



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood
Development (HHAND)
Advisory Commission
SUMMARY MINUTES
February 05, 2025



Call to Order

The Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Advisory Commission meeting reached a quorum and was opened by Chair David Rittenberg at 4:08 PM. The meeting was staffed by the Anchorage Health Department (AHD), Human Services Division (HSD), Community Safety and Development (CSD).

A. Roll Call & Introductions:

Commissioners

Present: Chair David Rittenberg, Laura Reijns, Daniel Sager, Julie Greene-Graham, Michelle Baker, Jessica Parks

Absent: William Scott, Vice-Chair Richard Mystrom

MOA Staff

AHD: Darcie Montalvo, AHD Human Services Division Manager; Leila Taylor, Housing Services Division Manager; Jed Drolet, CSD Program Manager; Chase Burghgrave, CSD Lead Planner; Valerie Madison, CSD Program Development Specialist; Kyle Mielke, CSD Program Development Specialist; Frankie Dahl, Senior Office Associate

Other Departments: Farina Brown, Special Assistant to the Mayor; Thea Agnew Bembem, Special Assistant to the Mayor

Guests or Presenters

Kenny Peterson, Sam Longacre, Allen Kemplen, Pamela Thomas

B. Approval of Order of Business –Chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION: Jessica Parks
SECOND: Julie Greene-Graham
VOTE: No Opposition

C. Approval of October 2024 and January 2025 minutes

MOTION: Julie Greene-Graham
SECOND: Laura Reijns
VOTE: No Opposition

D. Action Items

1. Annual HHAND Report Sub Committee
 - a. One of the actions of the HHAND Commission is to create an annual report. The Sub Committee members will create a report of what the commission has done over the past year and include goals for the upcoming year. The Sub Committee will meet March 17th, 2025 from 10AM-12PM in the 4th floor

conference room at 825 L St and over Teams. David Rittenberg appointed Jessica Parks as the Chair of the Sub Committee.

<u>MOTION to create the Sub Committee and Set the Meeting Date:</u> Jessica Parks
<u>SECOND:</u> Daniel
<u>VOTE:</u> No Opposition

E. Informational Items

1. Ongoing Business

- a. Update from the Special Assistants to the Mayor for Health and Homelessness—Shelter and Behavioral Health Components
 - i. The Mayor’s Office is following the Homelessness and Health Strategy closely and currently trying to work towards having a more stable, year-round sheltering plan. That includes using municipal funds efficiently as well as collaborating at the state level and with local organizations to see how we can best support this ecosystem of care. Federal Challenges waterfall down to us at a state level and a community level. When federal dollars are constrained, limited funding capacity makes stable funding for sheltering even more challenging. The administration is doing their best to prepare for potential changes that could filter down from the federal level and are encouraging organizations to look for the opportunities in those changes, not just the challenges.
 - ii. Both congregate and non-congregate shelters are running at capacity. Warming Shelters will now run from 6PM-8AM until the end of April, and the weather activation model has been retired. The Warming Shelter has been rotating people to make sure everyone can be served as needed. The Cold Weather Shelter on 56th is now a part of year-round operations, not just a winter shelter.
 - iii. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, the Mayor’s Office, and the Assembly Housing & Homelessness Committee Co-Chairs are hosting the Anchorage’s Coordinated Response Summit March 20th-21st at the Southcentral Foundation’s Nuka Learning Institute. They would like to have members of the HHAND commission present to engage community members; to help to provide a deep understanding of how the ecosystem of care works and how they can participate in the process at both community and policy levels.
 - iv. Commissioners had a question about the decompression of shelters—the administration is in the planning process to extend non-congregate services and supply supportive services.
- b. Update from Community Safety and Development
 - i. CSD has 3 RFGPs in various stages:
 - o Housing Acquisition—this is an RFGP intended to be for the acquisition of housing to increase housing stock in Anchorage. CSD is in the process of negotiating with Grantees and expect this to go to the Assembly for approval soon.
 - o Supportive Services—the RFGP for this just closed, and there are quite a few proposals that the scoring committee is in the

midst of reviewing. CSD is aiming to have this timeline align with the decompression of shelters this spring.

- 2025 CDBG Funding—this RFGP will be published in the next few weeks. It will be for Capital Projects and focused on policy goals—increasing the stock of both housing and shelter.

2. New Business

a. Commissioner Parks—ACEH Report on Community Data

- i. Commissioner Parks gave a brief breakdown of how they gather the data and what certain categories mean. For the month of December, inflow exceeded outflow. Only 67 people exited the system to housing in December of 2024, which is significantly less than the 292 who exited the system to housing in December of 2023. This is indicative of the struggles that Anchorage is facing right now—access to affordable housing is limited and vacancy rates are very low.

F. General Public Comments —

- 1. Allen Kemplen from Fairview Community Council encouraged commissioners to make sure that Neighborhood Development is also a priority for them, along with Housing and Homelessness.

G. Commissioner Comments —

- 1. David Rittenberg has been attending some community council meetings and would like to invite some presenters. He would like to have Allen Kemplen return to give an update on the Fairview Greenway Project and to give a presentation on how access to light is impacted in subarctic communities. He would also like the president of the North Star Community Council to come and talk about the Fireweed redesign that is under consideration now. Leila Taylor from HHS would also be an appropriate guest to present about what her department does.
- 2. Daniel Sager and Jessica Parks would like to have a semi-regular update from Graham Downey, if possible, about the 10,000 Homes in 10 Years project as well as the work that’s being done in code enforcement and blighted properties. Assembly Member Martinez would be a good resource for that, as well as collaboration with the Assembly’s Community and Economic Development Committee.

Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting 5:29PM

MOTION: Julie Greene-Graham
SECOND: Laura Reijns
VOTE: No Opposition

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM. The next HHAND Commission meeting is scheduled for March 05, 2025, from 4:00 – 5:30 pm., at 825 L Street, Conference Room #423, and through Microsoft Teams.