

SYSTEMIC RACISM REVIEW COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 02, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Webinar



<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/92303909454> or: 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 923 0390 9454

A. CALL TO ORDER - Chair Froehlich called the Systemic Racism Review Committee to order at 12:02 p.m.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – read by Chair Froehlich

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Ephraim Froehlich, Kelli Patterson, Ivan Nance, Jennifer Pemberton, John Drips and AnaVera Morato and Gail Cheney (joined at 12:38pm)

Absent: None

Staff/Other: Robert Barr, Nicole Lynch, and Di Cathcart

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – agenda approved as presented.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. AGENDA TOPICS

Prior to moving to the consent agenda, Ms. Pemberton commented she'd listened to last night's Assembly meeting and shared with the committee that several Assembly members thanked the SRRC for the comments included in the Assembly agenda, finding them very helpful. The Assembly had a lengthy discussion on Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AE) and Mr. Barr did a great job of capturing the conversation our committee had and relaying that to the Assembly and the Assembly acknowledging the work of our committee.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

The following ordinances were up for introduction on the consent agenda at [Monday night's Regular Assembly Meeting](#). A blank SRRC checklist is included in the packet if an ordinance is pulled for further discussion and committee members want to utilize that tool.

1. Legislation for Review by SRRC

Ordinance 2024-04 An Ordinance Establishing Duties of the Tourism Office.

Ordinance 2024-10 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 85.02 Related to the Docks and Harbors Board Roles Related to Tourism.

Pierce Memo Woll Amendment

Ordinance 2024-14 A Noncode Ordinance Authorizing a Thane Road Campground at 100 Mill Street. Campground Update

Ordinance 2023-14(b)(S) An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$ 1,213,423 to the Manager as Local Grant Match for the North Douglas Crossing Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by General Funds.

Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AF) An Ordinance Appropriating \$164,000 to the Manager for Tripper Transit Services During Tourist Season; Funding Provided by Marine Passenger Fees.

Ordinance 2024-03 An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2024 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

Ordinance 2024-01 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY25 City and Borough Operations.

Ordinance 2024-02 Ordinance 2024-02 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY25 School District Operations.

Ordinance 2024-15 An Ordinance Authorizing the Manager to Convey Approximately 1.08 Acres of Property Located at Jackie Street to JG Construction for Fair Market Value. Lot 5 Subdivision Concept LHED Memo

Ordinance 2024-16 An Ordinance Authorizing the Manager to Convey Approximately 1.14 Acres of Property Located at Jackie Street to JG Construction for Fair Market Value. Lot 4 Subdivision Concept LHED Memo

Resolution 3052 A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030 and Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025.

Mr. Barr read the ordinances and the one resolution into the record and gave a quick summary of each.

MOTION: by Ms. Patterson to approve the consent agenda as amended and to pull Ordinances 2024-04, 2023-14(b)(AF), 2024-14, 2024-15 and 2024-16 for further discussion and to hold budget ordinances 2024-01, 2024-02, and 2024-03 and CIP Resolution 3052 in committee for continued discussion and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

H. LEGISLATION PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

Legislation pulled from the consent agenda during the meeting for further discussion, questions or to walk through the SRRC checklist on a particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Drips spoke to Ordinance 2024-04 and the broad strokes of it vs. the specific wording and funding for 2024-14. The ordinance relating to establishing the duties of the Tourism Office contrast notably with the narrow language of the ordinance authorizing the campground and the expenditure of capital towards the needs of the well-served tourism industry which serves predominately well resourced, white Americans, contrasts notably with the service and much higher needs of the homeless community in Juneau. Mr. Drips stated he didn't have any specific questions but wanted to draw attention to the differences.

Chair Froehlich asked if Ordinance 2024-04 had a funding mechanism included. Mr. Barr stated that on its own there is not however that's not to say there isn't funding associated with some of the work that the Tourism Manager does or that the Docks & Harbors Department does that related to tourism. Likewise, it's the same for the Campground ordinance.

Chair Froehlich asked Mr. Barr to give some history and additional background on the Thane Campground and the ordinance before them.

Mr. Barr spoke to 2024-14 and gave an overview of the history of the Thane Campground in which CBJ provides a general level of basic services. The campground did not originate as a homeless campground, more seasonal and it evolved over time. There was a caretaker previously however there was an incident in 2010 with a non-lethal shooting in which CBJ was found libel and since then, we've not had employees on site. The tenor of the campground has changed over time and the last two summers have seen a higher rate of drug use, safety issues, and we were concerned that it was ultimately less safe for campers than if the campground didn't exist. The idea is to move the campground to a more visible location, for the public good, we think this will result in a safer environment and we'll have dispersed camping no matter what we do. The Little Rock Dump is up for consideration; however, the concern is that location is also an invisible campground so it may not be any safer and become like the campground location from the last several years.

Ms. Pemberton asked if keeping the campground where it currently is an option or does AEL&P want it gone?

Mr. Barr responded that it's not an option and keeping the campground where it is just isn't safe for the campers and the neighbors.

Mr. Nance asked what in this issue is related to us as the SRRC; what would be an example of a systemic racism issue for the ability to accommodate the homeless.

Chair Froehlich stated he would venture to guess Juneau's houseless population is a majority of non-white and our treatment of those community members. As this is a system we're implementing as a city affects their treatment here in our community.

Mr. Barr added that we don't have great data on the population since it's based on a point-in-time-count done once a year but with the data we do have it's clear that people of color and people of minority racial groups are disproportionately represented in the data. The best source of information is the Institute for Community Alliances (<https://icalliances.org/alaska>).

Chair Froehlich asked if other than the shooting incident in 2010, have there been other instances of violence. Mr. Barr responded that yes there have been many instances of alleged and not alleged criminal activity such as drug use and drug sales, physical and sexual assault, transaction sex and general vandalism and theft have unfortunately become too common in the last 2 years. In 2023 we collected 19 gallons of sharps from the site and many tons of solid waste when staff did the annual end of season clean up.

Chair Froehlich asked what the services that the city is providing specific to the campground community; are those services primarily policing or are there actual services that CBJ is providing them.

Mr. Barr stated there are three (3) buckets of services: health and sanitation services, site cleanup (P&R maintains those things – portable water, porta-potties, trash collection, bearproof containers for food, and platforms for tents). Second, connections to non-profits to provide services (Glory Hall navigator services, SEARHC Front Street Clinic, JAMHI, BRH, this is a large group that the navigators can lean on). Third, policing, we don't do extra policing in the campground but do respond to calls and prioritize as calls come in.

Chair Froehlich thanked Mr. Barr for these updates and in the interest of time, shifted the discussion to Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AF) the Tripper transit program; and asked Mr. Barr to talk about what the city experienced last summer with residents unable to make it to core needs due to over-crowded bus service.

Mr. Barr said hundreds of local capital transit users, including those needing accessible service, were unable to use the buses due to tourists. Drivers kept track of the number of individuals they had to turn away or pass by on the route, which made our drivers feel worse. When Capital Transit was able, they would send out a spare bus and driver, if available, but it was a significant problem last summer. The solution is to increase service and use Marine Passenger Fees to cover that service since we wouldn't have this issue if there weren't tourists.

Mr. Drips stated this ordinance should get a thumbs up from the SRRC. Chair Froehlich agreed and appreciated seeing a solution to a problem that was having an inordinate impact on people of color in our community.

MOTION: by Mr. Drips to add an SRRC note to this ordinance: *this Tripper Service is exactly the type of legislation that the SRRC would like to see more of. Hearing no objection, motion passed.*

I. STAFF REPORTS - None

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS - None

K. NEXT MEETING DATES - Tuesdays at 12:00 pm via Zoom

SRRC Worksession - April 23, 2024

Regular SRRC Meeting for Legislation Review - April 30, 2024

L. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - None

M. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, meeting adjourned at 1:01pm