

**Downtown Community Council  
Meeting Notes  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

**Welcome and Introductions**

- Silvia, president of Downtown Community Council, initiated the meeting at 5:30pm
- Attendees introduced themselves, including representatives from the Anchorage Fire Department and Mt. View Community Council President.

**Agenda and Meeting Notes**

- Agenda approved without changes.
- January 8th meeting notes approved.

**Reports:**

- A. Assembly Report** - Assembly Chair Chris Constant and Member Daniel Volland
- Sales Tax Proposal - Ongoing discussions with a public hearing scheduled for March 18th. Competing versions reduced to one, sponsored by Project Anchorage members. Two Town halls scheduled for community engagement.
  - Residential Design Standards - Recent assembly action paused standards for multi-family developments until 2028. Concerns about community impact and aesthetics.
  - Title 21 Amendment - Amendment allows connexes as food and beverage kiosks, aligning with health and building codes
  - Universal Services Application - A project to streamline access to municipal services through a single application. Collaboration with IT department for development.
  - Municipal Election - Ballots being mailed, significant propositions include Town Square Park design.
  - Discussion on potential use of cameras for security enhancement.
  - School Budget - Assembly vote on school budget is procedural with limited influence. Funding constraints due to constitutional limits on local contributions.
- B. Senate Report** – Senator Tobin’s report at the table for distribution.
- C. House Representative David Nelson** – Representative Nelson in Juneau however he would like to have telephone or conference call accessibility to participate in meetings.
- D. Mayor’s Office** – N/A
- E. Anchorage Fire Department** – Fire Fighters attended the meeting but had to leave before report due to a call to duty.
- F. Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – N/A
- G. Our Downtown** – N/A
- H. JBER Report** – Report sent via email to members

I. **AK Railroad** – N/A

J. **Performance Arts Center** – N/A

K. **ACDA** – Melinda Gant – Reported, Anchorage Community Development Authority updates working on the RV Resort; Downtown Disability Parking Program has been initiated. ADCA board approved their Strategic Plan.

L. **Anchorage School District** – Andy Holleman - Dora Wilson had a conflict and asked me to come speak on ASD behalf. Rightsizing update: School Board approved amended memo to move STreAM Academy into Nunaka Valley building, Alaska Native Cultural Charter School into Lake Hood building. In the process of changing from mechanical locks to cards-lock systems. Cellular phone policy is going to get restrictive all across the school district.

M. **3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Radicals** – Dave reported Radicals and Downtown Council working on a good neighbor policy for a shelter in east downtown. There are many neighbor concerns.

N. **Guest House Representative** [MASH]– Kyle Levy property manager for Guest House, the Lakeshore, and the Old Barrett Inn. MASH is a supporter of housing, in which we house individuals that are in need of supporting, and also low income. Current occupancy rate is sitting at 95%. Silvia reported Guest House has been a good neighbor.

O. **Covenant House Representative** – There were some adjustments to a programming six month mark, and really excited to share that we are seeing some increased positive outcomes with our young people. So just really excited to continue to assist our young people, moving Forward through our continuum of services and I'm really pleased to share that we've seen an increase in compliance with our good neighbor policy and we've been able to work one -on -one with individuals throughout our program to ensure that they're understanding the importance of respecting our neighborhood and that the support from our community. Silvia states good neighbor policies and working together is what makes our community safer.

➤ **Continuing Business –**

- Alcohol and Marijuana Committee – The following licenses were approved.
  - Liquor
    - Bear Paw – Renewal #4157
    - Kamagoro – Renewal #2276
    - Pioneer Bar – Renewal #866
    - Egan Convention Center – Renewal #3234
    - Wei Restaurant – New Application #16588
    - Crush Theater License – Renewal #5963

➤ **New Business**

- Reconnecting Fairview and Seward/Glenn Project – Allen Kemplen and Lindsey Hajduk – Allen stated he has been in Anchorage since the early 1980 and have been involved with the neighborhood. Fairview and NeighborWorks Alaska were able to partner, submit a national grant for reconnecting communities and were successful in getting the award. We all know Downtown, Government Hill and Fairview are the historic four neighborhoods in Anchorage. As part of reconnecting will be an investment that will bring the 3 areas together but physically. Allen and Lindsey presented a resolution. Resolution will be back on the May 7, meeting agenda for discussion and approval. Lindsey distributed information and gave a brief update on

the Seward/Glenn Project, the plan is bringing community members and partners together.

- Downtown Wayfinding/AK Long Trail Place Naming Movement – Huddle AK – Lucy talked about the Indigenous Placing Project which is being undertaken by the Anchorage Parks Foundation it is a movement where Indigenous Place Names signs will be placed throughout the Anchorage Bowl. There is an Indigenous Place Name Advisory Committee working through the process of identifying other locations or preferred locations.  
Downtown Wayfinding - Lucy stated that they received funding and they are trying to move fast in order to get this project implemented this year. The objective for this project is point to point pedestrian wayfinding in the downtown core area.
- Introduction Resolution Prohibiting Commercial Trucks on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, West of C Street – Justin Millett – Justin owner of Third Avenue Investments who purchased a large portion of the condominiums in the building located across from the Hilton Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue talked about the number of commercial vehicles that go through 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and wondered why the city is allowing this to happen when this area is a high pedestrian area. We need other alternative truck routes. Jason presented a resolution which will be back on May 7 meeting agenda for discussion and approval.
- Homeless Community Conversation – Group talked about the Homelessness and Community Challenges. Challenges include vandalism, addiction, safety, and sanitation. Solutions discussed: Sanctioned camps, affordable housing, police presence, and community engagement.

Meeting adjourned – 7:55pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Silvia