

April 3, 2024 Wednesday 5:30 pm

Anchorage Downtown Community Council

Meeting called to order by President Silvia Villamides

Welcome

Roll call

Additions to Agenda

Motion Russ Reno Second Matt Schultz

Minutes of January 10 meeting approved

Mike Ward Motion David Hall Second

Daniel Volland presents **Right Turns on Red Ordinance for Downtown**

L St to Gambell - 3rd to 9th - Downtown Business District - Slow Down Town - a look at traffic data - bicycles, pedestrians, tourists downtown - walk & shop safely - illegal to use sidewalks for bikes - spend time in the city - Roger Brooks, speaker, ADEC. suggests downtown should be people centric, not cars. Compare Anchorage crash analysis to national average. Implication would involve APD, public education and signage. On 5th, 6th, A & C. is this the right approach? Look at recommendations, Set policy. NYC banned R turns on red. Wash D.C. has safer streets. Four choices: Do Nothing. Just downtown. East Anchorage & Midtown too. Area wide.

Comments and questions: Joe Hemphill: Better to compare Anchorage to a sizable population.

Robert Cupples: Reducing the speed limit would be more effective. The data doesn't support this plan.

Daniel V: The transportation committee could look at angle parking and other options.

Kristin Anderson Don't see the need for R turns in Alaska. Drivers need to be safer, smarter, look.

Mike Ward: Would slow down traffic. Data doesn't make sense. Police would have to enforce.

Russ R: Cross walks are more important - don't cross in the middle of the street.

Assembly Report: Chris Constant: \$4 million budget for homeless under consideration.

Election count. There will be a run off. Ballots will be out April 30. Due May 14th.
anchoragevotes.org Sign up.

Audited statements for 2022 not available. Need balance. Administration unable to close the books. Abatement. Supreme Court set rules. Will find out more Tuesday.

Toilet bond did not pass. A lease agreement will put in a few to test.

Questions and comments: David Hall: low barrier open emergency cold weather \$4 mil homeless camp 3rd & E Could public restrooms at the market be used?

Chris Constant - No, they are not engineered to use like portables

Mayor's office N/A

APD N/A

Fire Dept N/A

School board N/A

Downtown Partnership - Radika Krishna - bike lane, transit study. 72,000 attended events downtown. Summer After 5 returns. In July Music in the Park will move to Fridays at lunch. Saturday Sunday marker. Abatement chgs to size of camps and where to allow downtown - work session

Joy Boston - **JBER** - emailed report

Larry Michael & Jim Renkert - **3rd Ave Radicals** - Rob Copples - will make comments.

Christy Terry **RR** Anchorage to Fairbanks. Summer starts May 10. Juneau bonding request. Need state permission for projects. Seward terminal.

Jason Herr- **PAC** N/A

RV Resort Presentation - Melinda Gant & Mike Robbins: ACDA Anchorage Community Development : 3rd & Ingra RV - temporary use for facility

Roger Brooks recommended get people with RV's downtown. Partnership. Activate downtown. Input needed. Community discussion. Use permit first. Complete 2025.

RV resort - not more than 10 yrs old. Trails. Memorial to Alaska Natives that died at the Native hospital. Also those that were born there. A place for community to gather. Three phases. 35 hook ups. 68 hook ups in Phase 2. Finish with 102. Pickle ball courts. Connect to Chester Creek trail. Fairview. Ship Creek. Green space. Upscale. Clubhouse. Mixed use. Cafe. Store. Laundry mat.

Aesthetics. Functional.

3rd Ave radicals in favor (Lawrence). Employment. Master plan.

Matt Schultz: Positive potential. Need input from Alaska Natives.

Melinda Gant: Natives gave comments. Asked for memorial.

Kristin Anderson: What is the winter plan? RV storage?

Mike Robbins: Goal to get open. Ski. Activities. Not open in winter season function - keep plowed, keep memorial open and shops like parks around the country - maintain resort.

David Hall - A good plan. Is Brother Francis still adjacent?

Not really. Eagle Street steep hill to 1st Ave.

Question: What is the fee schedule, pricing? Answer: Contractor Agnew Beck working on.

Mike Robbins: Schedule. Plans for indigenous dancers in space (amphitheater).

Joe Hemphill: Muni owned?

Mike R: No. Contractor will run the park.

ACDA will share in the cost of development - has partners - owns the land, not the business.

Marketing study done. The environment is challenging because, zone 5, earthquake. Housing would be difficult. Better suited for RV. The plan is for 15-20 years - better use in future. Now just a dirt lot.

Larry M: This follows the transportation solution master plan of 2019. The Radicals are in favor of it.

Jim Renhart: No environmental issues.

Cook Inlet housing couldn't make plans because of seismic issue - 4&5 - too difficult to get loans for housing.

Silvia V: Master plan 2019 never approved. Do not want to see 3rd & E again, It is April. We need a fence and no trespassing.

Mike Robbins: Get permit for a year, letter of intent; fence around it now, make sure site is managed soon.

Melinda Gant reads resolution ACDA support, share, approve May.

East downtown has been neglected. We need to beautify.

Mike Robbins: 3rd & Ingra - the RV resort will have cultural activities.

Rob Cupples: 3rd Ave Radicals unanimously support this project.

Kyle Lavey - **MASH** - Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. Property 5th & Cordova Guest House, Lakeshore, Barratt Inn.

96 units filled. 90% capacity. 243 individuals. Low barrier housing. X sexual registry. X arson. Contract is with Graceful Touch Services - case management, lease agreements, vouchers. Construction going on soon because of storm drain issue. Plan of action - engineers, bids, design. Have to dig up Cordova Street for drain.

Joe Hemphill **Covenant House** report: sleepout.org Shelter, short term housing - 40 beds year round in place - in the winter 25 cots in gym - muni \$ - Alexis Hotel now offers long term rooms. 18-24 yr olds moved there April 1st.

Silvia V: Report committee - **alcohol marijuana** licenses - interview - operations - certify lighting, security, cleanliness, in front & in alley, safety for every business. 2 licenses approved: Brown Jug, Tent City.

Motion Mike Ward Second Matt Schultz

No **treasurer** report - Jason Motyka not present.

District One - Community councils are working together.

Mike Ward reads **Resolution of Downtown Community Council to request MO to fulfill its responsibility to effectively manage publicly owned lands and facilities.** Approve in May.

Sylvia V: Policy is to introduce one month , come back in May, talk about it.

David Hall - Aviator - where will all people go April 30?

Silvia V: The problem is the remedy in May. The assembly may fund housing for \$4 mil - Low barrier shelter 900 people - placement components - 150 beds, housing, guest house, homeless committee Email Silvia or discuss concerns with Chris Constant.

Rezone Property at 225 Eagle St South Central Foundation - Kate Siber - Dowl -

PLI public land 5 acres club house day treatment program 20 years The purpose is to divide to 2 properties - rezone to central business periphery zone community mg city center & other open space 2040 land use plan. Hearing in the fall, transfer after complete.

Robert Cupples: Quana Club House is an excellent neighbor 3rd Ave. Radicals appreciate.

Jim Renkert agrees.

3rd Ave Radicals: Jim Renkert submitted a letter of support for the RV resort. This was sent out via email.

Proposed lighting at Town Square Park Tanya Hickok MOA Anc Parks & Rec: string lighting 15' high \$350,000 is expensive; first under bench lighting, upgrades to pedestrian like PAC - 12 ft tall lighting - add 4 more flood lights, remote control, 20' tall plug in; \$700,000 cost for everything - have \$200,000 left from bond to do 1st phase. Need downtown support & bonds. Keep banners & hanging baskets.

Melinda Gant ACPA: Re lighting requests to feel safer address central dark spots & night, winter dark - people are using - encourage you to light up.

Tanya H: Will review dark spots and add more lights.

Rob Cupples: 2007 monument Town Park - wants to see his grandmother Avis Cupples is recognized. never installed - revitalize effort.

Will Webb - AMATS - Kinney Engr

Cordova Ingra transportation funding addresses deficiencies on 4th Ave replace pavement, curb, sidewalk, environment review, encroachments, downtown plan, traffic signals, 4th & C widen sidewalks 11' - 14.5' - bid, construction 2025, 2026.

Jim Renkert discuss improvements downtown streets Cordova to Ingra needs beautification & lighting

Will W: The space is a challenge for tree wells & usable sidewalk. Julia Hanson is the project manager.

Jim R: Would like to do a downtown street walk to illustrate his opinions.

Robert Cupples: Why 3 lanes? Why not 2 lanes? Ingra to Cordova - Not enough vehicles to justify. Add amenities. East neglected. Need to do traffic data.

Melinda G: Street study downtown. Keep in mind, participate in process. Lighting would help East side. Suggest add hangars on light poles & banners.

Motion David Hall Second 8:15 pm finish meeting.

Kate Silva - Dowl - Between 1st & 3rd E 1st & Post 5 lots Josh Renznick for Chugach Electric campus plant right of way public.

Karluk lot lines adjustments property lines approval in May, July hearing.

Transit center project update: Joan Mitchell, Steven Stone, public transportation. Jeannie Bowie presents: 6th ave garage has to relocate - 3 sites - open house at city hall Thursday April 4 & online www.anctransitcenter.com

Roger Marks - **CASA** - bond proposal from March meeting that was cancelled - Delete.

Temporary Protected Bike lanes - Carl Singleton presents - MOA traffic. website anchoragepbl.com

10th A St 6th left lane Email your comments. 49th St will offer rentals, bike parking.

Peter Roberts, business owner offers his concerns about the intersection 6th & C not safe for a bike path - safety first.

Melinda G: 6th 7th C St problems - crosswalk - lighting - slow down for safety. Concern about loading zones.

Singleton met with JCP & 5th Ave re loading zones who concur with the design.

Peter R has contact information to continue discussion.

Mike Ward: It's been presented twice before the downtown community council and been supported.

Mark G: 6th Ave problem - not right to do this.

Motion to extend meeting Mike Ward Second

Brooke Wood - **Anchorage Museum**: archives, collection, opportunity to learn history, care for, sustainable, bldg used 24/7 - energy efficient, education, resilient, electric, low emission technology engineer feasibility study, fed & private, inflation, fed job acts - projects, Anchorage climatic action plan, state funding

Julie Decker: Covenant House & PAC bldg efficient public facilities downtown, Collectivity.

Silvia V: Come back w/ an update.

Announcements:

Melinda Gant: D St plan study re engage community ACDA D St area study.

Motion to adjourn Mike Ward.

David Hale Second.

8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Roberts, Secretary