not an adjournment if the budget is not settled.

House of Representative Report -Zach Fields / Tristan

- House is organized, meeting over weekends, working on budget,
- HB 76 – extension of Governor's disaster declaration just introduced.

- Childcare tax credit bill just introduced, help businesses in AK to set up childcare for employees with tax cuts,
- programs are already in place with less restrictions

Mayor's Office Report – n/a

Anchorage Police Department – n/a

Anchorage School Board – n/a

Anchorage Downtown Partnership – Amanda Moser

Muni is waving fees on some health licenses

- Pfizer Vaccine available – extended who is eligible to receive vaccines.
- 1st Friday, to support art and fun downtown
- People voicing concerns over the move of the Downtown Market Place. It has been moved to Dimond Center.
- 2 surveys being sent to businesses on 4th Ave. and community members
- Looking for ways to have constant activation of our downtown places

Our Downtown Update – Kristine Bunnell

- Go to website, proposed timeline, August public input
- Requesting one on one meetings with Downtown Community Council not at the regular meeting to discuss likes/dislikes
- Will be meeting with Fairview Community Council
- Will send a draft agenda.

New Business: 6 minutes limit

Marijuana and Alcohol Committee Update – Silvia Villamides

- 4 licenses were up for renewal. No violations. Amanda Moser moved to approve the licenses. Russ Reno seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Update – Jason Motyka

- Everything the same – looking forward to summer

Safety Committee – Richard Irwin and Russ Reno

- Safety concern F St., PAC and into Humpy's – light issue – now is lit –
- Suggestion to encourage people to have committee meetings
- Thank You to Russ Reno for supporting Hope Center and challenging friends and businesses to donate clothing and \$100 to Hope Center.
- Richard Irwin – asked for clarification of safety committee. Richard read the stated points of committee's existence. What are the responsibilities of the safety committee? There were no responses from the council or guests.
- Russ Reno stated that the original intent of the safety committee was for grievances of areas where people didn't feel safe, anyone could air their issues, would move it on to the board if warranted or resolved

Presentations: 6 minutes limit (3 minutes – to speak / 3 minutes – for questions)

Homeless Transitions:

Rasmussen Foundation – Richard Mandsager / Weidner Properties – Greg Cerbana

- Rasmussen and Weidner have a partnership with private and public entities working together
- Current Project on 3rd Ave. of Weidner and Rasmussen, smaller shelter with resource hub to help people move on.
- Weidner – funds acquisitions and renovations. Currently working with Brother Francis – not to house more than 120 people, and Bean's Café.
- Other smaller and distributed places with hubs are being worked on. Purchases should close soon.
- Beans Café to be in a new location with a large kitchen and will distribute food to other areas.
- The entities will return to the committee with updates
- Chris Constant – infrastructure – roads, for safety – municipality will be responsible for also establishing a midtown site.
- **Dept of Health and Social Services** – Dave Scordina – Emergency doctor Regional Hospital
- 3 vaccines approved – all are new,
Covid 19 Vaccine Clinical Trials – Phase 1 Phase 2, Phase 3 – didn't follow that – new way, sped up process
Pfizer 16 and older – 2 doses
Moderna 18 and older – 2 doses
Johnson & Johnson 18 and older 1 dose
89% efficiency
- Explanation of how mRNA vaccines work
- As of today, people over 55 years, people 40 years and above with a high-risk medical condition, 16 years old and essential workers

Questions/Responses – Russ Reno

- Everyone received a copy of the notes – comment, response – this is good and all that is needed
- Archives are online. Encouraging others to look at them and review them.
- Russ Reno proposed a by-law change – Article section G page 8. No second of the motion.
- Chair – proposal to make a committee and look at all the bylaws, the board and volunteer members from the Downtown Community Council.

Announcements / Neighbor Comments (2minute limit)

- Bill Falsey – candidate for mayor. Graduated Central, Dimond, military family, mother Special Ed teacher at Rabbit Creek. Falseyformayor.com
- Carl Jacobs – school board seat C
Public service, foster children, public security, community volunteer, carl4.com phone number in chat.
- Michelle Weston –Girdwood, Proposition 3
Rescue 41 – vehicle apparatus 20 years old – Seward Highway – takes care of collisions on the Seward Highway. 35 minutes away from nearest other apparatus. Transfer time to hospital 35-40 minutes.
- Russ Reno – First Fridays reminder

ADJOURN MEETING

Richard Irwin moved to adjourn the meeting. Russ Reno-seconded the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at: 7:31pm