

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 @ 5:30pm – 7:00pm

632 W. 6th Avenue, Room 155

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- Welcome & Introductions

Participants: Silvia Villamides, Mike Ward, Andrea McCormick, Richard Irwin, Chris Jones, Kristine Bunnell, Ana Fisk, Codie Costello, Jason Herr, Larry Michael, Pat Higgins, Kyle Lavey, Kate Silber, Radhika Krishna, Christy Terry, Austin Mahan, Petra Sattler-Smith, Chris Constant, Laquita Chmielowski, David Hall, Melinda Gant, Mark Griffin, Joy Boston, Russ Reno, Grace Pleasants

- Additions/changes to the agenda. Approval of agenda: Kristine Bunnell requested that an introduction to a resolution be added to the agenda under Our Downtown Update. Grace Pleasants requested to be added to the agenda under New Business regarding a resolution to support the community of Girdwood. Mike Ward made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Richard Irwin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Agenda is approved.

- Approval of November meeting minutes – (no meeting in December due to weather)
Mike Ward made the motion to approve the November 2, 2022 meeting minutes. Melinda Gant seconded the motion. Motion passed. November 2, 2022 meeting minutes approved.

- **Reports:** 3minute limit

- **Assembly Report**

Chris Constant reporting:

new CFO has been nominated. Confirmation hearing not this assembly meeting but next.

AFD is hiring a new public information officer

Ballot question on the assembly agenda – using marijuana tax for early childhood education

Election deadline coming up where all bond issues and questions coming to the voters need to be finalized for the April 4, 2023 ballot.

Have a vote before us on how to dedicate funds from the SMET program

New ordinance coming that allows city owned property to add an auxillary dwelling unit, which can be rented out.

Naming panel has questions regarding the Johnny Ellis Park, on A and 15th.

Holton Hills question – on your agenda is also on the assembly agenda but may get postponed

Appointments coming for people going to Juneau, Dunbar and Allard. Filing to run for those seats in the April elections opens up Friday, Jan. 13 and closes Friday, Jan. 27.

\$400,000 secured for additional security contract for Downtown, Sullivan Arena area, and Fireweed area. Specific mapped out public areas

Daniel Volland – n/a

- **Senate Representative Report** – Tom Begich n/a

- Loki Tobin reporting – Tom Begich is still the Senator until Jan. 17, 2023. Loki Tobin will be sworn into that office.

Staff members: Trevor Bailey, McKensie Hope, Michael Mason as educational committee aide.

As Senator, focus will be on increasing the BSA and a stable fiscal plan

Regarding a stable fiscal budget - Need to hear from the public, send e-mails

Currently serves on Pride Foundation board as secretary and serves as Board Development Chair.

Email address: sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov

- **House of Representative Report** – Zach Field n/a
- **Mayor's Office Report** – n/a
- **Anchorage Police Department** –n/a
- **Anchorage School Board** – Pat Higgins-served on ASD board 2008-2017. Reelected 1 ½ yrs ago
Concerned about education – declining academic scores
Have to address academic outcomes. Need to fix curriculum needs
ASD is in a financial crisis / budget deficit
No increase in funding for last 5 years
BSA adjustment is needed
Staff vacancies – teaching, food service
This coming Monday – budget decisions. Need more public funding
Abbott Loop will be closed - saves \$1million
Inlet View – haven't decided what to do yet. Received funds to work on it from the state.
Options when a school is closed: can give a school back to municipality, use it for optional programs, use it for administration. Current administration building has 3 more years on its lease.
Not cutting immersion programs, not cutting music – not cutting programs for children
- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Radhika Krishna
Big December, New Year's celebration, wonderful fireworks show - sponsored by Easy Park and ACDA – close to 10,000 people attended
Annual membership meeting last month
ADP team is responsible for clearing the sidewalks of snow. Coordinating with ACDA and the city
No public events until summer events
Monthly downtown conversations meeting – Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 next meeting
Downtown Hope Center thanked ADP for clearing sidewalks between Guest House and DHC and thanked Mr. Constant for suggesting a solution was needed in concern over safety for Guest House residents obtaining food at DHC that led to ADP's actions.
- **Our Downtown Update** – Kristine Bunnell
Planning and Zoning Commission – recommended approval of the downtown code. Moving to the Anchorage assembly for approval.
Presenting Anchorage Downtown Community Council Resolution NO. 2023-01-02. Knowing that DTCC does not meet again until March, requesting to expediate reviewing this resolution and voting on it tonight.
Melinda Gant made the motion to move the Anchorage Downtown Community Council Resolution NO. 2023-01-02. A resolution recommending to the Anchorage assembly approval of the update to Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) Title 21, Chapter 11: Downtown land use code. Mike Ward seconded the motion.
Melinda Gant read the Anchorage Downtown Community Council Resolution NO.2023-XX for consideration into the record.

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01-02

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF THE UPDATE TO ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE (AMC) TITLE 21, CHAPTER 11: DOWNTOWN LAND USE CODE.

(Planning and Zoning Commission Case No. 2022-0129)

WHEREAS, the Downtown Community Council (DCC) as an advisory body to the Anchorage Assembly was established under Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) Section

2.40.040, Establishment of Community Council Districts; and

WHEREAS, the DCC's mission is to serve and advocate for the downtown community and its vision is to represent downtown for the betterment of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Department initiated the update to AMC Title 21, Chapter 11: Downtown in January 2022, by including the DCC in monthly presentations and invited workshops to learn of our concerns and desires for downtown; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the downtown code are necessary and desirable because of changing conditions, new planning concepts, and the social and economic conditions facing our downtown; and

WHEREAS, the code update process also incorporated significant public input and engagement including interviews with developers, interviews with property owners and managers, presentations at several open houses, agency meetings, workshops with input from a working group of selected development industry professionals including architects, landscape architects, engineers, and municipal planning staff; and

WHEREAS, the code amendment is intended to provide the development and design community the land use regulatory tools that will allow them to provide new buildings in downtown to support our northern lifestyle, diverse climate, and regional identity, while helping to support economic development, tourism, cultural and historic activities, and safer streets and buildings in downtown; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the code update at their December 12, 2022 regular meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the DCC that the downtown code update meets the intents and desires of the community council and the businesses and property owners it represents and is supported by the council by a unanimous vote of the members.

President, Silvia Villamides, asked; "Anyone opposing to this Resolution? Hearing, seeing none."

Motion to support Anchorage Downtown Community Council Resolution NO. 2023-01-02 passed.

○ **JBER** – Joy Boston

January is the best time to renew your iSportsman permit. Permits are \$10 or \$5 if you are a disabled veteran (50% or greater) or senior (over age 60). Remember permits are by the calendar year, so get your 2023 permit in January and maximize its use. Go to <https://jber.isportsman.net/> and click on "Register" to get your pass.

Military training may increase noise in the surrounding areas beginning January 18th. These trainings are scheduled to end by 11pm. We will make every effort to not affect the lives of those living near our training areas. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

○ **ACDA / Easy Park** - Melinda Gant

Downtown employee discount program is going to be modified. Effective Feb. 1st the income cap to qualify for the program has been raised to \$45,000. Program is easier to use. Don't need to re-apply just get permit money in before it expires

Block 102 – proceeding forward. Received approval from Campbell Creek Community Council for land exchange

Mt. McKinley building – commercial to housing. RP for developer by end of 1st quarter

Fur Rendezvous Feb. 24 – March 5. Chinook parking lot downtown gets impacted. Information of where to park will be made known.

Sockeye lot closed 3rd and C due to Aviator construction

Project Anchorage – city wide group collectively put together ideas to present to the mayor. Those ideas are being presented to the mayor tomorrow

Three job openings at ACDA – accounting clerk, customer relations manager, customer relations representative

ACDA – Scavenger Hunt in February collaborating with Fur Rondy. Need more businesses to participate by displaying a wooden dog designed sign as part of a clue for the scavenger sign. ACDA is going before the assembly with a proposal to sell 716 building, which houses the police department, to the municipality. The police department would still be housed there. This would save the municipality money in the long run from leasing the building.

ACDA budget report on their website.

- **Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness** - n/a

MASH Representative: Kyle Lavey

129 residents presently. MASH partners with Henny which provides social work

Length of stay for residents can be month to month or year to year depending on the need

Working on addressing the issue of non-residents entering the building. Neighbors have reported the coming and going of many non-residents.

- **Continuing Business:**

- **Guest House Memorandum of Understanding** (draft)

No one from the listed owner, Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust was present to sign the MOU.

Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust was incorporated October 6, 2022 and known incorporator and director on record is John Weddleton as reported by Richard Irwin.

The original Guest House MOU draft had been requested from 1st Presbyterian Church, who were known as being the future owners of the Guest House, in September.

Downtown Community Council through its President, Silvia Villamides, tabled the MOU until the March 1, 2023 DTCC meeting. An incorporator or director of Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust needs to be present to discuss and sign the MOU.

- **Cemetery Resolution** – Silvia Villamides

Resolution or table the subject

According to Chris Constant this resolution is not ready for bonding. The bonding language will be worked on next year.

Downtown Community Council through its president, Silvia Villamides, has tabled the Cemetery Resolution until a future date when it will be ready.

- **Alcohol and Marijuana Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides

- Egan Center – License renewal
- Whiskey & Ramen –License renewal
- Palmeria Tropical Fusion – New Application (Restaurant/Eating Place) 323 Barrow
- Crush – License renewal
- Panhandle – License renewal
- Gumbo House – License Transfer
- Blarney Stone Pub – Transfer controlling interest

Russ Reno made the motion to approve the above listed licenses. Melinda Gant seconded the motion. Above listed licenses are approved.

- **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka n/a

Mike Ward reporting: \$3400.10

- **New Business:** 6minute limit

- **The MOA/HLB Proposed Public Land Disposal called Holtan Hills before the MOA Assembly on Jan. 10th**-Grace Pleasants – Girdwood Resident

Presented background information and history of MOA/HLB proposed public land disposal called Holtan Hills that led to Resolution (2023-01) to support the community of Girdwood to pause or vote no to Holtan Hills.

David Hall made the motion to move Resolution (2023-01) to support the community of Girdwood to pause or vote no to Holtan Hills. Russ Reno seconded the motion.

David Hall read Resolution (2023-01) to support the community of Girdwood to pause or vote no to Holtan Hills into the record for consideration.

RESOLUTION (2023-01) TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY OF GIRDWOOD TO PAUSE OR VOTE NO TO HOLTAN HILLS.

The Downtown Community Council supports the Resolution 2022-23, dated October 24, 2022 and the Letter of Objection, dated November 29, 2022 from the Girdwood Board of Supervisors (GBOS) to pause or vote no by the Anchorage Assembly on the disposal of public lands called Holtan Hills, this day, 4th day of January, 2023, by the Downtown Community Council.

This action of solidarity between the Community of Girdwood and the Downtown Community demonstrates that neighborhoods needs must be addressed with public lands.

Attachments:

Resolution 2022-23:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Service/GBOS/2022-23%20Amendment%20or%20revocation%20of%20Holtan%20Hills%20Development%20Agreement%20-%20Copy.pdf>

Letter of Objection:

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Service/GBOS/LOO%20Holtan%20Hills%20Land%20Disposal%20under%20Development%20Agreement.pdf>

Vote taken to support Resolution (2023-01)

9 voting members:

5 yes, 2 no, 2 abstaining.

Support of Resolution (2023-01) passes.

- **Presentations:** 6minute limit (3minutes – to speak / 3minutes -for questions)
 - **Broadway Alaska Program** – Jason Herr, PAC
Cody Costello reporting– president and COO of ACPA
With support from the Murdock Charitable Trust, ACPA engaged consulting partner Jim Howland of WH Management Group. Together we developed a model that moves touring Broadway to Alaska by air in a new partnership with the Nederlander.
Broadway Alaska annual season projected Community Economic Impact - \$35M to \$45M
Launching 23/24 Broadway season – Hamilton, Come From Away, Six the Musical, Aladdin. Season tickets to see all four shows start at \$315.
 - **Revive Alaska Community Services** – introduction and program presentation – Prince Nwankudun/a
 - **Block 41 Plat's update** – LaQuita Chmielowski, PE, LEED AP – Senior Land Use Planning Manager

Key Bank Building is a part of Block 41 – Peach holding owns the remainder of the block except for Polar Gifts

Working on getting rid of the plot lines on the rest of Block 41. This would consolidate all the plots together. Also, vacating the alley and changing it from a right of way into an easement.

- **Alaska Railroad**

Alaska Railroad had a clue on Jeopardy! This evening, Wednesday, January 4, 2023

Centennial Art Print and Poser signing even 10am to 1pm on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at the Anchorage Historic Depot Two prints this year commemorating our centennial.

Statewide Centennial Celebration will be in Nenana July 15, 2023. Fun festival atmosphere with reenactment of President Harding driving the golden spike connecting the two ends of the railroad.

Anchorage Railroad Community Open House is scheduled for September 23, 2023.

On Website: www.AlaskaRailroad.com May 6 – open houses, meeting with community partners,

- **Announcements / Neighbor Comments:** (2minute limit)

- **Petra Sattler – Smith**

Moved to Anchorage 26 years ago. Is an architect. Business Owner downtown. Has worked on various projects including Ship Creek development. All for development. Believes certain aesthetics for this environment are important. Interested in participating more.

- **Brown Jug – Ana Fisk**

Moved to Anchorage 12 years ago

Believes in giving back to the community.

Involved in charitable giving -\$200,000 this year in support of Covenant House, Botanical Gardens, Food Bank.

Downtown location has patron scan at the door. Helps with theft, problems, etc. Adding it to other locations they have.

ADJOURN MEETING

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:03pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Andrea McCormick

Secretary of the Downtown Community Council