

## Anchorage Downtown Community Council

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

### Virtual Meeting

[Downtown.c.council@gmail.com](mailto:Downtown.c.council@gmail.com)

### CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **Participants:** Silvia Villamides, Mike Ward, Jason Motyka, Richard Irwin, Chris Jones, Alexandria McCormick, Chris Constant, Tom Begich, Mercedes Colbert, Tristan Walsh, Margo Bellamy, Amanda Moser, Kristine Bunnell, Joy Boston, Melinda Gant, Jim Renkert, Jackson Fox, Cliff Groh, Steven Callaghan, Mary Rohlfing, Russ Reno, Terri, David Hall, Jim, Robert Manley, Daniel Volland, Dave Syren,
- **Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda:**  
Mike Ward moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Jim Renkert and Jackson Fox. Richard Irwin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of January meeting minutes:**  
January meeting minutes were moved and approved.
- **Reports: 3minute limit**
  - **Assembly Report** – Chris Constant
    - Election April 2, candidates are now set, bond proposals will be on the ballot
    - Chris Constant is chairing the reapportionment committee – presenting draft plan in 2 weeks
    - Levy went up on property
    - The public may file an appeal on their property assessment
  - **Senate Representative Report** – Mercedes Colbert for Tom Begich
    - Begich is presenting bill to house commerce and labor
    - 70 capital project applications received. Deadline extended a few more weeks
  - **House of Representative Report** – Tristan Walsh for Zach Fields
    - Looking at budget Governor submitted
    - Working on Capital budget. Also working with Constance and Amanda Moser on priority of projects for Downtown area
    - Federal – more projects that are in the federal program means more federal funds
    - Working on bills – AK Able Act – allows adults with disabilities to have a savings account
    - Collective bargaining for childcare workers and providers, to coordinate their benefits such as extra money for benefits and training.
    - Apprenticeships for high schools, jobs, for increasing the workforce
    - Consumer best practice rights – to know what data is being collected; no sharing of info or controlling who can share, etc.
  - **Mayor's Office Report** – Portia Noble – having a baby, someone will fill in for her
  - **Anchorage Police Department** – n/a
  - **Anchorage School Board** – Margo Bellamy
    - Black history month – several activities, neighborhood school site and ASD site
    - Parent/Teacher conference month – sign up – will receive e-mail
    - Assembly approved submitting an ASD bond for \$111 million, 31 school projects, maintenance and security, Lake Otis, whole school replacement for Inlet View School.
    - Capital Improvement Plan – 6 year plan
    - Feb. 8 will be the next meeting of the school board
    - School Budget – did overview last night, meeting on it all this week. Vote on budget.

- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Amanda Moser
  - Transitioning out of winter events and into summer events.
  - Lots of tourists coming in summer, individual travelers spent more time downtown, 2021 good business with independent travelers
  - Reviewing funding available for infrastructure projects
  - Looking collaboratively with the Transportation dept. for funding for downtown area projects
  - Lots of snow – helping to clear it from the sidewalks
  - Training ambassadors to use proactive instead of reactive techniques when dealing with people issues
  - Considering the use of “No Trespassing” signs with businesses struggling with vagrancy
  - Working closer with APD – trespassing issues with businesses
- **Our Downtown Update** – Kristine Bunnell
  - Public Hearing March 15 with the assembly to present the Downtown Plan
  - Gap housing funding group coming up with recommendations
  - Downtown code update kicked off
  - Landscape architects, downtown engineering funding for lights submit to TIP
- **JBER** – Joy Boston
  - Survey of public input for JBER – coming from a contractor for use by the base
- **ACDA** – Melinda Gant
  - Roger Brooks in Anchorage – Downtown Evaluations – evaluated Downtown to Girdwood. Coming back in June – Aug – will give report of his findings. Meeting will be held to inform people of our downtown area
  - Blue ribbon commission – economic recommendations – increased military spending will affect downtown.
  - Childcare ideas and money support, background check changes
  - Resolution for support of Downtown Plan
  - New Business – under 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. garage, - The Annex (gun shop) patrol museum next door
  - New Director came on board – Acquisitions – land leases, and development
  - Downtown parking switched to pay on phone only
  - Jeff Read – parking director for Easy Park
  - Employee discount parking – setting parameters
- **New Business:** 6minute limit
  - **Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides
    - Mike Ward – VP ran the meeting earlier LED / tri-grill liquor license. Discussion has been tabled. Mediation meeting has been set to try and come up with a resolution
  - **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka
    - \$ 4,066.00
  - **CIP Update** – Jason & Mike
    - Presented to Mercedes Colbert – it included; 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. staircase, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Way Finding and infrastructure upgrades for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.
- **Presentations:** 6minute limit (3 minutes -to speak / 3 minutes – for questions)
- **Announcements / Neighbor Comments:** (2minute limit)
  - **Third Avenue Radicals** – update
    - Meeting in January – trying for regular meeting each month
    - Working on: Seward to Glenn Linkages, Old Hospital site, Solstice Party, Truck traffic from the port
    - Traffic calming down 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (3<sup>rd</sup> & Eagle traffic light an issue)
  - **Our Downtown Resolution discussion and acceptance** – Kristine Bunnell

- Mike Ward moved to approve the resolution to support the Anchorage Assembly Approval of the Our Downtown: Anchorage Downtown District plan 2021. Amanda Moser seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation (FAST) on Complete/Green Streets Design** – Jim Renkert and Jackson Fox (15minute presentation)
  - AK Forestry Director – plant trees and sustain trees. A St and E. St. – sidewalk cell trees. Other areas of downtown will also have upgrades like trees and hanging flower baskets
- Jackson Fox – Fairbanks – reporting on what they did there. Director of FAST planning in Fairbanks.
  - State organization – transportation roads and walks. Independent 501(c) agency.
  - 2015 – main street in Fairbanks – Cushman Street. Enhancements along the roadside. Took 3 lanes down to 2 lanes. More space for pedestrians and bike riders
  - \$10 million dollar reconstruction – also included underground work, power, water & communication lines
  - 10' plus sidewalks – allows for tree wells and planters
  - Outlet boxes at the bottom of the planters for Christmas lights, also new winter street lights
  - Decorative fencing, Way Finding signs, for pedestrians and drivers
  - Tree well design – showed graphics
  - Project 12 blocks long – 80 Birch trees used, 120 planters in between the tree wells
  - Green Infrastructure Installations – for public and private properties
- **Cliff Groh** – running for Alaska House Representative. Born in Alaska and is a prosecuting attorney.

#### **ADJOURN MEETING**

Richard Irwin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Ward seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**Meeting adjourned at: 8:24pm**