

# Minutes: Scenic Foothills Community Council – April 7, 2016

Call to Order: President Mark Hill. March Minutes approved.

Fate of School Bonds in April Municipality of Anchorage election unknown; 5,000+ votes still uncounted.

**Rep. Lance Pruitt:** Medicaid reform bill is being worked on. If you're interested in a bill, watch BASIS and the 24 hour rule. <<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>> Unknown if they'll get out of Juneau on time. SB74; SB174 Guns on Campus / Pruitt will probably vote yes. Driver's Licenses / DMV and Homeland Security – blamed on "us." Alaska Legislature said we would not fund anything related to "Real ID."

**Senator Cathy Giessel:** Oil tax reductions. Medicaid reform reduces some areas, but will increase Behavioral Health Substance Abuse treatment. <<http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/29?Root=SB%20%2074>>

**Assemblyman Pete Petersen:** resolution passed at previous meeting - naming panel for Fire Station #3. Max Gruenberg name suggestion. Tuesday: neighborhood responsibility plan for all people with marijuana licenses. Template from city lawyers? Working on that. City Hall contact person: Erica McConnell 907-343-6182 – was at the planning office. Land Use Map is updated / last updated 1982. Looking for input – let them know. 4/11/16: 6:30pm Planning & Zoning, Loussac Library for Muldoon Town Square. Muldoon/Glenn Highway overpass will have closures next weekend so keep up-to-date on their website: <http://www.glenmuldoon.com/projects/GlennMuldoon/index.html> Councils don't have veto power over granting marijuana licenses. Alcohol establishments do not have the same responsibilities. Pete believes alcohol businesses will need to do the same.

Forrest Dunbar was elected to Anchorage Assembly, sworn in 4/19/16. SFCC vice president 1.5 years. Won't be standing for re-election to SFCC board. He'll still show up for meetings. Three positions up for election in May.

Bart presented for Collin Hodges "Anchorage Talks Transit Project" with Power Point. Looking at bus routes, last reviewed in 2002. Community dialogue within budget. 14 bus routes. 1075 bus stops. 6,364 miles per weekday. Almost 4 million people used buses last year. May 5<sup>th</sup> is a huge talk at Museum. Choices: existing bus resources: more frequent buses on fewer roads. We can have both but where in the spectrum should we be? <http://www.muni.org/departments/transit/people/mover/Pages/transittalks.aspx> \$2 one way or \$5 full day ticket. School kids riding the buses? Muni uses Fed funds and cannot use buses to take kids to school; cannot operate as a school bus. If they are funded in a different way, they could do it. Compared cities: Eugene, Spokane, Green Bay, Albany (?), etc.

Aaron Jabaay, Assistant District Attorney at DA office eight years. Trying to become more efficient – effort to engage with CC members, to let us know what they're doing, and to hear our concerns. Resources available in the communities. Mechanisms that might work. Enforce criminal statutes <http://law.alaska.gov/departments/criminal/da.html>. Discussion about DMV red-stripe [http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reinst/PDFS/FAQ\\_Alcohol.pdf](http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/reinst/PDFS/FAQ_Alcohol.pdf). Seniors losing vision and driver's license being taken away – but they're still driving. Homeless camps – who will take care of these?

Alaska Economic Update - Dr. Gunnar Knapp, Institute of Social and Economic Research, UAA. <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/people/knapp/personal/biograph.htm> presentation can be found here. Spending too much. Drawing down savings. \$10M per day is coming from savings. Savings will be gone in two years. Can spend PFD earnings reserve – but that would be gone in 2-3 years at this rate of deficits. <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/index.php>

- We have to close the deficit, make big changes in what we spend or how we pay for it, or both. Choices will affect ALL Alaskans' futures.

- If there was ever a time to pay attention, express opinions, the time is NOW!
- FOUR OPTIONS: cut spending, increase revenues, cut PFDs, save less = we probably need to do all four of these options.
- 45% of the budget by two: Education / constitutional mandate; DHSS 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the budget 55% Medicaid Program; 45% very wide range of social service programs: DBH, children, etc.
- Next three largest: University, Corrections, Transportation
- 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the budget: oil tax credits – very complicated. Two kinds of oil tax credits paid by different companies. Some are cash payments we pay to companies (usually smaller exploratory companies). \$500 Million!
- Another tax credit: large oil companies can claim when they calculate their production taxes. Credit their tax obligation – which reduces money coming in.
- Unfunded retirement obligations \$260 Million per year.
- Where do you cut? Education? DHSS? University, Corrections, Transportation?
  
- What about revenues: how much could we raise?
  - Income tax like other 30 states with income taxes: \$700 Million dollars Seaton; Governor \$200 Million
  - Sales tax: \$400 Million
  - Alcohol tax increase
  - Motor fuel tax (lowest in the nation – not changed since Kennedy Administration)
  - Fisheries tax increase
  - Mining tax increase
  - Lottery
- At most \$1 Billion – if all of these were done!
- It's really hard to close the gap by cutting spending and increasing revenues – active talk about dipping into PFD and saving less.
- We spend more on PFDs than on education!
- Four options
  - How much we spend on state government
  - How much we raise in new revenues
  - How much we spend for dividends
  - How much we draw down or add to our savings
    - How you answer each, affects your answers to the others.
- What's the least "best" way to fix this?
- Very Important. Highly Complex. High uncertainty about our options. About fundamental political issues. Very little time to address these issues.
- ALL ALASKANS: Become informed! Realize there are no easy solutions.
- ADVOCATING: bring real solutions, not fantasy solutions. Say what you are for, not just what you are against.
- ELECTED LEADERS: work hard, cooperate, make tough choices, help educate Alaskans about the challenge, Lead.
- Gov. Walker proposed a plan – something for everybody to hate.
  - Legislators have pretty much hated everything he has proposed and nothing has been accepted. Lots of fighting.
  - If we fail to act, we will continue to run big deficits. If we don't pay for these things – our kids are going to pay. We're reducing options for our future. A lot of bad effects to kicking the can down the road. And horrible uncertainty.
  - University: people are leaving because other places are less uncertain ... multiply this for the workforce: bad for morale, focusing and keeping people in our community. Bad for business investment – which is a huge problem.
  - Bond rating agencies will lower our credit ratings.

Lots of questions for Gunnar.

Sale for the Trail signs – April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 3pm. 100% of all money goes to Chugach Foothills Connector Trail Fund. Look for the green "Sale for the Trail" sign.

JBER Proposed Construction of Access Trail to Geronimo Drop Zone East of SFCC. Comments or requests for information before April 15: [zachary.walker.25@us.af.mil](mailto:zachary.walker.25@us.af.mil)

Meeting Adjourned.