

Downtown Community Council Meeting Minutes

By Jordan Huss, Secretary

June 7, 2017. 5:30PM

Representative Report: Tom Begich spoke on taxes and tax credits regarding the oil industry. Mr. Begich spoke on HB 111 and the meeting of the House and Senate Operating Committees in an effort to agree on an operating budget.

Committee Report: Vice-President Michelle Gallagher introduced the new Downtown Improvement and Marijuana & Alcohol Committees. Ms. Gallagher spoke about a formal process regarding the introduction and renewal of marijuana and alcohol businesses in downtown. This process is still in the works and will be presented at the next scheduled Community Council meeting.

Member-at-large Paul Nangle spoke about increased police presence in Downtown Anchorage. Several officers on foot and bicycles have been on patrol in recent weeks. Member-at-large Russ Reno commented on the fact that the officers will not patrol past 4th Avenue. He requested action to increase patrol area to include 3rd Avenue.

Melinda Gant from the Anchorage Community Development Authority spoke on the Downtown Transit Center project that is currently under review for redevelopment. An RFP has been issued to reconstruct the transit center into a more usable space, including two floors of retail space with housing above. Decisions on design are expected to be made in October 2017.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:25pm

Downtown Community Council Executive Board Meeting Minutes

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Member-at-large Russ Reno spoke on concerns that the Council is not addressing the issues of the citizens that the DTCC represents. Conversation regarding this issue ensued in an effort for the Council to become more attentive to the citizens. A common thread emerging from that discussion was the necessary inclusion of the general public that the Board represents, and the increased effort needed to get them involved in the meetings.

Marijuana and Alcohol Committee: Member Silvia Villamides spoke on the involvement of the different groups that represent Downtown Anchorage in regards to the developing marijuana industry. Including the Anchorage Downtown Partnership in this discussion is imperative. ADP needs to join the Downtown Community Council in an effort to align the process for new businesses.

Russ Reno spoke on the DTCC's official stance on writing letters of understanding regarding new marijuana businesses. He recommended that the Council take an official stance on proposed businesses, either in support or rejection. He proposed that the DTCC revisit their methods of business approval.

Action Items that were discussed are as follows:

- Connect with the Anchorage Downtown Partnership in an effort to increase involvement with all of the Downtown stakeholders.
- Connect with the general public in an effort to increase community involvement.
- Create a formal process for the DTCC to review new marijuana business plans.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15PM