



## MEETING SUMMARY


Project: MOA Sanctioned Camp Task Force

Project No: 235049

Meeting Date: June 15, 2023

Location: Mayors Conference Room

Attendees: Tony J Andrew, Community Member  
Michael Hughes, Anchorage Health Department  
Silvia Villamides, Alaska Hospitality Retailers, Downtown CC  
Caroline Storm, Great Alaska Schools, Community Member  
Eric Glatt, Community Member  
Kris Stoechner, Community Member  
Dylan Faber, Matson, Community Member  
Charles Welch, Community Member  
Jenn Miller, Showered in Grace, First United Methodist Church  
Andy Bartel, First and St. John United Methodist Church  
Duke Russell, Community Member  
Susan Williams, United Methodist, Community Member  
Betsy Baker, Community Member  
Shenee Williams, Shiloh Community Housing, Community Member  
Roger Branson, Community Member  
Larry Michael, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Radicals, Community Member  
Rudd Plato, Community Member  
Lechaun Baker, Legacy Builders, Community Member  
Betty Hertz, Community Member  
Zac Johnson, Anchorage Assembly  
Michael Fredericks, SALT  
Michael Kerle  
Amy Solberg, MUNI Clerk Staff  
Felix Riveria, Anchorage Assembly  
David Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services  
Susan Soule, Community Member, Community Council  
Michelle Hodel, Mayor Bronson's Office  
Terry Macintosy  
Alan G. Community Council

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- Attachments:
- A Meeting Agenda
  - B Meeting Presentation
  - C Sign-In Sheet

The purpose of the meeting is to review the work and recommendations provided by the Support Services Recommendations workgroup and allow for discussion from the larger audience prior finalizing their recommendations. The following items were discussed:

1. INTRODUCTIONS


Participants in the room and online to introduce themselves.

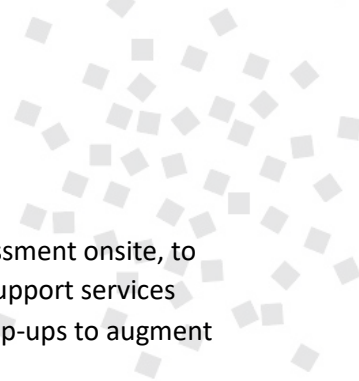
2. SUPPORT SERVICE RECOMMENDATION REVIEW

Betsy, Support Service Recommendation, presented the work completed by the subcommittee with a focus on two baskets of support services: Basic Onsite Needs and Connecting Guests to Other Services. This scope was also narrowed with an understanding that Operations may accommodate additional services needed. Additionally, comments are focused on efforts through the end of September.

- Working Group Participants
  - Betsy Baker – Working Group Leader, Community Member, Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Volunteer
  - Michele Brown, Senior Fellow Rasmuson Foundation
  - Izzy Gingell, Community Member, operated a Fairbanks Food Bank
  - Betty Hertz, Community Member, Centennial 2022 & Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Volunteer
  - Jenn Miller, Showered in Grace, First United Methodist Church
  - David Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services, Sr. Dir. Adult Homeless Services
  - Kris Stoechner, President, Midtown Community Council
  - Silvia Villamides, Executive Director AKHR, President Downtown Community Council, Co-Convener of Sanctioned Camps Task Force
- Basic Onsite Needs – Essential
  - Basic Shelter & Sanitation
    - Tents / Sleeping Bags / Tarps
      - Pallet shelters were not included due to length of season
    - Toilets – Porta Potties of Bathroom Trailers (1 toilet for every 10 people)
    - Handwashing – Robust handwashing stations, not easily moved
    - Waste Disposal – MOA or Contractor
    - Projected costs depend on how each service is used
  - Food & Potable Water
    - Use provider with licensed / permitted commercial kitchen, food workers, etc.
    - Have a plan for non-Guests seeking food
      - Centennial used wristband system
      - Fairbanks Food Bank used vouchers from local restaurant partners successfully
      - Balance welcoming with avoiding regular expectation of meals for non-Guests

- Water – city water is onsite, ensure potable water hookup or other source
- Projected costs – meals estimated at \$15/pp/day for 3 meals/day (from funding worksheet)
  - Tony calculated roughly \$27K a month for 60 people, suggests a needs assessment be completed (SNAP, funding available) to help cover / reduce the cost of the meals
- Basic Onsite Needs - Important
  - Warmth / Clothing / Storage
    - Warming / Cooling Center – tent or relocatable, could double as dry workspace
      - Susan Williams – wet tents do not provide warmth – is firewood available? Can they cook their own food or only take what they are offered?
        - i. Response – want to have a central tent for warming, but fires would fall under operations. Additionally, tarps are on the list to keep tents dry (basic essentials list).
        - ii. Response – Caroline – a lot of overlap between groups, but includes this within the layout group as well.
    - Dry Clothing / Towels
      - Devise system for connecting Guests to other sources (HOPE Center, Salvation Army)
      - Consider onsite access to donated clothing, using voucher system
      - Put out list of needs to non-profits, community councils, and congregations
    - Personal Storage
      - Tote or other storage bin
      - Gym bag for personal items
  - First Aid
    - Clearly define first aid in contract with provider for professionals (EMTs, Medics) to administer onsite care 3 or more days per week, and/or as needed
  - Electricity / Staff Wi-Fi
    - Electricity at a minimum for charging stations (numbered power strips)
      - When Pallet Shelters come in, they will need electricity for hook-up
    - Monitored or Self-Monitoring
    - Wi-Fi for Homeless Management Information System, telemedical services, family communication
    - Provide hardware and protocols, logins, etc.
  - Transportation
    - Bus passes, as appropriate for confirmed appointments
    - Shuttle – CSS can commit to provide shuttle between camp and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Resource and Navigation Center (3RNC)
    - Consider options for Guests requiring more assistance such as hearing or communication impaired.

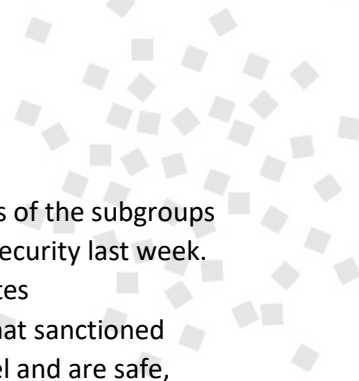
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- Showers
    - Offer on-site, if at all possible
      - Portable three-unit shower trailer using onsite electricity
      - Tony Andrew – Thanks subgroup for putting this together, realistically the summer is very short, unsure if water / sewer will be available for those not in shelters – is it feasible for pallet shelters. It would be nice to have showers, but what are possible offsite options if water / sewer isn't available at each camp.
        - i. Response Jenn Miller – Pallet Shelters do not take water at all; Showered in Grace can run 3 showers with water onsite or not. For showers there is gray water that is pumped out if there is no dump site and can also have water run in.
    - CSS Shuttle could bring Guests to 3RNC, HOPE also has showers but no shuttle option
  - Staffed Desk
    - For clients to connect with camp information and outside services
    - Central point of contact and information (emergencies, new guests, volunteers etc.)
- Connecting Guests to Other Services
  - Services to help guests move toward stability and housing
  - Types of Offsite Services
    - Medical Appointments / Clinical Services
    - Permanent Housing Assistance
    - Work Opportunities, Job Training, Education
    - Food Stamps
    - Medicaid / Medicare
    - Social Security Benefits
    - BIA / Alaska Native Benefits
    - Relocation Services – connecting Guests to their families or hometowns, (if lack is keeping Guest homeless)
    - Designated Offsite Services Because:
      - 3RNC hosts approximately 2 dozen service providers in a single location, offering many of the above services.
      - Brining service providers or case managers to camp sites is not feasible at this time due to staffing, case load, etc.
      - Precedent set of not offering these onsite at Centennial
      - CSS can commit to provide its shuttle between camp site and 3RNC
      - Comment – chose offsite services with the understanding of the current environment Anchorage is in, what is realistic in the next month with unknown number of resources available its best to leverage services already available

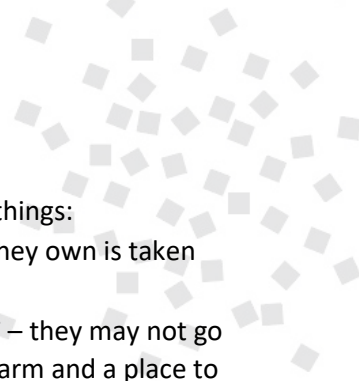
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- Options for Augmenting Offsite Services
    - Partnering with trained providers for coordinated entry assessment onsite, to connect Guests to appropriate longer-term housing and/or support services
    - Using Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness Outreach Pop-ups to augment shuttling Guests to 3RNC
    - With effective intake – (operations task) – onsite staff can communicate regularly with service providers about which Guests need to connect with which services
    - For Onsite Staff – plan for communication challenges, need for translators, and relationship building with individuals
    - For All – work to make connections easier between camp Guests and service providers as well as between service providers (including volunteers)
    - Comment: Andy – observation about services offsite, we don't want to people to feel they are incarcerated, so by providing services offsite it doesn't feel like they are locked in one place. Any suggestion or provision for services that are not identified? How are these unique services identified and then funneled into those directions
      - Response – that would be scope of resource center case manager, as there is not enough time to train someone.
      - Also add 3RNC, was brought up because they were part of the subgroup. There are other services within the community that can be utilized. When there are well-trained staff who are willing to advocate and serve for those people, those needs will bubble up and be identified.

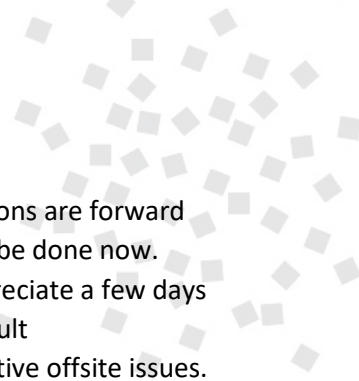
### 3. GENERAL COMMENTS

These comments were after the presentation of the stated recommendations above. Comments made that are in direct response of the presentation are embedded within the minutes above, where generalized statements are listed below.

- Felix – Wants to ensure that the recommendations moving forward focus both on the near term at the pilot program at Midtown, but also are really focused on the future (2024). Assembly wants to know what sanctioned camping looks like moving forward, its critical that the recommendations are generally applicable to other sites.
- Larry Michael – a member of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Radicals which is a grassroots organization that looks out for each other along 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, has been to some but not all Task Force meetings. Have largest unsanctioned camp with 100 tents, multiple cars and RVs. Members wish this were a sanctioned camp because it would come with this above infrastructure.
  - Previously experience 2-3 years of relative quiet, and now the area is prone to sophisticated drug deals, people witnessing fights, van was stolen, intimidating and threatening actions
  - Interested in this plan, that centers along the Guests, doesn't see anything about a safety plan (for those within as well as the surrounding neighborhood)

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- Response (Michael Fredericks) – explains the process of the subgroups and that there was an entire meeting on safety and security last week. Mentioned she can provide him those meeting minutes
  - Additional commentary: sub group’s overall goal is that sanctioned camp residents and their surrounding community feel and are safe, respected, respectful, welcomed and welcoming, with the possibility of nurturing mutual community
  - Additional response (David Rittenberg) – providing services and meeting basic needs is safety. If people are fed, then they don’t need to go elsewhere. With all the subgroups it bubbles up to the safety of the individuals and neighborhoods
  - Larry responds with gratitude, sounds like it all overlaps and he has some reading to do.
- Caroline Storm – wants to introduce Peer Navigators idea, those who are staying at the site can help others to navigate the system to help eliminate need of a staff hierarchy and spread the information.
  - Roger Branson – Appreciates the full conversation, wants to remind the group that the individuals that we are serving need to stay respectful their agency and they need to be willing to bring to the table to help resolve their own issues. Ensure we do things that they are receptive too.
  - Silvia (question for Felix): The last task force meeting will to combine the recommendations, but what happens next?
    - Felix Response – the report will be sent to the assembly as the informational item for acceptance. Then the report will live withing the homelessness committee. The report will be reviewed prior and concurrent with the budget cycle. A lot of this work will live in 2024, as we think about system as a whole versus a pilot, as budget is approved
    - Silvia Response – our recommendations need to be considered with other shelters and camps
    - Felix response – curious to see additional recommendation’s locations, and feedback from community councils on potential locations.
  - Betty Hertz – Seeking clarity on the pilot project
    - Felix Response - Assembly approved, a pilot program of 30-60 people at the Midtown site.
    - Betty Response - She thought time-frame was July 17 – September 1<sup>st</sup>, how does that happen if recommendations aren’t being considered until July 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - Felix Response – Right now, they are in the planning stages, with purchasing going through bidding process to determine which temporary housing to move forward with. Concurrently, talking about planning and selecting operator needs to be chosen quickly, an RFP needs to be out within next 2-4 weeks. Which is why he is continuing to say as much as possible they will try to consider these recommendations.
    - Frustrated with slow pace for this crisis in the community now. Seems the health department should be acting now with potable water and porta-pottys.

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- Rudd Plato – speaking with the homeless, they always ask for the same things:
    - Lockers / secure storage (when they leave camp everything they own is taken away) this would reduce their insecurity.
    - Include have an AA meeting NARACON meeting running 24/7 – they may not go because they believe in it, but they would do it because its warm and a place to go and talk to others.
    - Is there a way for pallet shelters / camps to have an address? From personal experience, having an address is critical for getting out of homelessness (mail, work, checks, etc).
    - Also is there a payphone or phone system with voicemail? Cellphones may not be available to all, and if they have their basic needs met and are looking for jobs then they need a way to be contacted.
    - Additionally, are there more porta-pottys or restrooms available? Currently homeless camps are everywhere, but only 3 public restrooms are available in the middle of the night.
    - Please have something with zero barrier – reason why they don't go to the additional shelters
  - Duke Russell – at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Gamble – people are suffering from frostbite and injuries today. People have felt they have tried to seek services and gotten no help, additionally everyone is very hungry. Issues need to be addressed right now.
  - Lechaun Baker – need a liaison between “us and them”, we are making plans but no one is communicating with them. Provide them with what may be coming so they don't think this is all they have.
  - Michael Hughes – may overlap with operations, but related to basic needs. At other places, wellness checks were being done, ensure everyone is checked on but not invasively asked if they are ok.
  - There are people going out to camp speaking with the homeless, and the people who they speak to are in approval of the plan.
  - Seeking clarification on who determines the 30-60 people allowed as a part of the pilot program with the higher number (roughly 3K) of homeless in Anchorage
    - Response – that is an operations question, outside the scope of this subgroup
  - Susan Soule – sent out a survey to community members to understand what would it take for community members to feel ok with a homeless shelter in their neighborhood, so far received 20 responses, will continue to compile results and provide information back.
  - Caroline – process question – would like to know who is synthesizing the information back to the final report.
    - Michael Fredericks / SALT will prepare final report, and start leaving a draft within the dropbox for comments and review, since it will be a quick turn around from final meeting.
  - Pallet Shelters will only go forward with anchorage assembly approval. Are there opportunities for non-profit groups to build in-kind specifications?
    - Response – another subgroup is working on a comprehensive list to spur ideas for assembly, not just pallet shelters.

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- Reaffirm help and assistance is needed now, understand recommendations are forward facing, but hope that the report can include recommendations that can be done now.
    - Response – there is a process for volunteer work, would appreciate a few days for an answer. Anytime working with the city, it can be difficult
  - Alan – concern that work being done is not addressing the issue of negative offsite issues. When concerns are raised, they are met with general commentary, not specific mitigation measures for neighborhoods to. Would like the report to include negative offsite impacts and how they will be mitigated
    - Response (Michael) – that can be included, maybe with operations, encourages him to work with the subgroup or Felix to ensure ideas are heard

#### 4. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS

Small groups have been meeting and they will continue to work together to finalize the recommendations following the below schedule.

1. June 22<sup>nd</sup> (10:30 – 12:00): Planning and Design, Site and Location Recommendations Presentation
2. June 29<sup>th</sup> (1:00-2:30): Operations and Management Recommendations Presentation
3. July 5<sup>th</sup> (2:30-3:30): Final Recommendation Report Review
4. July 6<sup>th</sup> (TBD) - Final Recommendation Report Due to Assembly

The information contained herein represents our understanding of items discussed and decisions made at this meeting. We will assume this summary is correct unless notice to the contrary is brought to our attention within seven (7) days of the date of this summary.

SALT

Prepared by: Michael Fredericks

cc: all attendees





## Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce Agenda

**June 15, 2023**  
1:00pm – 2:30 pm  
632 W 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mayors Conference Room

### **TASKFORCE ROLES**

Assembly Lead: Assembly Member Felix Rivera

- Taskforce Member Communications

Co-Conveners: Silvia Villamides and Caroline Storm

- Meeting Hosts/Chair
- Agenda Development

Tech and Access: Amy Solberg (amy.solberg@anchorageak.gov)

- Meeting Technology
- Legislative Assistance

Facilitator: Michael Fredericks

- Agenda Development
- Meeting Facilitation
- Recommendation Report Development

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

### **2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS**

- a. Respect each other and our time together
- b. Silence your telephones, respect the presenter/speaker
- c. Limiting comments/responses/thoughts to 2 minutes

### **3. INTRODUCTIONS**

### **4. SUPPORT SERVICES RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION**

### **5. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS**

- a. June 22: Planning and Design Recommendations Presentation
- b. June 29: Operations and Management Recommendations Presentations

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

# Sanctioned Camp Community Taskforce

June 15, 2023

# Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MEETING EXPECTATIONS
3. INTRODUCTIONS
4. SUPPORT SERVICE RECOMMENDATION REVIEW
5. REMAINING MEETING PROCESS
6. ADJOURNMENT

# Meeting Expectation

- ▶ Respect each other and our time together
- ▶ Silence your cell phones, respect the presenter/speaker
- ▶ Limit comments/responses/thoughts to 2 minutes

# Support Services Recommendations

## Working Group Participants

- Betsy Baker, Community Member, Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Volunteer - Working Group Lead
- Michele Brown - Senior Fellow Rasmuson Foundation
- Izzy Gingell - Community Member, operated a Fairbanks Food Bank
- Betty Hertz - Community Member, Centennial 2022 & Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter volunteer
- Jenn Miller - Showered in Grace, First United Methodist Church
- David Rittenberg - Catholic Social Services, Sr. Dir. Adult Homeless Services
- Kris Stoeber - President, Midtown Community Council
- Silvia Villamides - Exec. Director AKHR (Alaska Hospitality Retailers), President Downtown Community Council, Co-Convener of Sanctioned Camps Task Force

# Two Baskets of Support Services

## **1) BASIC ONSITE NEEDS**

- Essential
  - Basic Shelter & Sanitation
  - Food & Potable Water
- Important
  - Warmth/Clothing/Storage
  - First Aid
  - Electricity
  - Transportation
  - Showers
  - Staffed desk

## **2) CONNECTING GUESTS TO OTHER SERVICES**

- Services to help Guests move toward stability and housing

Basket 1:  
Basic Onsite Needs

# *Essential* Onsite Needs: 1

## **Basic Shelter & Sanitation**

- Tents/Sleeping Bags/Tarps
- Toilets: Porta Potties or bathroom trailers (One toilet for every ten people)
- Handwashing: Robust handwashing stations, not easily moved
- Waste Disposal: MOA or contractor
  - Projected costs depend on how each service is used



# *Essential* Onsite Needs: 2

## **Food & Potable Water**

- Use provider with licensed/permitted commercial kitchen, food workers, etc.
- Have a plan for non-Guests seeking food
  - Centennial used wristband system
  - Fairbanks food bank used vouchers from local restaurant partners successfully
  - Balance welcoming with avoiding regular expectation of meals for non-Guests
- Water: City water is onsite; ensure potable water hookup or other source
- Projected costs
  - Meals: est. \$15/pp/day for three meals/day

## *Important Onsite Needs*

### **Warmth/Clothing/Storage**

First Aid

Electricity

Transportation

Showers

Staffed desk

(list is not in any priority order)

**Warming/Cooling Center:** tent or relocatable, could double as dry workspace for staff

### **Dry Clothing/Towels**

- Devise system for connecting Guests to other sources (e.g., HOPE Center, Salvation Army)
- Consider onsite access to donated clothing, using voucher system
- Put out list of needs to non-profits, community councils, and congregations

### **Personal Storage**

- Tote or other storage bin
- Gym bag for personal items

## Important Onsite Needs

Warmth/Clothing/Storage

- **First Aid**

- **Electricity**

Transportation

Showers

Staffed desk

(list is not in any priority order)

## First Aid

- Clearly define first aid in contract w/provider for professionals (EMTs, Medics) to administer onsite care 3 or more days per week and/or as needed.

## Electricity, Staff Wifi

- Electricity *at minimum* for charging stations, e.g., numbered power strips
- Monitored or Self-Monitoring
- WiFi for HMIS\*, telemedical services, family communication, etc.
- Provide hardware and protocols, logins, etc.

\*HMIS = Alaska Homelessness Management Information System

## Important Onsite Needs

Warmth/Clothing/Storage

First Aid

Electricity

**Transportation**

Showers

Staffed desk

(list is not in any priority order)

- Bus passes as appropriate, e.g., for confirmed appointments
- Shuttle
  - CSS can commit to provide shuttle between camp and 3RNC\* to connect Guests with service providers
- Consider options for Guests requiring more assistance
  - e.g., hearing or communication impaired

\* 3RNC= 3rd Ave.  
Resource  
& Navigation Center

# Important Onsite Needs

Warmth/Clothing/Storage

First Aid

Electricity

Transportation

- **Showers**

- **Staffed desk**

(list is not in any priority order)

## Showers

- Offer on site if at all possible
- Portable three-unit shower trailer, using onsite electricity
- (and/or) CSS Shuttle could bring Guests to 3RNC; HOPE center also has showers but no shuttle option

## Staffed Desk

- For clients to connect with camp information and outside services
- Central point of contact and information

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## Basket 2

# Connecting to Offsite Services: Helping Guests move toward Stability & Housing

# Types of Offsite Services

In no particular order:

- a. Medical Appointments/Clinical Services
- b. Permanent housing assistance
- c. Work opportunities, Job training, and education
- d. Food Stamps
- e. Medicaid/Medicare
- f. Social Security benefits
- g. BIA/Alaska Native benefits
- h. Relocation services (connecting Guests to their families or hometowns – if lack is keeping Guest homeless).

# Why offsite?

- 3RNC (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Resource & Navigation Center) hosts some two dozen service providers in a single location, offering many of the services listed on preceding slide.
- Bringing service providers or case managers to the camp site is not feasible at this time, due to staffing, case load, and other reasons. This was also not done at Centennial.
- CSS can commit to provide its shuttle between camp site and 3RNC.



# Options for Augmenting Offsite Services: 1

- Partnering with trained providers for coordinated entry assessment *onsite*, to connect Guests to appropriate longer-term housing and/or support services.
- Using ACEH Outreach popups to augment shuttling Guests to 3RNC (ACEH=Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness).

## Options for Augmenting Offsite Services: 2

- With effective intake - which is an operations task - onsite staff can communicate regularly with service providers about which Guests need to connect with which services.
- For onsite staff: plan for communication challenges, need for translators, and relationship building with individuals
- For all: work to make connections easier
  - between camp Guests and service providers **and**
  - between service providers (including volunteers)

# Remaining Meeting Process

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| June 22 (10:30-12:00): | Planning and Design + Site and Location Recommendations |
| June 29 (1:00-2:30):   | Operations and Maintenance Recommendations              |
| July 5 (2:30-3:30):    | Final Recommendation Report Review                      |
| July 6 (tbd):          | Final Recommendation Report Due to Assembly             |

ADJOURNMENT

SIGN IN

<u>NAME</u>	<u># OR EMAIL</u>	<u>ORGI</u>
Charlie Wadden	907.Chucks.Welch@gmail.com	Com Mbr
Kris Stoehner	907-240-4324	MTCC
Silvia Villamides	AKHR@geci.net	DTCC/AKHR
Jenn Miller	showeredgraceak@gmail.com	firstymc showerst in grace
Caroline Storm	cstorm@1117designstudio.com	
Tom J. Andrew	tjandrew007@yahoo.com	Com. member
B. Baker	baker36@mac.com	

Michael Hughes michael.hughes@anchorage.ak.gov

Rowdy Borkel

Roger Branson

Community member

She nee' Williams Shiloh Community Housing

DUKE RUSSELL Community member

SIGN IN

<u>NAME</u>	<u># OR EMAIL</u>	<u>ORGI</u>
Larry Michael	907-317-3151	3rd Ave Retreats
Rudd Plato	907-304-1530	Self
Dylan Faber		MJED
Eric Glett		Resident
LeChaus BAKER	907-519-9178	Legacy Builders Painters Academy
ZAC JOHNSON		

Susan Williams smwilliams@geci.net Community member

Betty Hertz dandbhertz@geci.net Community member