

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

Minutes for Regular Meeting of December 18, 2001

**CLERK'S OFFICE**  
**APPROVED**  
 Date: 6-11-2002

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was convened at 5:00 p.m. by Assembly Chairman Dick Traini in the Assembly Chambers, 3600 Denali, Anchorage, Alaska.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Dan Sullivan, Fay Von Gemmingen, Melinda Taylor, Doug Van Etten, Dick Traini, Anna Fairclough, Allan Tesche, Janice Shamberg, Dick Tremaine.  
 Absent: Dan Kendall, Cheryl Clementson.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The pledge was led by Mayor Wuerch.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

A. Special Meeting -- July 24, 2001

Mr. Sullivan moved,  
 seconded by Ms. Taylor,  
 and it passed without  
 objection,

to approve the minutes of the special  
 meeting of July 24, 2001 as amended.

Ms. Fairclough noted on page 2, line 14 of the special meeting minutes of July 24, 2001, should read "of mobile home park lot standards" instead of "parking lot standards."

B. Regular Meeting -- September 25, 2001

Mr. Sullivan moved,  
 seconded by Ms. Fairclough,  
 and it passed without  
 objection,

to approve the minutes of the regular  
 meeting of September 25, 2001.

**5. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Wuerch noted this would be the last Assembly meeting of 2001. He wished everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Assembly would have a great year 2002 if they were half as successful in dealing with tough issues as they had been in 2001. He encouraged everyone to keep themselves and their families safe during the holiday season.

**6. ASSEMBLY CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Sullivan wished everyone a happy holiday and encouraged them to be safe during the holiday season.

Mr. Tesche reported on the Public Safety Committee. They met this morning with respect to the Paradise Inn issue. They reviewed the status of the matter, which was sent back to them from the State Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Board. It was his understanding that the Department of Law was to present the Assembly with a draft resolution for introduction that would address a potential protest of that matter. The Elections Committee met to discuss two topics. The first topic was potential solutions regarding run-off elections, which were very costly and had low voter turnouts. Questions have arisen as to whether or not that procedure needed to be changed. They reviewed the instant run-off voting process and a potential charter amendment, but no action was taken. They also reviewed the status report on the community council boundary changes, which was underway through the Planning Department in cooperation and consultation with the public and community councils involved.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.**

**8. ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:**

Chairman Traini read the addendum items.

Mr. Van Etten moved,  
 seconded by Ms. Taylor,

to amend the agenda to include the  
 addendum items.

Ms. Von Gemmingen moved,  
 seconded by Mr. Tesche,  
 and it passed without  
 objection,

to add a resolution of the Municipality  
 of Anchorage setting a hearing to consider  
 protesting the continued operation of the  
 beverage dispensary tourism liquor license  
 of the Spenard Paradise Inn.

Chairman Traini set this item for a special public hearing. He would notify the Assembly and the respective parties involved of the date of the special public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough noted that the public hearing should be at least two weeks after the notification.

Question was called on the motion to amend the agenda and it passed without objections.

#### 9. CONSENT AGENDA:

Ms Shamberg moved, to approve all items on the consent agenda  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine, as amended.

- A. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
1. Resolution No. AR 2001-364, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizing and honoring Detective Linda J. Branchflower for nearly 16 years of service with the Anchorage Police Department, Assemblymembers Clementson, Fairclough, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Traini, Tremaine, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen.
- B. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - OTHER
1. Resolution No. AR 2001-360, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving the professional services selection of USKH New Eagle River High School – Design Services, Anchorage School District.
    - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 993-2001.
  2. Resolution No. AR 2001-362, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$22,000 to the Equipment Maintenance Internal Service Capital Fund (0606) from Land Use Enforcement for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle, Development Services Department.
    - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1001-2001.
  3. Resolution No. AR 2001-363, a resolution authorizing the granting of tax refund as a result of manifest clerical error on Real Property Account 017-352-75, Finance.
    - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1002-2001.
- C. BID AWARDS
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 997-2001, recommendation of award to Pacific Utility Equipment Company for furnishing a 4x4s telescopic aerial truck to the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (ITB 21-B100) (\$173,080), Purchasing.
  2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 998-2001, recommendation of award to Potelcom Supply, Alaska Power Agency, and WESCO for furnishing polemount, padmount, and submersible transformers to the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (ITB 21-B098) (\$228,007.11), Purchasing.
- D. NEW BUSINESS
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 999-2001, School Budget Advisory Commission appointments (Paul Schilling, Roger Hull, Kay Linton, William McCormack), Mayor's Office.

Mr. Tremaine requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1000-2001, Salaries and Emoluments Commission appointment (Bob Roses), Mayor's Office.
3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 994-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: Chilkoot Charlie's (#3817) – Beverage Dispensary-Duplicate & American Legion Post 29 (#2806)-Club (Spenard & Northeast Community Councils), Clerk's Office.
4. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 995-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: Vallarta's Restaurant (#3827) – Restaurant/Eating Place & Sea Galley/Pepper Mill Restaurant (#3599) – Beverage Dispensary-Duplicate (Spenard and Russian Jack Community Councils), Clerk's Office.
5. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 988-2001, change order #1 (\$1,120,000) to P.O. 0000211049 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, for providing medical, dental, vision and audio benefits and claims administration to the Municipality of Anchorage, Employee Relations Department.

Mr. Tremaine requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

6. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 989-2001, amendment No. 2 to purchase order 80522 with Aries Consultants, Ltd. to provide professional services for the Merrill Field Airport Master Plan for the Municipality of Anchorage, Merrill Field Airport (\$39,839).
7. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 990-2001, proprietary purchase with General Electric International, Inc. for the purchase of Unit 7 turbine components for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light & Power (\$2,461,246), Purchasing.

8. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 991-2001, recommendation of award to USKH, Inc. for providing professional engineering services for the 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue Surface Rehabilitation Project for the Municipality of Anchorage, Project Management and Engineering Department (RFP 21-P015, Project B) (\$289,586), Purchasing.
9. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 992-2001, recommendation of award to DOWL, LLC Inc. to provide professional engineering services for the Lake Otis Parkway Pedestrian and Surface Rehabilitation Project for the Municipality of Anchorage, Project Management and Engineering Department (RFP 21-P015, Project A) (\$460,461), Purchasing.
10. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1005-2001, recommendation of award to Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. to provide services related to the Disabled Access Program for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department (RFP 21-P057) (\$200,000), Purchasing.
11. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1006-2001, recommendation of award to Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. to provide services related to the Emergency Repair Program for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department (RFP 21-P058) (\$400,000), Purchasing.
12. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1007-2001, cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for avian vector control services for the Municipality of Anchorage, Solid Waste Services (\$85,261), Purchasing.
13. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1008-2001, recommendation of award to Alaska Road Boring Company for construction services for the Solid Waste Services Anchorage Regional Landfill (ARL) leachate conveyance system improvements for the Municipality of Anchorage, Solid Waste Services (RFP 21-P042) (\$492,000), Purchasing.
14. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1009-2001, proprietary purchase for furnishing mobile radios from Motorola Communications to the Municipality of Anchorage, Traffic Department, Communications Division (\$72,558.30), Purchasing.
15. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1010-2001, change order No. 1 to purchase order 210355 with Chamber, Conlon & Hartwell for lobbying services for the Municipality of Anchorage, Port of Anchorage (\$90,000), Purchasing.
16. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1011-2001, amendment No. 4 to the professional services contract with Unwin Scheben Korynta Huettl, Inc. (USKH) for the Ship Creek Trail Project, Project No. 95-12 (\$350,000).
17. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1012-2001, Assembly approval for expenditures of funds – contract services – Assembly meeting minutes, Assembly Chair Traini.
18. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1013-2001, Police and Fire Retirement Board of Trustees appointment (Paul Burns), Mayor's Office. (addendum)
19. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1015-2001, The Downtown Business Improvement District ("Assessment District 1SD97") 2002 services contract with Anchorage Downtown Partnership, Ltd., Office of Management and Budget. (addendum)
20. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1017-2001, contract amendment No. 2 to purchase order 210771 to the Anchorage Downtown Partnership for providing services to operate a Community Service Patrol and Transfer Station for the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services (\$529,000), Purchasing. (addendum)
  - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1017-2001(A), contract amendment No. 2 to purchase order 210771 to the Anchorage Downtown Partnership for providing services to operate a Community Service Patrol and Transfer Station for the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services (\$1,216,250) (AMENDED), Purchasing. (addendum)

Mr. Kieling requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

21. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1018-2001, proprietary purchase with Siemens Westinghouse Power Corporation for Unit 5 generator rotor repairs for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (\$1,204,750), Purchasing. (addendum)

#### E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Information Memorandum No. AIM 121-2001, authorization of extraordinary leave for Cheryl L. Frasca, Office of Management and Budget Director, Mayor's Office.
2. Information Memorandum No. AIM 122-2001, contracts awarded between \$50,000 and \$100,000 through formal competitive processes for the month of November 2001, Purchasing.
3. Information Memorandum No. AIM 123-2001, Sole Source Procurement Report for the month of November 2001, Purchasing.

#### F. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

1. Ordinance No. AO 2001-188, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Section 3.30.147, regarding accrual and use of personal holiday, Employee Relations. P.H. 1-8-02.
  - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1003-2001.

2. Ordinance No. AO 2001-189, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly continuing or reestablishing the Anchorage Port Commission, Anchorage Veterans Affairs Commission, Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utilities Commission, Arts Advisory Commission, Bidding Review Board, Board of Ethics, Budget Advisory Commission, Election Commission, Emergency Medical Service Board, Employee Relations Board, Geotechnical Advisory Commission, Historical & Fine Arts Commission, Library Advisory Board, Municipal Light & Power Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Human Resources Advisory Board, Platting Board, Public Facilities Advisory Commission, Public Transit Advisory Board, School Budget Advisory Commission, Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Sister Cities Commissions, Transportation Commission and Zoning Board of Examiners and Appeals pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code and extending the time of expiration for the Solid Waste Commission and Municipal Women's Commission, Legal Department. P.H. 1-8-02.
  - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1004-2001.
3. Resolution No. AR 2001-365, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing said amount in various funds, Office of Management and Budget. P.H. 1-8-02. (addendum)
  - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1019-2001.
4. Resolution No. AR 2001-366, a resolution selecting a site in Muldoon for a middle school, a community/recreation center, and a branch library, to consist of approximately 32 acres, generally described as Tract A, The Alaskan Village Addition No. 1; and that portion of the adjacent Alaskan Village Subdivision that lies within the area that extends approximately 170 feet east of the eastern boundary of Tract A, Alaskan Village Addition No. 1, which includes Block 1, Lots 32 through 38, 39 through 42 (portions), 43 through 45; and Block 2, Lots 20 through 27, and 28 and 29 (portions), and a portion of the remaining unplatted area of The Alaskan Village Subdivision. The site is generally located southwest of the Muldoon Road/DeBarr Road intersection, Assemblymember Clementson. P.H. 1-8-02. (TO BE SUBMITTED) (addendum)

Question was called on the motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda as amended and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
 NAYS: None.

**10. REGULAR AGENDA:**

- A. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS: None.
- B. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - OTHER: None.
- C. BID AWARDS: None.
- D. NEW BUSINESS:
  1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 999-2001, School Budget Advisory Commission appointments (Paul Schilling, Roger Hull, Kay Linton, William McCormack), Mayor's Office.

Mr. Tremaine moved,  
 seconded by Mr. Van Etten,

to approve AM 999-2001.

Mr. Tremaine said the School Budget Advisory Commission was the Assembly's, but they had not taken ownership of it. We should not make the appointments, but we should give them direction. Paul Fouts had not served two years, but he was being replaced. He asked the Assembly to focus on this and meet with the School Budget Advisory Commission early in January in preparation for approval of the school budget. He felt they needed to discuss many issues. Earlier this year, the School District told the Assembly that they needed an extra \$5,000,000 or they would not be able to make it. After the election in April, we gave them that \$5,000,000. Now they have a record surplus in their bank account. This raises several questions about the validity of statements. He felt it was time that the Assembly paid closer attention to the School District's budget. The Assembly does not have line item veto authority, but we do have some control over the bottom line which would give the Assembly some say in the way things were spent and how much was allocated. He recommended a yes vote.

Mayor Wuerch moved,  
 seconded by Mr. Tremaine,  
 and it passed without  
 objection,

to amend AM 999-2001 to divide the  
 question and approve only  
 Paul Schilling with a revised list to be  
 supplied on January 8, 2002.

Mr. Tremaine moved,  
 seconded by Mr. Tesche,  
 and it passed without  
 objection,

to approve the appointment of  
 Paul Schilling.

Ms. Fairclough said she hoped they retained representation from northeast Anchorage.

Mayor Wuerch introduced Bob Rose, who was appointed to the Board of Commissions. He thanked the citizens who continued to step forward to volunteer for these sometime thankless assignments.

2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 988-2001, change order #1 (\$1,120,000) to P.O. 0000211049 with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, for providing medical, dental, vision and audio benefits and claims administration to the Municipality of Anchorage, Employee Relations Department.

Mr. Tremaine moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tesche,

to approve AM 988-2001.

Mr. Tremaine referenced proposed change order #1, lines 25 and 26, in the amount of \$1,120,000 to the medical plan. At a previous meeting they set the budget for 2002 based on an assumed fund balance. He questioned if this would impact the bottom line of the fund balance.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Chief Fiscal Officer Kate Giard said this would not affect the bottom line of the fund balance. It would expand the contract to allow them to make the payment for December. When they calculated the 2002 contract amount, they used a low employee count number, which caused the proposed original contract amount to be low. The amounts currently in the system for the benefit rates were accurate. This amendment would not affect the fund balance.

Mr. Tremaine recommended a yes vote.

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 988-2001 and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1017-2001, contract amendment No. 2 to purchase order 210771 to the Anchorage Downtown Partnership for providing services to operate a Community Service Patrol and Transfer Station for the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services (\$529,000), Purchasing. (addendum)
  - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1017-2001(A), contract amendment No. 2 to purchase order 210771 to the Anchorage Downtown Partnership for providing services to operate a Community Service Patrol and Transfer Station for the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health and Human Services (\$1,216,250) (AMENDED), Purchasing. (addendum)

Mr. Tesche moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,

to approve AM 1017-2001(A).

Municipal Manager Harry Kieling noted that the two versions of AM 1017-2001 reflected that they had been working very closely with the Anchorage Downtown Partnership to find the right mix for this particular contract. He reminded the Assembly that they took a close look at this issue last March. Since that time there has been a requirement to increase some of the direct services. More people have been admitted to the transfer station, and for safety reasons they have been staying longer, which has resulted in a number of additional costs that were not predicted.

In response to Chairman Traini, Mr. Kieling said this would extend the contract for the next 15 months, which was agreed upon by both the Downtown Partnership and the administration. The worst possible time to review a contract of this nature was December 31. They were looking at a 15-month extension to March 31, which would work well for both parties.

Mr. Tesche spoke in favor of the AM 1017-2001(A). He thanked the administration for their efforts in reviewing the contract, its renewal, its extension and its terms and conditions. He felt the Downtown Partnership was doing an excellent job in providing the vital services from an operational level. He noted this was a public/private partnership, which appeared to be working well.

Mike Jansen, Treasurer of the board of the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, said they were very supportive of the amendment. He thanked the administration for their support in the negotiations.

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 1017-2001(A) and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS: None.

F. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Fairclough joined in introducing an unnumbered resolution. A resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage reaffirming all conditions imposed by the Assembly upon certain liquor licenses within the Municipality of Anchorage. The public hearing was scheduled for January 15, 2002.

Mr. Tremaine said it had been brought to their attention that under state law there could be some conditions that the Assembly had imposed on liquor licenses prior to 1999 that they might not be able to use as a condition for approval. He requested notification of the public hearing for all liquor license holders in the city whether they had conditional uses or not.

Mr. Sullivan requested to be listed as co-sponsor of this resolution.

Chairman Traini said he and the entire body would like to be listed as co-sponsors of this resolution.

Mr. Tesche moved, seconded by Mr. Tremaine, and it passed without objection,	to postpone 9.D.20, AM 1017-2001, indefinitely.
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In response to Mr. Tesche, Municipal Attorney Bill Greene said the administration concurred with the unnumbered resolution introduced by Mr. Tremaine, but they did not necessarily concur with the State's view of the statute.

#### 11. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

- A. Resolution No. AR 2001-342, a resolution adopting the 2002 Legislative Program for the Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Management and Budget.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 985-2001.
  2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1016-2001, 2002 Legislative Program (Amended), Office of Management and Budget. (addendum)
- (CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini gave the history of AR 2001-342 and noted no motion was on the floor.

Ms. Fairclough moved, seconded by Mr. Tesche,	to substitute AR 2001-342.
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Ms. Fairclough referenced the new page 2-30 and 2-15.

Ms. Fairclough moved, seconded by Mr. Tesche, and it passed without objection,	to amend AR 2001-342 by striking the old pages 2-30 and 2-15 and inserting the new pages 2-30 and 2-15.
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Ms. Fairclough said with the insertion of the new pages the numbers would match and the Port Director was accurately reflected. The new S version of the Administration and the Assembly's Legislative Priority Program was provided in the packets. She questioned if anyone had any objections or amendments to the Legislative package as amended.

Mr. Tesche suggested discussing the Worker's Compensation penalty on page E-4, which withheld employee's benefits in cases where the employer provided safety equipment to the employee that would have prevented the injury. During the Assembly's work session, Mr. Tesche raised a number of questions regarding this issue. The staff had answered several of these questions, but others were not answered. A version of this was recently adopted in Florida, but we do not know the results of that yet. We do not have information available suggesting there is a pervasive problem in Anchorage that warrants taking away medical and indemnity benefits to injured workers if they do not use the safety devices provided by the employer. We all agree with basic notions of workplace safety. State legislation depriving injured workers of benefits should be considered carefully. We need to be convinced that there is a serious problem and this type of sanction would be the best way to address that problem. We need an adequate explanation as to why normal employee education, training and discipline for violation of workplace rules would not be as effective as the ultimate and punitive sanction of taking away someone's medical care. It has not been proven that this is a measure that we need or should support.

Mr. Tremaine moved, seconded by Ms. Shamberg,	to amend AR 2001-342(S) to delete the reference to the limitation of Worker's Compensation benefits on page E- 4 and anywhere else it was mentioned.
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Mayor Wuerch noted that this new initiative had not progressed to draft legislation. It was consistent with the City's focus on safety. Contributory negligence was a serious problem when an employee did not follow the safety practices recommended for the performance of their job or use the safety equipment available. Deleting the Worker's Compensation benefits from page E-4 would not change our focus. He felt it was an issue that they should pay particular attention to. The settlement of compensation benefits where the employees have been a causative factor was a growing concern. The cost of the average Workman's Comp case was continuing to climb. This would encourage people to really listen to the safety programs, because there would be monetary ramifications for doing their job in an unsafe manner.

Question was called on the motion to amend AR 2001-342(S) and it passed without objection.

Ms. Shamberg said the City of Whittier asked the State to fund the continual opening of the Whittier tunnel so that the residents were not trapped in their city. The tunnel was currently open 10 hours a day and it costs \$15.00 to use the tunnel. The Girdwood playground issue also needed to be addressed. It could be very expensive to remove or amend the garbage dump, leach 8, situation. No one has stepped forward offering to fund a solution to this problem.

Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Ms. Taylor,

to amend AR 2001-342(S) to incorporate  
school accountability under legislative  
issues.

Ms. Fairclough said beginning in August of 2002 and during each of the following 12-month periods, the Department of Education will assign each public school in each district the performance designation of distinguished, successful, deficient or in crisis based on the multiple student measures including student achievement. The State Board of Education shall establish the process by regulation. In 2001, the Department of Education and Early Development established a School Designator Committee consisting of members across the state from the School Boards, administrators, PTAs, NEA-Alaska, EDD, business communities, members at large and a technical review committee. The Municipality of Anchorage supports the concept of school accountability and does not wish to postpone performance designation, but they requested confirmation that concludes the time frame established was sufficient prior to implementation. Our School Board has adopted this in their legislative policy. The concern was that there were not adequate measurements available for another year. We would like the state to reconfirm that they are on the right tract. The law has already passed and will go forward in June or July if we do not ask for a review of the process.

Question was called on the motion to amend AR 2001-342(S) and it passed without objection.

Ms. Von Gemmingen referenced the proposed reduction of Worker's Compensation benefits in AR 2001-345(S). Even though that had been deleted, she asked the administration to insure that this was covered in the employee handbooks and to start working on the union contracts.

In response to Mr. Rogers, Ms. Fairclough felt the school accountability issue would be appropriate under Other Statewide and Regional Issues.

Mr. Tesche concurred with Ms. Von Gemmingen about making sure that safety programs were in place and referenced in personnel manuals. He felt the Assembly should hold a work session with the administration, particularly with Employee Relations and Risk Management, to review where they stood in terms of historic Worker's Compensation claims, loss runs and safety programs.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Municipal Manager Harry Kieling said this would be discussed intensively with the department directors during the first week of February and suggested holding the work session in mid-February.

Mr. Tesche noted that this was the third Legislative Program that he had been involved with. This had been the most open and cooperative Legislative Program that he had seen. He thanked the Mayor and the administration for working with the Assembly on this issue.

Chairman Traini postponed action on AR 2001-342(S) to allow Ms. Shamberg to work on her motion.

- B. Resolution No. AR 2001-278, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving withdrawal from the Heritage Land Bank of land located in the NW 1/4 of Section 25 of T15 N, R2W, S.M., Alaska to permit management thereof by the Department of Cultural and Recreational Services, Assemblymember Fairclough.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 986-2001.
  2. Resolution No. AR 2001-278(S), a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving withdrawal from the Heritage Land Bank of land located in the NW 1/4 of Section 25 of T15 N, R2W, S.M., Alaska to permit management thereof by the Department of Cultural and Recreational Services, Assemblymember Fairclough. (LAID ON THE TABLE)
- (POSTPONED FROM 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini gave the history of AR 2001-278 and noted no motion was on the floor.

Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tesche,

to approve AR 2001-278.

Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tesche,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to substitute AR 2001-278(S).

Ms. Fairclough said on page 2, section 1, line 5, they would be deleting the words "pursuant to" and replacing them with "subject to." After the words "Anchorage municipal code" they were inserting "section 25.40.030 and."

Mayor Wuerch said the administration supported AR 2001-278(S).

Ms. Fairclough said this would set the lead agency as the Cultural and Park Division to negotiate a gravel agreement with the State of Alaska and to transfer from the Heritage Land Bank the northwest corner of Section 25, Township 15 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian to permit management to Cultural and Parks. She felt this would be a good faith effort on the part of the Municipality to resolve a long-standing issue in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

Mr. Tesche said he would be voting in favor of AR 2001-278(S). He was pleased that they had additional time to review the land use study. He noted that this was a significant piece of property. The need for the uses described in this study was clear, as well as the importance of this to the citizens of Chugiak/Eagle River. He felt the process that would take the property from the Heritage Land Bank and place it into the Parks Board and enable the parties to resolve the issue of the gravel extraction was appropriate. He recommended approval of AR 2001-278(S).

Ms. Shamberg recommended approval of AR 2001-278(S). She felt Ms. Fairclough was very much in touch with the wants and desires of her community. She felt this would be a wonderful addition that they had waited a long time to have.

Mr. Sullivan said he appreciated Ms. Fairclough's patience in delaying the issue for one week to review the land use study. His current concern was that the Heritage Land Bank had not reviewed this resolution. However, the resolution that they passed supporting the plan itself, they referred to this item and by inference they anticipated that this resolution would be coming forth. He said he would be supporting AR 2001-278(S).

Ms. Fairclough said the land use study was a formalized process that had been thoroughly completed with recommendations from the Heritage Land Bank. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved those recommendations. This resolution was just another step in the process of delineating a park, which designates the park but does not dedicate it. The land use study will come back before the Assembly for any modifications desired.

Mr. Van Etten thanked Ms. Fairclough for her hard work that brought a 20-year issue to a conclusion. He hoped this would be a good model for similar interactions between the Heritage Land Bank and the Parks Department.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-278(S) and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

C. Resolution No. AR 2001-357, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage revising AR No. 98-28 eliminating the site condition from the YMCA's CDBG grant, Planning Department.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 980-2001.

2. Information Memorandum No. AIM 124-2001, AR 2001-357; request for postponement, Planning Department. **(addendum)**

(CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Mr. Sullivan,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to postpone AR 2001-357 to  
January 15, 2001.

The meeting recessed at 5:50 p.m. and reconvened at 6:26 p.m.

Chairman Traini returned to AR 2001-342(S), Item 11 A 2.

Ms. Shamberg moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tesche,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to amend AR 2001-342(S) to add  
the Whittier tunnel as a legislative lobbying  
issue and the correction of the Girdwood  
School playground contamination, under  
Capitol Budget.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR2001-342(S) as amended and it passed:

AYES: Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Shamberg, Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Tesche were away from their seats during the vote.

Mr. Tremaine moved,  
seconded by Mr. Van Etten,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to change the item of the day to take  
items 14.A, AR 2001-354, and 14.E,  
AR 2001-335.

Resolution No. AR 2001-354, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$240,000 anticipated charges to grants to Areawide Fund (101) to provide funding for four projects (Overhaul Grant Financial and Program Reporting Practices and Procedures; Design and Develop a Grants Management Database System for Muniverse Accessible by Agencies and Departments to Manage Grants; Research and Reconcile Grants; Compliance with GASB 33) associated with improving municipal-wide grants management and reporting activities, Finance.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Tremaine moved, to approve AR 2001-354.  
seconded by Mr. Van Etten,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-354 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

Resolution No. AR 2001-355, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$55,000 of anticipated charges to grants to the Finance Department (101) and \$275,000 as a contribution from various sources to the Information Technology Fund (608) for capital costs associated with implementing GASB 34, Finance.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 978-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Von Gemmingen moved, to approve AR 2001-335.  
seconded by Ms. Taylor,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-335 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

Ms. Shamberg was away from her seat during the vote.

Ms. Von Gemmingen moved, to change the order of the day to take up  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine, items 4.B, AR 2001-361, 4.C, AR 2001-340,  
and it passed without and 4.D, AR 2001-359.  
objection,

Resolution No. AR 2001-361, a resolution appropriating \$450,000 from the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Service Area Fund Balance (151) and \$800,000 from the Areawide General Fund Balance (101) as a contribution to the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Department 2001 Operating Budget (151), for police overtime, current employee and retirement medical costs, and contractual services, Anchorage Police Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 996-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Von Gemmingen moved, to approve AR 2001-361.  
seconded by Mr. Sullivan,

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Chief Fiscal Officer Kate Giard said they did a calculation just for this purpose and the fund balance would not be affected. This did not negatively impact the amount that was used to support the budget. There was an adequate amount of fund balance to fund the budget and this transaction.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-361 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

Resolution No. AR 2001-340, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,003,214 as a grant to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231), Department of Health and Human Services, from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to fund Community Health Nursing Services, Health and Human Services.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 798-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-340.  
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-340 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

Resolution No. AR 2001-359, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,722,917 to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231) from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the FY 2002/PY 2001 State Training and Employment Program (STEP) within the Planning Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 983-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-359.  
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-359 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

Ms. Shamberg moved, to change the order of the day to address  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine, 13.D, AR 2001-343.  
and it passed without  
objection,

Resolution No. AR 2001-343, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving a conditional use for an alcoholic beverages conditional use in the B-3 District for a new restaurant or eating place license per AMC 21.40.180.D.8., located on Calais Subdivision, Tract D-11G at the northwest corner of Denali Street and Calais Drive, site address being 3210 Denali Street (Marah's Restaurant) (Case 2001-201), Planning Department.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 943-2001.  
(CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

BYRON TOWNSEND said he was an Anchorage veterinarian and a partner in Marah's Restaurant. This would be a European and Spanish cuisine restaurant. They only planned to serve draft beer and wine, but not hard liquor. Their goal was to have a restaurant and a bakery. The resolution currently says they would like to serve beer and wine between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., but they would like that to be changed to 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. There are several restaurants similar to what they are planning such as Tiffany's and the Chinese restaurant around the corner.

In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Mr. Townsend said it was unlikely that they would have beer and wine available during lunchtime, but they wanted to reserve that right. The restaurant was not open yet, because the plumbers were not finished with their work. All the employees would be TAM certified.

In response to Ms. Fairclough, Mr. Townsend said they could not obtain a food permit until the plumbing work was completed. It would probably be some time in February before the restaurant was ready to open.

Chairman Traini asked if anyone else wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Sullivan moved, to approve AR 2001-343.  
seconded by Ms. Tesche,

Mr. Sullivan moved, to amend AR 2001-343, line 12 of the  
seconded by Ms. Taylor, Assembly Memorandum to allow beer and  
and it passed without wine to be served from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
objection,

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Greene said page 24 of the original packet from Planning and Zoning did not need to be amended, because the affect of what they were doing was in AR 2001-343.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-343 as amended and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.  
NAYS: None.

12. **APPEARANCE REQUESTS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND NO LATER THAN 7:00 P.M.):** None.

13. **CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND NO LATER THAN 7:00 P.M.):**

A. Ordinance No. AQ 2001-174, an ordinance amending the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan to allow development of active recreation sports fields at the designed community park site located in the southwest corner of Far North Bicentennial Park, Project Management and Engineering Department.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 874-2001.  
(CONTINUED FROM 11-20-01 AND 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini reopened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

JOHN WEDDLETON said last week he was describing a metaphorical box that was the parameters that the Little League stated they needed which included four fields together on at least 20 acres, within their current boundaries and ready by 2004. Currently they are on less than seven acres with three fields and have presumably done a good job with that for many decades. If you consider reasonable requirements that

would match what they currently have, there are lots of alternatives other than building the fields in the park. The city's report by Land Design North cited several alternatives that were deemed to be the most desirable for the community as a whole. The best examples followed the Comprehensive Plan and put the fields near town centers and population centers. Tonight the Assembly had a chance to step forward and build the parks inline with the Comprehensive Plan by putting them near town centers and respecting the persistent support for wild open space. Or the Assembly could step backwards and amend the plan to put the fields in Bicentennial Park. He hoped the Assembly would step forward, follow the Comprehensive Plan, and vote not to amend the Far North Bicentennial Park plan.

COLLETTE RAVINE said she was mad as hell and she was not going to take it any more. Everyone has been so nice and polite that she decided to balance it out by throwing a fit. She felt it was time for Anchorage to commit to the idea that citizens of Anchorage wanted, and expressed during the process of developing the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, to be able to get away from city life while still in the city. We do not want to have to go to Talkeetna to experience wild Alaska. We have that opportunity right now in Bicentennial Park. Choosing to amend the plan would be choosing the most contentious option. She pointed out that the taxpayers were already paying for the schools. Everyone else who grew up in the Lower '48 experienced playing softball and baseball on school fields. She did not understand why the city and the schools were not working more closely together on this issue. She heard someone say that the schools were worried about liability, but the money saved could be put into security at the schools. Most cities would kill for what we have here. Someone mentioned Central Park in New York, which is a dedicated park. New York committed to never touching that park even though it was on valuable land. Central Park is a big, huge, lovely park with huge, old trees, but it is very urban. There is nothing wild about Central Park except for the people there. Central Park was trying to bring back some of the wetlands that they lost many years ago. She did not understand why we have to keep repeating the same mistakes. She read the quote, "We shall be judged not by what we developed, but by what we leave alone." Several people have pointed out the fact that the ball fields would be put on only 25 acres. She noted that they would hear the ball fields long before they saw them. The ball fields would impact people using other parts of the park because of the noise.

In response to Ms. Taylor, Ms. Ravine said she votes and she has always voted for park bonds. She would support a bond to supply ball fields to the Simonian Little League if they were to be placed somewhere other than Bicentennial Park. Lately she has been questioning whether or not she wanted to vote for any more park bonds, because she felt like Parks and Recreation was not doing things the way she would like to see them done.

KIRK JOHNSON said he was a dentist in South Anchorage. He has young children and has coached for the Boy's and Girl's Club and supports ball fields. He lives on Potter Marsh, which is a park. If people built things in his park then he would have to move. One of the reasons he lives in Anchorage is because we have Bicentennial Park. The park was intended to be used as it was currently being used. If one piece of land is given away then there would be a thousand other people wanting land and the park would be ruined forever. He felt they should find another place for the ball fields. He asked the Assembly not to change Bicentennial Park, because it was the right thing to do, the honest thing to do and the ethical thing to do.

MICHAEL CROY said he has not missed a vote since he has lived in Anchorage, which has been 20 years. He uses Bicentennial Park. He teaches orienteering. He hikes and bikes in the park. He has held youth programs in the park to do service projects to repair trails. He felt the Far North Bicentennial Park was the best site for the Simonian Little League. The city owns the land and the cost to develop the fields would be minimal. The people who currently use the land would still be able to use it. People are not restricted from using land where ball fields are located. They can still ski, hike, bike and play with their dogs on that land. The only difference would be that the first five minutes of their ski or hike would be next to ball fields and picnic areas. It will allow more people to use the land due to increased accessibility. Other sites have been discussed that sound good, but there are problems with them. The Safeway site on 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue was 25 contiguous acres. Safeway has contracted to purchase all 25 of those acres and they plan to sell 12 acres of that land. The Design North report asked for a minimum of 15 acres for the ball fields. That site would be inadequate and squeezed between a grocery store and busy roads. The cost of those 12 acres would be \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 to purchase the land, not including development costs. The land offered by Art Simonian is 28 acres, but 50 percent is Class C wetlands. Mr. Simonian is willing to sell 20 acres, which leaves about 14 acres of developable land if he sells the developable land. He may only be willing to sell the wetlands. The Land Design report stated that it would cost \$200,000 more to develop that land, plus the purchase price of \$2,600,000. Why spend taxpayer money on land when we already own land? Far North Bicentennial Park is the only site that satisfies the needs of our children at the best cost to our city. As president of the Boy's and Girl's Club, he was familiar with the need of not only baseball fields, but soccer fields as well. This problem is growing and developing Far North Bicentennial Park would be a positive step in satisfying those growing needs. He urged the Assembly to support the Simonian Little League in developing this site. Central Park has ball fields in it. There are also other large parks in this community. Chugach Park is 500,000 acres. Far North Bicentennial Park has 4,200 acres. Russian Jack Park is 299 acres. Kincaid Park is 1,500 acres. Equestrian Park is 602 acres. We live in a city. There are still many parks in this community. Baseball fields need to be made available to the children and the community. He asked the Assembly to develop Bicentennial Park.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Mr. Croy said he was no longer working with Simonian Little League, other than helping them with the ball fields. His children no longer played baseball, but he still supported the issue and felt it was important to the community. He coached the Simonian Little League for about five years. There have been many proposals for alternate locations of ball fields, but nothing has come to fruition. He did not feel there was another option that would meet their timeline. He has not ruled out the possibility that another location could be found, but he has not seen anything that was doable.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Croy said he was currently the president of the Boy's and Girl's Club. The 2020 Comprehensive Plan predicts that in 20 years we would have 40 percent more people in Anchorage. There was no doubt that they would need more fields to accommodate the increased population. The Boy's and Girl's Club has estimated that they needed 20 more soccer fields. There are 9,800 acres of parkland in Anchorage. He felt they needed to use the developable land that they had. If they continued to take land off of the tax rolls then they would not be able to maintain Bicentennial Park or any other park in Anchorage.

In response to Mr. Van Etten, Mr. Croy said he was not saying that the Simonian Little League wanted the 25 acres in Bicentennial Park or nothing. If someone came forward with a better plan that made sense and was developable in the timeline, he would support it. Mr. Croy objected to Mr. Van Etten's insinuation that he was giving the Assembly an ultimatum.

DENNIS STACEY said he was a 25 year resident of Anchorage. He is an active outdoorsman whose interest includes cross-country skiing and hiking on local trails, mostly within Kincaid Park. He is a member of the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage. He loves the ski trail system within Anchorage and he was committed to the preservation and improvement of our outdoor recreational facilities. He was also a former Little League ballplayer and the parent of two boys who played Little League ball in Anchorage. He knows the value of that program for children and families. As a property owner and businessman, he was also committed to pursuing sound fiscal policy initiatives at the local government level. Public funds at the state and local levels are scarce resources and we must use all of our resources wisely to obtain the maximum benefit. We are acutely aware of the fiscal facts that we need to do more with less. He supports the proposal to build new ball fields at Far North Bicentennial Park. He suggested a proposal that could be a win-win situation for the users of the park and the taxpayers of Anchorage. He felt they should be considering a slightly broader agenda for the area that was not just a parking lot and some ball fields, but a multiple use facility with removable fencing that could be used in the winter off season as a stadium area for beginners learning to ski and for staging the start and finish of cross-country ski races and practices. At Kincaid Park the stadium area and the associated fields comprise approximately 60 acres out of the 1,500 acres in the park. They are right in the heart of the park and these cleared fields do not detract from the park, but improve and enhance the area. All types of wildlife remain abundant in the park and the fields actually increase wildlife viewing by improving visibility. The Far North Bicentennial Park recreation complex could offer the same type of multiple use advantages to the city. A hidden cost in the current proposals to buy large parcels of private land for ball fields is the erosion of the Municipality's tax base. To analyze these costs, he made assumptions on a 7 percent appreciation on the value of a \$2,000,000 dollar parcel and 7 percent opportunity costs in the money invested by the Municipality for over 40 years. This would come out to a cost in lost revenues and investment cost of \$60,000,000. The ball fields would enhance Bicentennial Park and not hurt it.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Stacey explained how he came up with the investment cost of \$60,000,000 and provided a copy of his analysis to the clerk's office.

DOUG HOUVAR addressed two comments he had heard after last week's Assembly meeting. A Simonian Little League supporter commented that if people did not want to see Little League ball fields at site 15 then a real alternative should be provided. He believes this was a valid request. Jim Posey had stated that they could not continue looking at alternative sites over and over again. He felt they should be taking another look at the alternative sites found in the study done by Land Design North. He felt that alternative #4, site 11, offered the best chance of a win-win situation for Simonian Little League, the current user groups of Bicentennial Park and the Anchorage community as a whole. The Heritage Land Bank owns the site 11 land. The question concerning this parcel of land is not whether this land would be developed, but when this land would be developed. We have an opportunity to use this land to help solve a problem faced by the community of Anchorage. Site 11 offers a win-win solution to the current user conflicts. Simonian Little League would have a place to build their ball fields. Multiple historical user groups of the proposed site 15 could continue to use one of the few undeveloped true multi-use park areas in the city. As Land Design North states in their report, additional parkland is needed in the Abbott Loop area. The community would win in that additional parkland could be added without an acquisition cost. The Land Design North report cites construction of a new road as a concern in using site 11. It seems something could be worked out with BLM so that a gate could be moved or added and the current road shared. The concentration of construction and development in the Abbott Loop area has been greater than in any other area that he has lived in within Anchorage. He read a list of construction areas that he has seen during the seven years that he has lived in this side of town including Birch Run Subdivision, Soholly Subdivision phases one, two and three, Whitehawk phases one and two, Trailside Elementary, Kasoon Elementary, Fred Meyers, McDonalds, Arbys, Chevron gas station, the car wash facilities, a Municipality water tank and water pipeline and facilities. Some of the future projects in this area include future expansion and growth.

MATT RAFFERTY said he was a resident of mid-town Anchorage. He grew up playing Little League in Massachusetts and he enjoyed the experience. Back east, as in most communities around America, ball fields are spread out amongst the strip malls and suburban developments. Those places all look and feel the same now. They have lost all of their character. In Alaska we are fortunate. We have the ability to learn from the mistakes made elsewhere and therefore the ability to act differently. Far North Bicentennial Park is a unique and limited natural resource, a treasure. In many other cities similar treasures have been squandered through poor planning and rash decision making. It does not have to be that way here. We have the luxury of being able to have ball fields for children and wilderness areas for everyone. Far North Bicentennial Park, in its current form, is a year round land of multiple uses improving the lives of all who live and visit here. It appeals to a wide demographic of people and harbors many forms of plant and animal life. It is a one of a kind place in a city that is rapidly losing its uniqueness. Far North Bicentennial Park is also a refuge from the sprawl creeping up the Hillside. It is amazing how much those resilient old trees buffer the sound of traffic and the blur of lights that clog Tudor, Lake Otis, O'Malley and dozens of other roads throughout the city. Each time he enters the park, he is transported to a place of peace, which is an

unarguably a needed commodity today. Let's build ball fields for the children, but let's **not** destroy the very feature that makes Anchorage so unique and wonderful in the process. Let's act with foresight by thinking not only of the children that want to play ball now, but also of their children who will inherit less wilderness in the future. Let's embrace our uniqueness and set a powerful precedent by voting not to amend the current master plan of Far North Bicentennial Park. There are plenty of other places to play ball.

JEFF JESSEN said he was a resident of south Anchorage. As an outdoor enthusiast, he has enjoyed the use of Anchorage's priceless parks. He has enjoyed using the parks and the trails at Bicentennial Park. He encouraged everyone to explore Bicentennial Park. Bicentennial Park currently provides seclusion from the city for a diverse group of outdoor recreators. Among them are cross-country skiers, hikers, horseback riders, dog mushers, artists, snowshoers, birdwatchers, animal trackers, scout groups, naturalists, orienteering groups and runners. Bicentennial Park is also home to one of our most treasured assets other than parks, which is Alaska's natural wildlife. Why would any one group be so adamant in developing a segment of Bicentennial Park thus removing 25 acres from such a wide group of users, especially when there are other alternative sites for ball fields? He did not feel anyone was against ball fields, only ball fields being developed in Bicentennial Park. Anchorage's parks are priceless and to put a dollar amount on the value of Far North Bicentennial Park is impossible. In this case, the needs of the many park users do outweigh the needs of a few.

MELANIE ROOK said she lived several miles away from Bicentennial Park, but she uses the park and the trailhead frequently. She thanked the Assembly for listening to all of the community concerns related to this issue. She urged the Assembly not to amend the Far North Bicentennial Park plan to allow the extensive ball field development. She urged the Assembly not to be short sighted nor look for the most expedient route for providing ball fields for the Simonian Little League. There have been many people who have put in much effort to search out and further investigate alternatives to turning an irreplaceable and valuable portion of Bicentennial Park into nothing more than a 25-acre flat lot with grass and a large asphalt covered parking lot. Let us take an area that is already a lot and put ball fields there. She asked the Assembly to seriously consider the fact that there are viable alternatives including the ones mentioned in the Land Design North study as well as others that have been mentioned at these meetings. She had the impression that the Simonian Little League was unwilling to be creative and seriously explore other sites. She pled with the Assembly not to do the same. We all agree that there needs to be more ball fields and more parkland. Let's do both. Our land is not going to get any cheaper or more available. She was not convinced that they could not come up with the money to acquire more land. She questioned where were the acquisitions that had been in the last couple of bond issues for the Abbott Loop area. She did not think it would be cheap to place the ball fields in Bicentennial Park. The road would need to be expanded. There are no sidewalks on that road at the present time. This community has spent a lot of time on this park plan and the 2020 Comprehensive Plan, which values things such as open spaces and community parks. This park needs to be valued and preserved as per the plan. It is a very unique park in our city that would be the envy of most other U.S. urban areas.

TRISHA HUMMINGHOUSE encouraged the Assembly to seek a win-win solution to this dilemma facing our community. In good city planning, a community decides what it wants and then it determines how to go about getting it. It has become apparent that our community wants a place where some children can play baseball while holding onto parkland where other children can wander and look under rocks, that families can visit together, and where people of all ages can get away from it all to walk and run year round. She encouraged the Assembly not to amend the Far North Bicentennial Park master plan. Considering the recent adoption of the Anchorage Comprehensive 2020 Plan, she questioned the value of long-range planning if they are amended at the request of special interest groups. She believed it was better city planning to add parks to neighborhoods than to change the face of Bicentennial Park. She urged the Assembly to consider any realistic alternatives that are currently or could become available. There is some sentiment that the Municipality could acquire Bicentennial Park for ball fields at no cost. This piece of parkland would be turned into ball fields at a price far more costly than any amount quoted for the other proposed sites. Far North Bicentennial Park is the single largest piece of open space left in the Anchorage bowl. The value of this open space will only increase over time. She believed it was a dangerous practice to move forward without an itemized budget for building ball fields. We are likely to find there are a number of hidden costs with the Bicentennial Park site. She encouraged the Assembly to look forward 50 years. Will there be the open natural spaces that make Anchorage a unique community for the children, the adults and the wildlife that will live in Anchorage then? The decision that the Assembly makes on this issue will affect the nature of our community for generations. Regarding the issue of time, she understood that the Simonian Little League was under a time crunch, but she did not believe it was good city planning to make a decision based on what was the most expedient. Good city planning would pursue the purchase of additional parkland in neighborhoods currently short of parklands. She urged the Assembly to look to the guidelines and recommendations of the Far North Bicentennial Park master plan and trust the process that created that plan. She referenced the gentleman who spoke of clearing an area in the park for a stadium. We already have a stadium area in Bicentennial Park. This 25 acres connects to multi-use trails, which would not be easily kept under good competition skiing conditions.

MIKE THOMPSON said he did not support the amendment to the Far North Bicentennial Park master plan. There are other alternative places to build the ball fields within the city. He was an avid user of the park specifically for skiing and running, as well as the serenity of the park. He works as a park ranger and deals with a lot of resource management issues. The 25 acres may not sound like a lot of land, but it would fragmentize the area. He urged the Assembly to check out Bicentennial Park. The subject 25 acres were one of the most important parts of the park to be accessed by skiers and other people, because it is not a wetland. Once you compromise part of the park, other groups will ask for additional land. There are times when you have to say no and you cannot make a compromise.

CHRIS BACKSTROM said he has been teaching school in Anchorage for over 10 years. He has coached for seven years including high school basketball, cross-country running, swimming and Little League. He

has taught thousands, coached hundreds and he has two children of his own. Like many of the people who have testified on this issue, he was addicted to the trails and woods of Campbell tract and he was a regular user of the park. He was not as politically savvy as many others, but he notices there are constants in what politicians have to say during their campaigns. The first is that kids are important and we need to serve as many kids as possible. No one is arguing that. It only makes sense that the Dimond and 88<sup>th</sup> or the Lore Road or the 36<sup>th</sup> locations should be seriously considered for the ball fields. Not only do these sites serve the needs of the Simonian Little League, but they also represent a place where the neighborhood kids could also go and play. This much more efficiently reaches your goals of providing recreational opportunities for all kids and not just special interest groups. Mr. Manza wrote an email to the Simonian Little League about the unacceptability of playing next to an asphalt jungle and a large box retail store. He said count your blessings. He grew up playing Little League next to a cattle feed lot. They went to each game joking that if the wind would just come out of the east, they had the home field advantage. Another constant of the people who were asking for his vote was the expressing of their vision. The Far North Bicentennial Park was the last significant lowland spruce and hardwood forest ecosystem left in Anchorage. People often say go up into the mountains, but that is not forested land. That's alpine tundra. There are no trees up there and the wildlife you see up there is not the wildlife that calls the lowland spruce and hardwood forest ecosystem its home. It is a causeway for animals to gain access to the bowl and gain access back to the mountains. Bicentennial Park is a nursery for dozens of species of birds and animals to interact and live relatively undisturbed. What is that worth? The last constant of the people who want his vote is how well do they listen. The Nordic Ski Club, Audubon Society, Orienteering Club, Friends of Far North, teachers with students and Junior Nordic League have all been represented by spokespersons who want you to listen to where they stand on this issue. They have said look around, there are alternatives. They will support a bond. This is a win-win situation if you do what is best for the most kids, listen to the majority of your constituents views and maintain the vision that others sought for Far North Bicentennial Park in the 1985 plan. He urged the Assembly to vote no on amending the Bicentennial Park plan.

KAREN MURPHY said she was an 18-year resident of Alaska and a 13-year resident of Anchorage. She spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Bicentennial Park master plan. She does support the city purchasing land to use as a combined community park and Simonian Little League ball field site. She agreed with many of the perspectives that people have raised during the public testimony. The people who support Bicentennial Park and maintaining the master plan have been described as a "not in my backyard" response. She lives on Lake Otis and Dowling. She encouraged the Assembly to purchase the land offered by Art Simonian. She had no doubt that creating ball fields in this location would have some direct negative effects on her family primarily related to traffic concerns along Dowling Road. However, the benefits are far greater than what she anticipate as problems. She wants the Assembly to place these ball fields in her back yard. When they purchased their home nine years ago, they knew that the area around them was zoned for development as single family homes. They did not expect that the cluster housing would be the preferred building style. Over the last several years most of the land to the south of Dowling has been converted to cluster housing. The city is rapidly losing the opportunity to create a park in the area to compliment the city's 2020 vision for a neighborhood center at the Lake Otis and Dowling intersection. We are going to have to act very fast if we want anything other than houses, the strip malls, warehouse businesses and the ABC School to represent this town center. Art Simonian's offer would serve multiple purposes by meeting both the Little League's needs and by providing much needed parkland for this rapidly growing neighborhood. It would allow the city to maintain Bicentennial Park land for multiple user groups that recreate in that area. She imagined that the residents of the Independence Park area would gladly offer their site for ball fields for the same reasons. This city has grown an astonishing amount over the last 13 years. She has recreated in Bicentennial Park for many of those years. There was a time when she could walk or ski in the park and see nobody else. Those times ended years ago. As the city expands, the demands for recreational opportunity within the city boundaries are increasing for all user groups. Junior Nordic is a growing group and has been joined by the Winter Stars. She suspected they would be asking for more trails in Bicentennial Park, Kincaid Park and Russian Jack Park. These are the only areas where they have the opportunity to expand. We have other sites for ball fields, but we do not have other sites for recreation that demands large undeveloped tracts. Please reject this amendment and put our scarce resources towards creating benefits for the neighborhood and not for a single user group. Please put this issue to bond and do not allow what is seemingly an expeditious solution to prevent you from doing what is best for the city.

ERIC HEINRICK said after eight hours of testimony, all of the points he was going to talk about had already been addressed. They have always lived near undeveloped land or land that was basically woods and trails, because they have dogs and they enjoy walking their dogs and not seeing a lot of people. Seven years ago his wife had three jobs offers in different states. They choose Alaska because of its wildland and recreational opportunities. He has a baby at home and he mentioned that the land kind of looked like a breast of nature that was kind of feeding us. It really is a draw for future voters to bring people to Anchorage. He questioned what would draw people to Anchorage in the future. The oil money may be gone. Ball fields would not draw people to Anchorage, but Bicentennial Park would. They just built some deluxe ball fields in south Anchorage and he suggested the Simonian Little League could use those fields if they could not find a suitable location in time.

JESSICA WATKEY said she and her husband just moved to Anchorage. One of the things that she was really looking forward to was using Bicentennial Park. Having just moved down from Fairbanks where you can literally walk out your back door and go skiing, she was excited that she was not going to have to change that. She asked the Assembly to vote no on amending Bicentennial Park. The park is too valuable of a resource and it is not something that could be replaced.

TERRY PAULS said we were often told that we are surrounded by wilderness so therefore these little chunks of land that have been taken out of Bicentennial Park for years really are not that important. The lower areas around the creeks are much more biologically diverse in the forest than up in the alpine areas such as Chugach State Park. Although the mountains are beautiful, there is a lot more ecologically

important species in the lower areas. Bicentennial Park is a place that people can reach easily after work, because it is so close by. She felt they needed parks in other locations and that was where we should be spending our money. We should be creating ball fields in areas such as the Independence Park area, which the Simonian Little League population is headed towards geographically. She felt the survey was biased in its wording and when a survey is so biased it should be dismissed. She was sad at how the child aspect of this issue has been so exploited. It was unfortunate that people who are looking for a convenient place to put the ballparks have used the issue of the good of the children in an inappropriate way. That is not the issue. We are all supportive of the fields. It is just a matter of where they should be located. She did not feel they should amend the plan just because one group steps forward with its desire. If we are looking at amending the plan, we should consider the end result of that. The Simonian Little League knew a long time ago that this would come to a head. It was unfortunate that we were considering amending the plan that was very carefully constructed because of expedience. The park has been chipped away at for years. The Native Heritage Park was originally to be placed in Bicentennial Park and we were able to come up with another location and they have done very well there. Bicentennial Park is a valuable treasure. She encouraged the Assembly to vote no on amending the original park plan.

BEN GREEN said he has loved living in Anchorage since 1993. He chooses to live in Anchorage, because it is unique. He felt there was only one way to keep Anchorage unique. As political representatives, often the most difficult choice we can make is not to do something. Far North Bicentennial Park is irreplaceable and we do not need to develop it. With the park left intact, Anchorage can remain unique. With Far North Bicentennial Park developed into ball fields, Anchorage is headed in the direction of becoming just another large metropolitan area, only colder. He felt we should have the best ball fields. We should make sure that the ball fields are placed in a location where the photographs that are taken of the fields have the background of the Chugach Range and everyone who looks at those photographs would be envious of the ball fields that we have. Until we have exhaustively used up every other option for developing ball fields, we need to consider what about the setting of Anchorage is truly irreplaceable and beyond value. He was an avid skier and runner. We need to preserve Bicentennial Park for the esthetics value. He urged the Assembly to vote no on amending the Bicentennial Park master plan.

DEBBIE BAGDAHL said she used to live in south Anchorage and currently owns a private school in the area. She was very pro-child. She left south Anchorage, because she did not like what had happened there. Her interest in not amending the Bicentennial Park master plan was that the children in her school used this trailhead. It is truly one of the only primitive trailheads where young children and handicapped people could truly get out of their car and experience a wilderness trailhead. Some of the supporters for the Simonian Little League have testified that the park would have greater access if it was developed. Have you pulled up to a parking lot with 188 cars with a group of six or seven five-year-olds and tried to move them through that traffic to find your way to a trailhead? It completely changes the whole view of what is happening there. Mayor Wuerch was quoted as saying that Anchorage had plenty of trees and that cutting down the trees in this area was a necessary step to insure that hundreds of children could still play ball. There is a Municipal code ordinance that affects private landowners regarding the amount of land that they can clear, because trees are so valuable in Anchorage. There were people on Westchester Lagoon who ended up selling their land, because there was such a controversy about cutting down trees there. Trees are a very important resource in Anchorage. Little League has a lot of value for hand-eye coordination and sprinting, but it does not have much aerobic value. There is a huge problem with obesity in children and they need more diverse exercise.

CARLA KELLY said she was strongly opposed to amending the Comprehensive Plan, because it would require clearing trees. Trees are very valuable. She is the mother of a former Little League player. It was also important to her that her child had fields that were accessible to him. She was not able to transport him by car and it was important that he could ride his bike to his ballgames. She felt it was important to have ball fields that were centrally located and accessible to as many people as possible. She encouraged the Assembly to look strongly at some of the alternatives and to save the 25 acres in Far North Bicentennial Park. She uses Bicentennial Park several times a week for skiing, mushing, hiking and other activities. She has had some of her most pleasant experiences in that area and she values it greatly. She felt it was important to preserve our land and trees that are oxygen producing. We are in a bowl and we have an air quality issue. She felt it was important to maintain trees that were oxygen producing. We could not live more than a few minutes without oxygen. Trees are very important to our environment and our existence. She urged the Assembly to vote no on amending the plan and to look at the alternatives.

JIM GARAGUES said he moved into the Campbell Creek area in 1955. He heard children playing ball over there for a long time and it was a happy sound. The Borough Assembly knew him when the park was selected in 1974. The property at that time was under the control of the state and they sent a delegation down from Parks and Recreation to get the land transferred into the ownership of the borough. He did not believe the land was ever intended to be locked up or to deprive certain groups of the opportunity to utilize part of the park. It is a big park. For seven years he was chairman of the Abbott Loop Community Council. The Simonian Little League approached them in the summer of 1999. They received the community council's endorsement for this location for their ball fields. Then they became a bit of a nuisance to some of the Greeneis in town and they had a meeting about a month later and they turned this around and tried to negate what the community council had done. As a result of the community council's position on this issue, he lost the next election. There are too many people testifying on this issue who do not live in the area. They did not testify when there were zoning, liquor or park problems. Independence Park area would like some parks. The community council fought for parks in that area and those people did not come to testify at that time. They did not come around until it was time to upset this recreational proposal. He felt the Assembly should not pay attention to the people who did not live in the area.

AL TOMANY submitted 1,200 to 1,300 letters of support and a petition that was signed by 550 people to support the amendments of Bicentennial Park. He distributed copies of the survey that was conducted. He went back to the year 1974 where there was a public survey by the Campbell Tract Task Force. It was

noted at that time that there was a need for District #1 Little League Softball for about 25 to 30 acres. He read the recommendations of the committee in the 1985 updated Far North Bicentennial Park master plan. The Municipality will have to work with the Bureau of Land Management in furthering an agreement whereby the area can be used in meeting softball, soccer, rugby and related sport needs of the community. Things to consider in site planning for the separation of access to the fields in BLM efforts, placement of athletic fields where the roads lead back toward the runway. This would prohibit vehicle access to the runway area, landscaping and possible fencing to further define separation of the Municipal fields from the BLM land and parking in relation to the fields. The BLM plan dated April 27, 1988 conducted two days of public meetings composed of 41 individuals and representatives of organizations held at the Anchorage District office. Fifty-six comments were received. Additional meetings with the Municipality, the Anchorage School District, three other organizations, trail users, horseback riders and environmental education groups were held. No other groups were offered the opportunity to participate including Little League, baseball, softball, football, soccer, rugby, volleyball, crochet, leagues and players. No considerations were given to picnic facilities and handicapped users. It adversely excluded the majority of uses recommended by this citizen task force. The district manager signed this agreement for BLM on August 31, 1987 and the Mayor Tony Knowles on June 29, 1987. Whether this agreement was still in force and municipal funds are still used to maintain these trails on BLM land is unknown. It is obvious that the general public park uses have been locked out. It appears there is imperialism and elitism and limited use of this area to a small number of interest groups. They looked at the Science Center located on the BLM land. Of 218 potential users of the Science Center utilizing the classroom facilities, 18 percent of the calendar year 2000, 18 percent of usage was by the Alaska Center for the Environment with 8.5 percent of the usage during June, July and August. The total fees paid were over 25 percent of the total income of the Bureau of Land Management. We do have special interest groups that are using this now. We need to take a look at diversity and share. There was a presentation for ball fields in there, but the BLM and the Mayor at that time resisted those rights.

Tom Newmans, current president of Hillside East Community Council spoke on his own behalf. He said if the hockey program at the Tesoro Center came to the Assembly and said we need land to build a new rink, what would happen? He guessed these children would either collectively or individually participate in other hockey programs around town. He did not expect the Assembly to say they did not want to help families to establish a new ball field, but he urged them to think about whether there was really a need for these ball fields in this area. With declining participation in Little League and growing participation in other programs, we need to consider what would be the best use for the whole community. His eleven-year-old son said he hoped the Simonian's did not get our park. They were both opposed to having one group take a piece of the park that would benefit other groups.

CARL SEEBE said he did not support building ball fields in Bicentennial Park. He is a 28-year resident of Anchorage. He is a professional civil engineer and his business is building things. It was his professional opinion that amending the park plan would be a mistake. In preparation for testifying, he reviewed the entire Land Design North plan. They had some wisdom in their plan. They developed criteria for making a decision and carefully evaluated a lot of alternatives. Their conclusion ignored many of their own selection criteria. The plan says ball fields need to be accessible by kids and the Far North Bicentennial Park site does not meet that criteria. The report states we need to give positive consideration to sites that do not require significant clearing. The report also states that the site should be within walking distance of town centers as outlined in the Anchorage 2020 Plan and the proximity to a service population should be a strong criteria. The Land Design North report also says proximity to schools should be a selection criteria, which he felt should be a very strong selection criteria. As a taxpayer, he wanted to see multiple use for any capital investments made by the Municipality. Placing ball fields next to a school, which could be used as a playground by the school, means the investment would get much more use. Several of the schools within the study area needs playgrounds. A selection of a site for ball fields near a school would be a win-win for the Assembly. The Anchorage 2020 Plan suggests ball field development in conjunction with town centers. Two town centers are suggested along Lake Otis between Dowling Road and Abbott Loop Road. The Assembly can turn this contentious issue into a win-win situation by following the good planning efforts in the body of the Land Design North report and in the Anchorage 2020 Plan.

PIXIE SEEBE said she hoped the Assembly would take the long view with this problem. The ball players need a place for new fields, but not at the expense of sound long-range planning. The Bicentennial Park master plan specifically excludes organized sports in this corner of the park. She did not feel they should ignore the plan or amend it. The 2020 Comp Plan says the citizen identified the protection of natural areas and open spaces as a high priority. In the policy and strategic strategy section, #45 states connect local activities centers, such as neighborhood schools and community centers, with parks, sports fields, greenbelts and trails where feasible. She felt they should consider some of the alternatives identified in the Land Design North study that meet these criteria. All of the Municipal plans that address parks recommend acquisition of additional parkland. Abbott Loop is a fast developing area of Anchorage that has the opportunity to easily create town centers, as envisioned in the Comp Plan, if we do it now. Locating the ball fields within either the Abbott Road and Lake Otis or the Dowling Road and Lake Otis town centers would be a big step in making this plan a reality. Both centers serve populations that are in need of parkland and find it difficult to reach the Bicentennial Park site except by private automobile. The Land Design North study also called the Bicentennial Park site expedient. We hear that it should be selected because it is land that would not have to be traded or purchased. That does not mean the land has no value. About a mile from this site is the new Soholly Subdivision, which was virtually identical ground. This land was used as part of Bicentennial Park and Hillside Park until it was traded to Mark Marlow to build ball fields near Klatt Road. The lots in Soholly Subdivision sell for \$80,000 to \$90,000 at three lots per acre. That would make an acre worth \$240,000 to \$270,000. If we multiple that by the 25 acres, we get over \$6,000,000. Building ball fields will not increase the value of the Bicentennial Park site. It will greatly diminish the values that many of us wish to preserve. However, there are several good sites listed in the Land Design North study that would be greatly enhanced by building ball fields on them. She hoped the

Assembly would not be swayed by the cries to meet a time deadline. When we look back in 2020, will we see that we made the right long-term planning decision for all of our children?

RAY CRAIG said he lived in the Turnagain area. He was brought up in Manhattan and he played ball in Central Park four times a week in Junior High and High School. He came to Alaska 30 years ago to get away from the crowded east. He loves the scenery and the animals of Alaska. He has listened to the testimony on cable television. He had not planned on getting involved or testifying, but he realized that he was very sad for both the community and the children. Anchorage is extremely wealthy as to its wildland park base. He was surprised that there were so many people opposed to providing a paltry 25 acres to children to play ball on. It seemed so callous and greedy. The state's reserve accounts are going to be drained in three or four years. The taxes that this community is going to have to raise are going to be needed for maintaining services, new schools and basic needs. Our wild parkland needs are already met many times over. There are many needs in this community that are not met. The library is well below national standards for our book holdings. Any new taxes raised within the community should go to things like buying books for the library. He would vote for bond money for books for the library, needed schools and basic services. It is not wise to purchase more parkland unless it is in low income neighborhoods that do not have existing parkland for kids, such as Spenard and East Anchorage. He encouraged the Assembly to vote yes so he could feel proud of our community and what we are doing for our children.

KIM MENSER said she has written letters and attended the last two public hearings on this issue. She was encouraged to speak after hearing a person speak near the end of the last session. Those that favored the amendment said rather cynically that change happens, it is inevitable, deal with it, adapt to it and embrace it. The problem with change is that through apathy many have developed this belief that any kind of change is inevitable and we have no power to direct the course of our future. On the contrary, there are a lot of proposed changes, like this one, where we are given the liberty to express our views and issues to direct a change. Unfortunately, the statute of responsibility has not yet been rightfully erected in this country to guide our liberties towards the sustainable stewardship of our life support systems, which are air, water and earth. The responsibility to the health and wellbeing of not just our own immediate needs, but also for that of the life in a future far beyond our own should be considered. On a citywide global level, open public spaces are increasingly becoming endangered or extinct spaces. In Anchorage these are places anyone can go to at any time to experience the vast gifts of a natural environment without having to own it and subsequently building a fence around it. These are places of refuge, of community and beauty in an otherwise unbecoming city. To expound on the many assets of the park would be repeating the wisdom of more eloquently spoken words by previous speakers. The value of this natural open space falls far beyond the comprehensive of economics. It is inevitable that unless we make choices to protect our parks and open spaces, places like Far North Bicentennial Park have been, and will forever be targeted, pressured and bombarded by those vying for space to accommodate their interests. They are all valid interests, but a choice to remove any 25 acres of any such place for any reason is a choice to continue traveling the eroded path of our generation's damages. In a brief time in history, we have irretrievably clear-cut, excavated and paved a huge chunk out of the future and we continue to do so. Due to the trends of the past 50 years, the residents of tomorrow will honor the decision to salvage and uphold the master plan's vision of a remaining area in Far North Bicentennial Park. There are other options for ball fields. There are no options for expanding the shrinking boundaries of these natural spaces. She opposed the amendment. She supports the vitality of all open public space. These days a decision made for no change is a big change. Embrace that.

MARK FIRST said in the words of a great American author the way he stands on this issue is "I'm the Loral and I speak for the trees." He also works for the trees as a volunteer for the park on National Trails Day. It was interesting that the Little League was trying to preserve what they call a great American past time, which is true. What has also long been considered a great American past time is the art of negotiation and compromise. In fact that has been used far more and far longer than baseball. Any contentious issue in American history has always been decided through negotiation and compromise from the time of Thomas Jefferson. No party gets everything they want, but most parties get what they truly need. Mr. Manser stated in his recent newspaper article that the League would have to be dissolved if they were not given this particular piece of ground right now. He hoped for the children in his League that he was a better manager than that and he had a better plan in place in the event the Assembly votes no on the amendment. We should engage in the greatest of American past times and find a solution that works for everybody and get behind a viable alternative to find a solution that will work for everyone.

DR. ART GUSS said he moved into Anchorage in 1964 and shortly thereafter became involved in Parks and Recreation issues. He went on to the Borough Parks and Recreation Commission and was vice chair and chair. He went on to the Municipal Assembly as vice chair and chair for many years through the late 1980s. He worked closely with Dory Clark, Rita Henderickson and many of the others who were so critically important in making Bicentennial Park happen. He felt it was important to look at the historical perspective and the intent of the plan. He was one of the members who wrote the original Bicentennial Park plan. He was also on the committee that wrote the revised plan. The intent was that the park was to be divided into thirds. The upper third against the state park was to be kept in its wilderness state. The middle third was primarily for winter and summer trails. It was always intended that the periphery of the park were to be used for development. The only reason the ball fields are having to be located where they are now is because BLM has managed to justify their existence and stay there beyond the 15 years that was intended. If it had not been for BLM still being there, that would be a golf course. It was planned to have three Municipal golf courses. There was to be a large complex of soccer fields, Little League fields and softball fields. It was intended that we develop the fringe of the park from the Hillside area around to the commercial and public facilities on Tudor. It was never intended to lock this park up for a very limited use. There are a relatively small number of people who are very well intentioned, organized and spoken that are not satisfied with exclusive trail use for two-thirds of this park. Mayor Wuerch, the administration and the Little League are right. We desperately need these ball fields. The city owns this property now. We do not have the money to go out and take property off the tax rolls when we already have the land and for the

use that it was intended. He did not think anyone had worked harder on park issues over the last 30 years than he had. Clearly this was the intent of the plan.

In response to Ms. Shamburg, Mr. Guss said when the plan was originally written they had various groups that were interested in different agendas. What finally ended up being put down on the plan was a compromise. He was on that group and the intent was that they would have ball fields, soccer fields and various other things along that strip. Just because it was shown in the BLM area does not mean we should not consider adjusting it. The intent was that there would be development. Parks are for people. There are over 4,000 acres in the park. He felt it was ridiculous to be concerned over cutting down some of the trees on 25 acres for ball fields. He assured the Assembly that the original intent of the plan was that those facilities would be developed along that side of the park. The intent may not have been put in writing clearly, but that was the intent. He did not see how anyone could read the plan and not realize that it was the intent of the plan to put ball fields on that side of the park. They were intended to utilize the cleared areas of the BLM access, because BLM was to be gone at that point.

NANCY SHAREHORN said she supported the proposed amendment to the Bicentennial Park plan. She had many heartfelt reasons why she felt the amendment should be made. She is the mother of three Little League players, although they do not play in the Simonian Little League. She has seen the benefits of Little League and she felt it was important to support all of the Little League organizations. There are many practical reasons why we need to support this amendment. Everyone wants a win-win situation. Everyone likes trees and animals. The problem with the solutions other than Bicentennial Park is that none of them have come to fruition over the last few years that this issue has been studied, worked over and reviewed. The Assembly is looking for ways to cut funds from the budget and it is not practical to come up with new funds to buy parkland. The other option is to put this on a bond issue, which was addressed in the survey, which was said to be biased although it was consistent with the Hilltop vote. We do not know what will happen with the bond issue. There are a lot of factors that go into that. If that bond issue fails then where are we left? Do we go back to ground zero and start this two or three year process all over again? She urged the Assembly to be practical and to vote for the proposed amendment.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Sharehorn said as a taxpayer she believes in fiscal responsibility. She would support a land trade that did not have higher developmental costs than Bicentennial Park.

STEPHANIE VORHEES submitted a petition, which was the completion of the petition that was submitted last week. It has a total of 1,310 signatures opposing the amendment. She is a resident of Anchorage and owns property in the Abbott Loop area. She asked the Assembly to vote no on the amendment. Prior to moving to Anchorage, she lived in the Washington, D.C. area in a suburban county with the population of 1,000,000 people. She chose to move to Anchorage, taking a significant salary reduction and facing higher living costs, because there was something much more valuable here. Our open, natural space and the impact it has on daily life, physical, mental and community is more valuable. There are not many discussions regarding open, natural space in the Washington, D.C. area for obvious reasons. What space there is, is crowded and developed. Little League in that area leased Municipal fields, as did all private sport clubs, or they bought and maintained their own fields. Apparently we are fortunately enough in Anchorage to be discussing the provision of ball fields for each area Little League. She was concerned that the Mayor and Parks and Beautification have decided that in order to provide those fields we must chip away at our natural, open space, which is one of our most valuable assets. The thought of this valuable parkland being bulldozed is sickening to her personally, but more importantly to our city as a whole. Our Mayor and his administration have been quoted as saying we must choose between kids and trees. Such divisiveness is destructive to our community and is completely unnecessary. There are good, viable solutions to the needs for active sport fields that provide an opportunity to provide additional parkland in areas of need such as the northern and western Abbott Loop areas and that allow the preservation of our wild parkland. Land Design North and numerous private citizens have identified such solutions. The city has persisted in choosing the expedient solution of using Far North Bicentennial Park. She said "shame on you" to the administration. Rather than working towards a solution that benefits our community as a whole, you choose the expedient road. Rather than choosing cooperation and collaboration, you choose divisiveness. What lesson are we teaching the children of Anchorage? She hoped they could work together to find the best solution. In the course of these discussions terms such as tree-hugger, greenie, kid-hater, and eco-terrorist have been thrown around. She was none of the above. She is a concerned citizen and a taxpayer and a super voter. She believed that there was a constructive, not destructive, solution to this problem.

PHYLLIS RHODES said she had lived in Anchorage for over 35 years, 34 of which were in the mid-Hillside area. She has two grown daughters who still live in Anchorage and as children they played Little League. She has two grandsons who currently play Little League. She was not against ball fields, but she felt there must be better alternatives for the location than wooded parkland. The time she spends with her daughters and grandsons in Bicentennial Park is a time of deep, close, personal quality family life that cannot be found at any ballgame. After September 11, 2001 and the terrible images on television, the one thing her soul craved was to get out into nature and the undisturbed Bicentennial Park was there for her. This year she sees more and more people taking advantage of the peacefulness of this park. There are presently cleared lands and ball fields in the Service High School area where the sledding area is located that could be developed to meet the current and immediate needs of the Simonian Little League. There is space behind the school for a fourth field. There is already parking available there and a newly developed traffic patterns with turn lanes. The area could be developed at a fraction of the monetary and esthetic cost of clear-cutting existing wilderness. If the long-range solution is a bond issue to purchase parkland, she always votes to make Anchorage a better place to live. She asked the Assembly not to rush into a vote to amend the existing parkland to satisfy a relatively small population of users.

TIM RYERD said he was a property owner and taxpayer in Anchorage. He was opposed to amending the charter. He was not an environmentalist. He works as a petroleum geologist and he is pro-development in

many issues, but this was not one of them. There are plenty of cleared spaces in Anchorage that could be considered for ball fields. There are existing ball fields that could be considered as well. He spoke personally with people in the Independence Park area when he was passing around petitions and all the people he spoke with were in favor of finding a solution that would add parklands to that part of the city. Previous speakers have spoken regarding the intent of adding ball fields to the park when the plan was developed. When the parkland was first acquired, Anchorage was a different town. Even if their intent was that these areas would be developed, Anchorage had a lot more open space at that time. Things have changed and Anchorage does not have the open space that it used to. We have land that is available and cleared for ball fields. He felt there was no reason to clear-cut an area that is old growth and irreplaceable. It is not a single use area and there are many different types of activities that go on in this area. All of those activities are just as valuable as Little League. No one who has testified seems to be anti-Little League. The issue is coming up with a solution that can be a win-win solution for all of us.

SUSAN POPE said she and her husband have lived in Zodiac Manner for 18 years. They have walked the proposed 25 acres regularly. Why must we choose between ball fields and natural parkland? What is the big rush? Several alternatives to Bicentennial Park have been proposed. Why can't we form a community coalition to come up with a viable alternative? We could pursue the purchase of Art Simonian's property or the Dimond and 88<sup>th</sup> location or several other alternatives that have been offered. The Little Leaguers want their own place to play. We do not want to lose Bicentennial Park. These are neighborhood trails and this is already a neighborhood park. She felt the issue deserved working through a process in which both sides would get what they wanted. The time pressure is on to get the ball fields done by the date of their eviction notice of 2004. What about playing on other fields temporarily until another site is ready? There are lots of other available fields. This site is worth saving. Once it has been cleared, it can never be put back into its natural state. This is not a decision that should be made because of expediency. We need to consider the long-term impact of ball fields on the surrounding neighborhoods. She lived next to the ball fields on 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunrise. The noise was horrendous and the traffic was really bad. She moved into the neighborhood when the ball fields were already there so she had no reason to complain. She felt they should consider the long-term impact of this site on Abbott Loop Road, which is a narrow road without shoulders. Who would pay for the upgrade and the expanded parking? We do not know anything about these costs. There are many other fields where kids could play until an appropriate site was chosen, but we may not need to do that if we can find a site to purchase that is already cleared. She asked the Assembly to consider the long-term impact of their decision. If they amend the Bicentennial Park plan to allow the ball fields, how can they turn back requests for other Little Leagues or soccer fields? We would eat away at this beautiful parkland until it is completely gone. Then we will be just like any other urban city. Please do not make a decision just because it is cheap and expedient, because it will be neither.

The meeting recessed for a break.

REBECA KING said she was not originally from Anchorage. She grew up in a small town in Illinois. Her family lived in the country. She always said if she had a family of her own that she would return to Illinois to raise her children. Illinois is a great place with wholesome values, family oriented activities and as American as baseball and apple pie. But it is years away before she has a family and she wanted to enjoy her single life also. She chose to move to Anchorage after college. When she first moved here all she could find were family oriented activities. Soon she discovered mountain biking and then she started trail running. Her first winter here she learned that you do not have to be an Olympic athlete to ski. She discovered there were many activities for normal everyday people. Thanks to the trails right inside the city, we can do all those things right after work. The trails are a great place to meet awesome people. Her and her friends always go skiing or running after work. As a single person, Anchorage is wonderful and it has changed her life. As a child she played baseball. She lived six miles from town, but her parents found a way to get them to every practice and every game. Until she moved to Anchorage, she thought it would be crazy to walk or bike six miles. Now she runs marathons. She has competed in world class athletic events. She now knows anybody is capable of doing these things. Someday she will be married and will have children of her own. She no longer wants to return to Illinois to raise her family, because Anchorage is now her home. She wants her children to play baseball. She also wants to be the 40 year old mother who teaches her children how to mountain bike. She wants her husband to teach her children to ski in the winter. She wants to show her children what they are capable of. She wants them to know that team sports are great, but she wants them to be able to do both. There is a way for us to have both, but we have to find it. There is a solution that will meet everyone's needs. There is a solution for families and single people. We need to find that solution before we rush into a decision that we are going to regret.

Mr. Van Etten said Becky King was the one female member of a four-person team that won the Military Eco-challenge this year, which was a tremendous race held here in Alaska. Then Becky's team represented the United States and the Military in the International Eco-challenge in New Zealand and they were one of the most competitive teams in the world in the eco-challenge competition.

CLOE STOKES said she was eight years old. She did not want the baseball fields, because it was ruining our forests and our animals would die if you cut down trees. We want our animals to survive.

SONYA STOKES urged the Assembly to vote no on the amendment of the Far North Bicentennial Park plan. She was raised in Anchorage on the edge of the Bicentennial Park. Her and her brother played in that area where they planned to put the ball fields as children. We are going to regret not keeping this land for our children and our grandchildren. Once you plow the land down, it will be gone forever. We need to consider the other locations for the ball fields before we make a hasty decision. The Little Leagues can have their fields, we can keep our park and everybody will be happy. This is not something that needs to be decided right now. We do not need to cut down the forests and build the ball fields here. They can put them elsewhere.

Mr. Kerwin Krause said he had been doing a lot of skiing on Hillside and the Bicentennial Park area. He has skied in that area for the last 30 years. His family also runs and mountain bikes in the area. He has had two fliers put on the windshield of his vehicle in the last two months regarding this amendment. He and his family also recreate in Kincaid Park and the Chugach State Park. As a teenager growing up in Anchorage 30 years ago, he was involved in motorcycle racing. They used to race through the Bicentennial Park area before it was a park. Now that these parks have been created, the areas no longer exist for motorcycle racing. In the summertime most of the school ball fields seem to be occupied. He felt a ball field in Bicentennial Park would be a good deal. It would add increased parking. He did not feel it would affect the park that much. He noted that if all of the ball fields in Anchorage were added up, it would be very small acreage compared to the amount of parkland we have.

MIKE LONGLET said he had been a registered voter in Anchorage for the last 24 years. He encouraged the Assembly to vote no on amending the Bicentennial Park plan. Over the years he has been a hockey coach. He has never been a baseball coach, however family members have participated in that sport. He understands and respects the need for increased ball fields as well as increased utilization of the fields we currently have. He felt strongly that the Bicentennial Park area was not the appropriate place for the ball fields.

MELINDA LONGLET said she was a registered voter and lived in Zodiac Manner. She grew up using Bicentennial Park and continues to use the park for skiing and hiking. She was opposed to any development of the park. She wanted to see Bicentennial Park preserved for future generations.

WALT PARKER said he was opposed to the amendment of Bicentennial Park. He first started using Bicentennial Park 44 years ago when he moved to Anchorage. In those days he shared the park with the Army. His dog teams would sometimes chase the tanks, because the tank crews would throw them sandwiches. After the borough was created in 1970, the Army moved out of the park and they buckled down and formed a Parks and Recreation Council in Anchorage, which he chaired. They formed some task forces and people got to work and laid the base for the greenbelts, Kincaid Park and Bicentennial Park. He was on the Assembly in 1974 when they got the parks through. The intent from the beginning was that this would be a low activity park. He assured the Assembly that their intent was to have a great park and this amendment would detract from this being a great park.

RITA HENDRICKSON said she had been working on the Bicentennial Park as chairman of a number of the boards and transfer agencies since 1970. She chaired the task force under the Parks and Recreation Council many years ago. She was then on the Borough Parks and Recreation Council. She gave a history of Bicentennial Park. She was on the Borough Park Board developed the request to have the park named Bicentennial Park and go forward as a Bicentennial project. Given the climate in Anchorage at that time, if it had not been the Bicentennial, we probably would not have the park. We have a treasure now. She chaired the State Bicentennial Commission and herded the action to get the land transferred as a park and accepted as a Bicentennial project for the state. Former Mayor Tony Knowles appointed her as chairman of the committee that put together the 1985 plan. Prior to that she represented the public at large on the interim committee that drew up the transfer documents from the federal government to the state and then to the city. At no time had they talked about putting ball fields in that area. The active area that was to be for sports was the BLM land. We could not plan that land, because BLM was retaining it for 20 years and now they have renewed that. We talked about a number of other areas. She was tired of fighting everybody who wants to develop the park piecemeal. She urged the Assembly not to vote for the amendment. In a few months you will have somebody else in here asking for something else. If you feel something should be done, look at the entire piece of ground and take the time to plan it. She was not pro or con ball fields. She was against amending the plan for one purpose only. We had this same battle with Hilltop. They were just going to just put one lift there and the next thing we knew it was exploding. If they had their way they would have whole section up there. She asked the Assembly to look at the park as a whole package and the treasure it was to Anchorage.

PAT HANSON said she was a resident in south Anchorage and a statistician by profession. She addressed the survey commissioned by the Simonian Little League. She had no question that Helen Fawn Associates did a good job administering the survey, but the results were only as good as the question that was asked in the survey. The question that was asked in the survey had several major problems. The first problem was the question was way too long and complicated. It would have been difficult for someone familiar with the issue to comprehend that survey question. There is a branch of statistics dedicated to conducting surveys and taking polls. Through years of research they have developed guidelines for these surveys and polls. According to their guidelines a telephone survey question should be short, concise and not more than 25 words. If it cannot be phrased in less than 25 words, it should not be asked over the telephone. The survey question in the Simonian Little League survey was 194 words, which is 13 lines of typed text or about a third of a typed page. The question was read to the person being surveyed, while they were cooking dinner, over the telephone, which made it very difficult to comprehend. The second problem with the survey was the content of the question. The same group of statisticians has shown that survey questions that state the opinions of others will influence the results of the respondents. The Simonian Little League question included the statement "the Planning and Zoning Commission approved amending the park's master plan." Including this statement in the question biased the results in favor of amending the plan. The question could have included another equally true statement such as "Parks and Recreation did not approve amending the master plan" and the results would have been significantly different. She believed the results of the survey were biased and did not accurately represent the population. She urged the Assembly not to consider the survey when making their decision.

DAVE MESSIER said he was a resident of south Anchorage and a Bicentennial Park user. He has skied, snowshoed and biked in the park. He opposed the amendment to convert these lands into ball fields. Our wild natural parklands are valuable to the community and yet they are scarce and under pressure from development all the time. He has heard other testimony saying these lands were not scarce and there was

plenty of available wildland in Anchorage. The wildland is not that abundant. If you fly over the Anchorage bowl you will see that Anchorage is heavily developed. These parks do not get converted to development all at once, but they are chipped away at over time. The reasons are always the same, expediency, proximity and the idea that wildland is abundant. He urged the Assembly not to let this happen to this popular and well-used area. The existing tract of land under consideration had multiple uses. It provides a place for numerous compatible uses such as skiing, hiking, running, biking, orienteers, horse riding and many other activities. It gives them an easily accessible place to recreate. The proposal to create ball fields out of this area disenfranchises all of these users, children included, for the express benefit of those who would use the area for baseball. Other alternatives do exist for ball fields and an attempt should be made to find and finance one of the alternatives. Last year the Hilltop Ski area requested some land, this year the Simonian Little League is requesting land and next year someone else would request land. He urged the Assembly to vote no on the proposal.

RICKY LEDMAN said she was a 21-year resident in Anchorage and has seen a lot of changes in the city. She opposed amending the Bicentennial Park plan. She did not necessarily think that everything needed to fair or a win-win situation. Life is not always fair. There are a lot of people who live here and cherish the parkland in Anchorage. She urged the Municipality to encourage the Simonian Little League to use the existing school ball fields. If they do not want to use school ball fields then we should step up to the plate and go for a bond package for a multi-purpose facility, such as something that uses the ball parks in the summertime, but can be converted into winter recreational uses as well. Parkland in Anchorage cannot be undervalued, because it exists here and does not exist in very many other states. We are very fortunate. The public is not fully informed on this issue. After attending several of the Assembly meetings, she realized it was a complex issue and not something you could do a phone survey on. She urged the Assembly to vote sensibly and not appear to the most popular.

CONNIE SLEE said she has lived in Anchorage for 17 years in the area of the park. She is a public school teacher and works with kids all the time. She uses the park and she felt it was a wonderful place. People without money can use the park. All you need is a pair of shoes and you can go out there and go running or walking. As more people become aware that being physically active is important, it is good to have a place to go where people do not have to pay to go and exercise. The park is unique and fantastic in the fact that it is a piece of biology that you can be in and experience. As we keep chipping away and taking little parts of the park, eventually it will not be there and it will be gone forever. Bicentennial Park is what makes Anchorage unique.

PAUL FOREMAN said he was speaking for himself as well as the Knik Group of the Sierra Club, which includes about 1,200 people with 1,000 living in Anchorage. He is a heavy user of the park. He mushes, skis, runs, mountain bikes and many other activities. Bicentennial Park is one of the most valued and important reasons why he lives in Anchorage. He questioned why this was even being considered. The city owns the land that the Assembly chambers is on, but we would not build a field here because it was already being used. He questioned why undeveloped land was considered unused. The natural resources in an undeveloped land is as much used and as important as a library, a school and all the other land uses that we have in the city. As a physician, balance and moderation is something he preaches every day to his patients. If you eat a high fat diet, bad things happen. If you develop all the land, bad things happen. We have to preserve a balance. We would support other measures to obtaining other land to solve this problem. We would support multiple use of preexisting lands such as schools. Under no circumstances should we even be considering violating a wild natural place that is such a treasure and makes Anchorage so different than other over developed cities. The Assembly has a very tough, but very important job. The Assembly's job is to preserve Anchorage as a special place and to follow the 2020 Plan and protect Anchorage from special interests that would chip away at our precious treasure. This issue is not about providing ball fields for a small group of people. This is about changing the plan of the park, which would open the door to future developments. The changing of the park plan is more than just providing a ball field for a small group of people.

BOBBY WOFTER said he was a 20-year-old University of Alaska Anchorage student and an Eagle Scout. He went to high school and junior high just blocks away from the park at Polar K-12. He has used the park in the winter and the summer. In the Eagle Scouts he went with a group and they built a Quinsy village in the middle of the park with special permission. The park is being used. Many of the people opposing the park are super voters from all over the city. The tally for the four days was 32 people for the amendment and 86 against the amendment. These people are the ones that decide if the Assembly has a political future. He suggested listening to the people. All you have to do is the right thing and not bulldoze our park.

MELISSA SHELBY said she was an east Anchorage resident. She had planned on going to an organized run at the Far North Bicentennial Park, which was cancelled at the last minute because everyone was coming to the Assembly meeting. She uses the park all the time for running, biking and other activities. She is a new resident of Alaska. One of the reasons she came here was because when you look at the map you see so much parkland designated. The first time she visited the Far North Bicentennial Park she was amazed, because it was primitive. It is the only park in Anchorage that is primitive and that draws her to the park. She can go there after work. There are a wide variety of activities being done in the park. She felt ball fields were important and she would love to help find alternative areas for the ball fields, but she did not want the ball fields in the park. The park is her favorite place in Anchorage. She felt there were other alternatives. Most other cities have trees and do not demolish them for development. She felt Anchorage did that a little too often in Anchorage.

JEFFREY BANNISH said he was a teacher at East High School and he has served as a coach. He noted that his pay has been frozen for the last 10 years. Money was available during good times and bad times. He did not mind voting for the bond issues to find an alternative location. He was opposed to the expansion into Far North Bicentennial Park. He was looking for a net gain in parkland and not just a transfer of parkland to a single use. Within the Land Design North plan there is a provision for ball fields

near Service High School, which could serve as the stopgap if you were worried about expediency. Ball fields close to a school could serve the schools as well as the public. By the time the high school baseball season starts, school is already out. In the Lower '48 the ball fields have a much longer season. The ball fields in Anchorage have about a two-month practical season. The parkland has year round recreational uses. The existing fields are on 6.8 acres and they have requested 25 acres. He heard on the first night that there was a 10 percent decline in enrollment in the Little League. He questioned why they needed four ball fields. He noted that if only 30 percent of the population votes then 18 percent would be a majority and they were opposed to the amendment. He asked the Assembly if they would rather live next to Fenway Park or Yosemite Park.

JEFF KELLER said he was born and raised in Anchorage. He played Simonian Little League in the 1970s on a team that was coached by his father. He wanted the Simonian Little League to get ball fields, but he did not feel that the proposed site in Bicentennial Park was good for many reasons. He felt there were sites available that would better serve the community. He felt Bicentennial Park was a poor site for ball fields, because this area has already been designated for a community park. A ball field is definitely not a community park. It is a sports complex that is made exclusively for a single user. A community park, by most definitions, is something that the entire community can use. This is a bad site for a ballpark, because many different groups are already using the land as a park. Why change one group that is widely used into a park that will be used by a small exclusive group? Instead let's create new parkland buying the Simonians some land on another site. The reasons the Simonians want this site are not valid. The land in Bicentennial Park has been called free land. If this site is chosen, 25 acres must be cleared, the road must be improved and the ball fields must be developed. This will cost money. Even if other sites are more expensive, the creation of new parkland would be worth the cost. Why do the Simonians require such a large site? Twenty-five acres seems to be larger than other fields and maybe not necessary. Perhaps a small field built elsewhere would negate any cost advantage to using Bicentennial Park. The main argument presented for using Bicentennial Park and not the alternative sites is the timeline to have the fields ready. This is an especially troubling argument. With so many people opposed and other sites available, why are we rushing to this site simply because it would be ready sooner? It may happen that the Simonians are inconvenienced through a season, but this sacrifice would be small compared to the sacrifice the community would pay if we start to destroy our open space. It has been suggested that the Bicentennial Park site might not meet the Simonian timeline. If the timeline does not fit, their arguments are not legit. He urged the Assembly to oppose the amendment and support the ball fields in a more appropriate location.

MARY BETH HALLMAN said she has lived in Anchorage for 16 years. She supported maintaining an alternative location for Simonian Little League ball fields. She asked the Assembly not to amend the park plan. She felt that Bicentennial Park should remain as it is so it can be used for 12 months of the year rather than a couple of months of the year by a few people. Every time she goes to Bicentennial Park there are people skiing, walking their dogs and riding their horses at any time of the day or night and any time of the year. She supports an alternative location in an area that is already cleared and leveled and located in centers of community activity rather than at the edge. She was dismayed that so many look at this as an either/or conflict. It is simply a problem to be solved. Some would have us think that this forest is the only viable option and a conflict between kids and organized sports and nature lovers. The rhetoric of winner and loser does a disservice to our community, which requires compromise and cooperation to function. There are a lot of children who use the park as it is. The park is already in use and it is not an unused area. Children especially need naturally wooded areas near their homes where they can explore and encounter wildlife in its natural habitat and not just in a zoo. In such a park they can let their imaginations and sense of wonder flourish. Bicentennial Park is an amazing bit of natural space in our sprawling city. She applauded the efforts of those who were looking for alternative solutions for the ball fields. She felt the issue was a matter of money. The alternative sites require money. We would do well to keep in mind that as humans we know how to make money, but we do not know how to make a forest like the one we are talking about destroying.

DON FLEMMING said he was a 31-year resident of Anchorage. His kids were born in Anchorage and they all played Little League. He believes in Little League. The Far North Bicentennial Park is a community treasure. He asked the Assembly not to spend one more cent of that treasure on anything, not even something as important and vital to our community as Little League. The Assembly has a very difficult decision before them. He asked the Assembly to look down the road 20 or 30 years. Once the bulldozers are in, you cannot go back. He asked the Assembly not to amend the plan.

JEFF CLARK said he was a property owner in Anchorage. He was pro children, pro ball field and pro Little League. He urged the Assembly not to amend the Far North Bicentennial Park master plan. Locating fields in the park has proven to be a particularly divisive issue, which was an extremely troubling aspect of the entire debate. From the very beginning of the debate, it has been positioned as a win-lose proposition regardless of whatever decision was reached. He found this to be both needless and tragic. There are viable alternatives that deserve a reasonable chance to bring about a much needed win-win solution. He asked the Assembly to consider appointing a representative focused task force of all stakeholder groups and give it 90 days to come back to the Assembly with a win-win solution. By doing this, four things would be accomplished. It would force an open and constructive dialogue, which has been sorely lacking. It would allow the Simonian Little League to prove that their primary goal was the acquisition of new fields as opposed to this specific site for new fields. It would allow those that oppose this amendment to prove their support of new fields for Simonian Little League are genuine. The Assembly and the Municipality would be presented with a grassroots solution befitting all the intelligent people who have been involved in this process. He felt it was crucial that expediency did not carry the day when long-term precedence would be the outcome.

LEE WILSON said he was not a very good ball player. He grew up in San Francisco, California and he had a great park out there called Golden Gate Park. He and his best friend used to keep the bus route numbers in their head and they knew how to get to the park from anywhere in the city. Once in that park,

their job was to get lost and they became very good at getting lost. That was the **most fun thing** they could possibly do. Maybe it was those kinds of skills that lead him later to be a great **whitewater guide** in Idaho. He loves getting out in the wilderness and taking people to places that they have **never been** and encountering new situations. When he had a chance to move to Anchorage, he was **awestruck** by the people who had the foresight to set aside a huge tract of land, which in shape generally **duplicated** Golden Gate Park, but in scope came nowhere close to it. He felt they should honor what those people had done by honoring the charter, which he found enchanting by way of its preservation of wild areas, as well as the Anchorage 2020 Plan. He felt we needed to take a look at how we developed land in Anchorage. As a father of three kids, he likes to take them to the public schools to play baseball and they have seldom found any conflict there in the summertime. The grass is high, the trash is plentiful, but the **ball fields** are empty. He knew there was a win-win solution. He would not like to see any more trees taken from Bicentennial Park.

JOE MEEHAN said he lived in south Anchorage. He is a professional land manager and he understands the needs and conflicts of multiple user groups. Many people have spoken out on this issue and some have irresponsibly claimed that this was a pro kid versus anti kid issue. He would like his son to play Little League ball when he is older if he so chooses. The issue is not one of supporting kids or **not supporting** kids. The issue is responsibly managing our parklands and providing for the recreational opportunities for Anchorage residents of all ages. Clearing 25 acres of natural area is not a responsible use of our parklands. This area should continue to provide outdoor opportunities now and in the future. Supporters of placing the ball fields at this site claim that 25 acres is a small sacrifice in an area that has a large **expense** of state parks and national forest lands nearby. While conserving those lands is important, they are **not in our immediate** neighborhoods where our children can enjoy them on a daily basis throughout the year. Visiting the town where he grew up and played baseball reminds him of the open fields, forests, streams and **wetlands** that are now gone and covered with houses, roads and shopping malls. He did not think Anchorage would ever look like his hometown, but it highlights our need to conserve our natural parks. We need to develop opportunities for activities such as Little League in an appropriate area. He expected the Assembly to make a responsible decision on this issue that would reflect the responsible management of our parklands. He asked the Assembly to find a suitable location for our kids to play ball, but not at the **expense** of Far North Bicentennial Park.

CAROLYN GROVE said she grew up in Anchorage and she votes in every election. She felt this issue was much bigger than ball fields and natural areas. She was concerned about the **planning process**. She did not feel that the park plan should be amended or even considered at this point. She **questioned** the purpose of the public process of making that plan if it was not going to be honored as a tool to **guide future** land use decisions. It disturbed her that differing opinions in Anchorage could not be discussed **constructively**. She felt this was a great opportunity for establishing a better way of community decision **making**. The defenders of Bicentennial Park have worked very hard to come up with other options. She felt this was a great chance to see where that goes and to change the way we do things. We should stop the name-calling and work together towards coming up with solutions that meets everyone's needs. She felt it was extremely shortsighted to view natural areas as nothing more than wasted opportunities for **development**. It is more than shortsighted, it is ignorant considering all the examples we have of communities in the Lower '48 that have squandered their resources. She grew up at the intersection of Tudor and Lake Otis. She remembers playing in the woods and a certain tree that she used to climb. All of that is gone. The swamp is drained and it is all cleared over into parking lots and strip malls. She thought kids **needed** to have wild open spaces to play in.

JIM GROVE said he did not support any amendments to the master plan. He was **amazed** to think that Anchorage could come up with a plan for a park and he was astounded that they were **talking about** continuing the master plan to 2020. He would like to see that happen with no **amendments to the** master plan and no addition of ball fields. He would like to see 12-month usage of that parcel of land as opposed to a three-month usage.

JERAMIA MILLIAN said he was opposed to amending the current plan for Far North Bicentennial Park. He moved to Anchorage a couple of months ago from Haines. When he first came to Anchorage, he did not think it was very visually appealing. It is pretty sprawled out with lots of **strip malls**. After he lived here for a while and started to realize that the true jewels of Anchorage was these **beautiful little treasures** that Anchorage has, one of which was Bicentennial Park. He has been using parks such as Bicentennial Park often. He felt it was shocking that we could set aside an area for such a small population of people. You hear all these jokes down in the southeast about Lost Anchorage and Anchorage is **only 10 minutes** away from Alaska. A little bit of that would be true if we did not have these jewels like Bicentennial Park. That is what keeps Anchorage what it is and connected with Alaska. He was concerned **with the** precedence that the amendment would set in the future. Anchorage is projected for an **explosive growth** in the next 15 years. He was definitely pro children. He played Little League as a child. He was also pro healthy lifestyle. Ball playing is a healthy lifestyle, but so are other sports. Bicentennial Park embodies all of those activities. As a newcomer, he felt he could offer fresh eyes to the issue. If **you decide** to take 25 acres, that park will never be the same.

CHRIS HAMMERY said he was representing HALO, which is the home and landowners for area G in south Anchorage, which is the area south of Dowling Road and east of the Seward **Highway**. For over 25 years they have concerned themselves with this area of town, which is the area of town that the Simonians are looking to build ball parks in. A homeowners group with as many members as **ours often** has a tough time making decisions about land use issues. Sometimes members will want to put **Little League** ball parks in land like this while others will want soccer, football or residential development. Yet **still** others hope to have it kept in its current natural condition. The HALO Board easily agreed that they **did not** believe that the Bicentennial Park land was the best location for the Simonian ball fields for a **number of reasons**. The Land Design North study designated a number of locations that fit the Simonians' needs. The result of the study was that the Parks Commission did not send forward this piece of property as their **recommendation**.

Multiple use fields for multiple users are a consideration. As land becomes less available in Anchorage, we need to find ways to use more land more often. It does not make sense that schools have ball fields available and left largely unused in the summer when the Little Leagues want to build new fields from scratch. The Assembly is in a position to encourage the School District and organized sports to learn to work together to use these fields more often. We believe that the Simonians in the Bicentennial Park was contrary to the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan would expect that ball fields should be placed near and in conjunction with town centers. Putting the Simonians in Bicentennial Park is another example of planning by exception. On the Hillside we often see zoning amendments or amendments to the Hillside Wastewater Management Plan. We make a plan and then continually make changes over the years leaving neighborhoods looking very different than originally envisioned. The Bicentennial Park plan did not place organized club ball fields on this piece of land. If the Simonians get these 25 acres, we will need to be prepared for the next group of organized sports that believe a precedence has been set and that the city has land for soccer, football and baseball leagues in the Bicentennial Park. Hilltop skiers have been granted lands with subsequent expansion into the park. Soholly Subdivision has pushed residential development into the park. A waterline is coming down the west border of the park and some would like Bragaw to come with that waterline with much more of the parameter being available for development. The Bicentennial Park is part of our community to be proud of and the challenge is on all of us to learn to keep it for the long-term. HALO asks that the Assembly does not amend the plan to provide for ball fields in the park and that they encourage them to look seriously at working with other available locations.

FRED OWEN said he lived at the corner of Abbott Loop Road and 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue. If you were to walk in the spring and summertime in that little parcel of 25 acres, you would find that the land is incredibly lush. It is full of dense growth and really incredible. He was against any singular use of the land. He has coached soccer and baseball. They would like to have that parcel of land also if it were open to them, but he did not think it was right. There is a lot of growth in a lot of sports activities. If you give up an inch, people are going to want a mile. It will not take long for the parkland to be gone. There are schools and alternative areas that can be utilized. There are other options. You could have single baseball fields in various locations rather than having four fields in one location. He has one road in and one road out to his home and this would overload that street. There are no thoroughfares for 80<sup>th</sup>, 84<sup>th</sup> or 88<sup>th</sup> Streets. Anyone living in those areas would have to live with traffic problems every day in the summertime. Parks are needed, but he would rather see that one parcel of lush property left like it is.

LISA LONGLETT said she was a 24-year Alaska resident. She was born and raised in Anchorage. She is a proud elementary teacher for the Anchorage School District teaching at Northstar Elementary School. She was against the amendment to the Far North Bicentennial Park plan. She grew up next to the park and would often hike, bike, run and ski along its trails. She was also a Little Leaguer for 13 years for both Simonian and Abbott O Rabbit Little Leagues. Both the Little Leagues and the Bicentennial Park offer positive recreational environments for children and families. But we need a win-win solution for everyone. She was opposed to amending the Far North Bicentennial Park. She would consider each Assemblymember's vote when it was her turn to vote.

BRANDY TYSON said she lives in midtown Anchorage. She has lived all over the nation and all over the world. When she finally chose a place to live, she chose to live in Anchorage. She chose to live in Anchorage for many of the reasons that people have already talked about. She chose Anchorage because of the accessibility to the trails, the wilderness and the serene places that offer time and space to reflect on her life and to reconnect with the real world. The fact that these trails are accessible from anywhere in town and the open spaces are so large and you can easily get lost in your own thoughts and circumstances was important. This is what makes Anchorage unique. She asked the Assembly to look beyond the 2020 Plan and to think about their grandchildren's grandchildren. They are going to live in a world that is so complex and inundated with technology that we are not able to comprehend what they will be going through. She felt it would be important for them to have places to get away from it all and to reconnect with the real world, as well as to smell and taste fresh air and remember what it is like to feel alive. She has lived in big cities and she noticed that a transformation took place in her persona and soul. Despite visiting the grassy parklands that the cities offered, her heartbeat faded. It was not until she visited the countryside and the mountains that she felt refreshed and alive. In Anchorage we have the ability to achieve the solace and to offer this peace and solitude to not only our generation and the generation to come, but to generations that we cannot even think about. She asked the Assembly to consider this and to vote no on this amendment and to find a better alternative.

RUTH MULTON said she was told she had to testify because she lives downtown and uses the park. She was not only a super voter, but she has been at it longer than most people who have testified have. All she wanted the Assembly to do was to consider the park uses of her generation, your generation, the children and the children to come. If you do that, you will make a very good decision.

ANABELLE ALVETTE said she had not planned to speak, but she felt the outpouring of passionate feelings that brought the community together over a divisive issue was wonderful. She was opposed to the amendment of Bicentennial Park. She felt they had a huge amount of valuable and natural capital in this park. By being undeveloped, it has a lot more value in that the people who have testified are here because they love the fact that we are so close to nature in Anchorage. She does not go to the park to do all these wonderful outdoor REI granola things that everyone is doing, but she goes there because she can be alone and with nature and it helps her spirituality. She is not a bible thumper or anything like that, but she does have spirituality. She finds that in nature you could be close to the creator and she would hate to see that destroyed with ballparks. She felt ballparks were wonderful, but it would be a travesty to put them in Bicentennial Park. She quoted from a book called National Capitalism. It is important to bear in mind that nature bats last and owns the stadium. She felt we were very fortunate to have such a wonderful stadium to play in.

KEVIN BROBURG said when he and his brother go over to his grandfather's house they play in the woods. If the Assembly votes to plow down these woods then the animals would have to move to someplace else.

Chairman Traini asked if anyone else wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to continue the public hearing on  
AO 2001-174 to January 15, 2002  
instead of January 8, 2002.

- B. Resolution No. AR 2001-332, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing \$2,352,882 to the MOA Trust Fund Reserve Fund (731) and \$138,000 to the Areawide General Fund (101), Finance.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 929-2001.
  2. Resolution No. AR 2001-332(S), a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing \$2,352,882 to the MOA Trust Fund Reserve Fund (731) and \$138,000 to the Areawide General Fund (101), Office of Management and Budget.
  3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 987-2001.
- (CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wuerch moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,

the S version of AR 2001-332 for  
discussion purposes.

Mayor Wuerch said Mr. Greene had some reservations about using the S version of AR 2001-332 with the current title. A consequence of the budget amendments was that there were a number of things that needed to be done with the distribution of the proceeds of the Bank of America settlement. The original title was more specific than it should have been. It would be a sounder practice to introduce a new title. He suggested setting public hearing for January 8, 2002.

Mr. Tremaine moved,  
seconded by Mr. Tesche,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to change the title of AR 2001-332(S)  
and set the public hearing for January  
8, 2002.

Mayor Wuerch, Mr. Tremaine and Mr. Tesche joined in introducing AR 2001-332(S). The public hearing was scheduled for January 8, 2002.

Chairman Traini read the new title into the record for AR 2001-332(S). A resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 for the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing the proceeds into the MOA Trust and other funds.

Ms. Fairclough pointed out that they received a letter from the Anchorage School District. She hoped they would have a memorandum speaking to that. The School District felt they were entitled to a portion of the Bank of America settlement. She requested a memorandum on the Mayor's and the Legal Department's interpretation on that issue and whether or not they would consider the School Districts fund balance when making those kind of decisions.

Mayor Wuerch pointed out that the School District did not participate in the lawsuit. The administration would be happy to provide that summary of the circumstances.

Ms. Von Gemmingen said normally when they received money they had a piece of paper before them that accepted the money and put it into an a specific account. Her concern was they have received the money, but had not accepted it on paper yet.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mayor Wuerch suggested keeping the S version alive as an option in case there was a division of opinion on whether the money should be put in the trust or the trust reserve.

In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Mayor Wuerch said the text of the S version indicated where the money would go. The problem with the S version was that they were stretching the title by making quite a departure from what the title says. Secondly, this puts the money in the trust reserve. The new title introduced tonight is an option to put the money into the trust.

- C. Ordinance No. AO 2001-184, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 6.10 (Budget and Appropriations Generally) by enacting a new Section 6.10.045 relating to approved capital budgets and capital programs, Assemblymembers Tesche and Taylor.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 917-2001.
  2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 974-2001.
- (CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Tesche moved,  
seconded by Ms. Taylor,

to approve AO 2001-184.

Mr. Tesche said he regarded this as a housekeeping ordinance. The issue came to light when he learned that through the years a practice had been developed of wiping the slate clean of Assembly actions on capital programs. Typically a capital program budget was prepared by the administration and presented to the Assembly every year for enactment. Assemblymembers receiving input from community councils and other community organizations typically added their own programs or projects to the program proposed by the Mayor, which in turn was approved into law. They discovered that every year the slate was wiped clean on prior projects and a new program was submitted by the administration without regard to what had been approved in prior years. He was concerned that the documents presented to the Assembly did not reflect the actions of the prior years and projects that were previously approved would be lost. Several months after action on the capital budget, constituents could come to them and ask what happened to the park that they put on the budget two years ago. He prepared an ordinance that would make it very clear that once the Assembly approved a capital program, regardless of what year they were in, that program would stay put until the Assembly, by a majority vote, made any changes. In the following year the administration would prepare a document that reflected the program as it existed last year plus any changes or recommendations that the administration made. The Assembly would then be free to accept or reject any of the recommendations made by the administration or the Assembly. In that regard, this respects the traditional practice that legislation is permanent until it is changed. It also helps Assemblymembers remember what has been done in prior years and maintains the continuity of actions that had previously been taken by the Assembly. He regarded this as a housekeeping measure and urged its adoption.

Ms. Von Gemmingen spoke in opposition to the resolution. It sounds good and looked good on paper, but in reality it was setting a bad precedent. Each year the administration provides a prioritized list of projects. These projects are considered each year to determine where they fit in the grand scheme of things. If they are emergency type things, they are put to the front of the list. If they are not, they are put on the next year's list. The budget department maintains these lists and can tell you what was on the previous year's list. The projects also appear in our budget books. If we feel our projects are important, we can move them up to the front as long as we have six votes. She felt it was proper to look at all the projects each year, because we have new projects coming online and some projects do not seem as important as they did in the prior years.

Ms. Taylor spoke in support of the ordinance. The AMATS process has frustrated many Assemblymembers. They feel like they develop the list of projects only to find that the administration arbitrarily changes the priorities. She felt this ordinance would set guidelines to insure that the projects actually reflected what the constituents wanted. She felt this would retain the integrity of the process.

Mr. Van Etten spoke in favor of the ordinance. When he first started going to community council meetings, he found that projects had slipped and slid all over the place. He did not feel that the ordinance took away any of the ability of the administration, community councils or other sources to bring forward other projects. It would maintain the project list from year to year, which could be amended by Assembly action.

Mayor Wuerch said this ordinance was not a housekeeping issue, but a fundamental change in the process. The beginning of the process was the circulation of the capital projects list to community council meetings every February and March. We go to the community councils and listen to the input of community groups who have the initiative to come forward with proposals. The boards and commissions input their wish list to the capital project list. This is a collaborative process that is done every year. If we do not do it every year, the year that a particular set of priorities is set stays in place. The leadership of community councils and other groups changes as does the needs of the community. He felt they would be creating a situation that would disenfranchise the process. It would also close out the source of information available from the project managers and the design teams that work on these projects. Sometimes projects slip and it is frustrating to see what appears to be unjustified slippage of projects because the AMATS staff did not get to it. The city should be managing those projects and not the Department of Transportation. We need to change the process and have AMATS put that money in the hands of the Municipality so we can bring those projects to the Assembly on time and on budget. Being a victim of the Department of Transportation process is a disadvantage to a municipality like Anchorage. We need to fix the AMATS process, but this is not the right fix. If you are concerned about your constituents being able to input their priorities each year, this is not the process you want. He hoped they would consider this very carefully, because it unravels the ability to gather input at the grassroots level and each year revalidate those lists of priorities. In the final analysis, the Assembly's votes will put the projects in the priority they want them. All you are receiving from the administration in these lists is the collected inputs from the citizens, the project staff and the funding sources. He felt the Assembly should consider this and all its ramifications. He encouraged the Assembly to postpone this issue until they had an opportunity to go back and talk to community councils to see if they really wanted the six-year plan to be locked in unless the Assembly changed that. They would not have a chance to give direct input each year. He encouraged the Assembly not to adopt this ordinance, but at the very least think to through very carefully.

Ms. Fairclough spoke in favor of the ordinance for all of the reasons that the Mayor stated as well as the reasons Ms. Von Gemmingen had mentioned. Memorializing a document that community councils could rely on and speak specifically to for amendments was something they had not seen. They tend to submit information and when the administration's answer comes back it does not look like what the community submitted. If we had a memorialized document, they would be able to speak to specifics as to how they

really felt about the project and the project ranking. The community would have a better opportunity to weigh in on each of the issues. When she reviewed the document, she would like to see how the prioritized projects were being amended. She did not want to take any power from the engineers or the administration in making good recommendations to the Assembly, but this ordinance specifically guarantees that they would have something to measure those changes against. Whatever was happening to our community, we would be able to balance and weigh it against the previous year's actions to see if it passed muster so that six Assembly members or more could vote for the change. She encouraged the Assembly members to vote yes on the ordinance and to encourage the Mayor, the staff and the department heads to contribute, receive information from the community councils and measure that against the document that was memorialized.

Ms. Shamberg encouraged a yes vote on the ordinance. She was shocked during the capital project period when she looked at previous approved projects and compared them to what had been done. It was very difficult and very convoluted. Apparently there was no communication when these things were dropped to the Assembly people who represented the district that the projects were supposed to be in. It was very difficult to reconstruct what had or had not been performed.

Mr. Tremaine said he supported the ordinance. He felt the Mayor was real clear. We passed an ordinance that was a five-year plan that means nothing. We see it, we pass it and then it cannot be counted on by anyone, because it is guaranteed to change the next year. He felt that was bad policy and bad planning. He has talked to community councils. In Girdwood they are incredibly disappointed in the municipality year and year as their projects slip. The community councils that he has talked to would like to have some continuity. It takes six votes to change the order this way as opposed to six votes to redo the order. That was a subtle difference, but could make a big difference when it came down to getting the sixth vote.

Mr. Sullivan said he has also shared the frustration at the community council meetings when the new capital list was based on the input that they received that year. There are leadership changes in community councils and quite often if a year or two goes by you lose the memory of proposed projects. He was not sure this was the solution to the problem. He suggested that the administration could provide a list of any projects that disappeared from the list and the reasons why it had disappeared. He was not sure they needed an ordinance to accomplish this, but he felt they could work with the administration to provide the necessary information.

Ms. Taylor said she would have trouble supporting the city being in charge of the AMATS process when items that they requested on behalf of their constituents were changed arbitrarily.

Chairman Traini said he would support the ordinance. He was a community council president for years. They would do their capital list and what they got back from the administration looked nothing like what they had sent in. The other problem was projects disappearing. He urged the Assembly to pass the ordinance.

Question was called on the motion to AO 2001-184 and it passed:

AYES: Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

NAYS: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen.

- D. Resolution No. AR 2001-343, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving a conditional use for an alcoholic beverages conditional use in the B-3 District for a new restaurant or eating place license per AMC 21.40.180.D.8., located on Calais Subdivision, Tract D-11G at the northwest corner of Denali Street and Calais Drive, site address being 3210 Denali Street (Marah's Restaurant) (Case 2001-201), Planning Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 943-2001.  
(CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- E. Ordinance No. AO 2001-101, an ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 21.20 establishing a procedure and standards for creation, elimination, and alteration of zoning overlay districts and amending Anchorage Municipal Code Section 21.35.020 establishing a definition of overlay district, Assemblymember Tesche.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 439-2001.
  2. Ordinance No. AO 2001-101(S), an ordinance of the Anchorage Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 21.20 establishing a procedure and standards for creation, elimination, and alteration of zoning overlay districts and amending Anchorage Municipal Code Section 21.35.020 establishing a definition of overlay district, Assemblymember Tesche.
  3. Information Memorandum No. AIM 109-2001, Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation for an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 21.30 allowing for procedures in creating zoning overlay districts, and adding a new definition to Anchorage Municipal Code Section 21.35.020, establishing a definition for the overlay district, Planning Department.  
(CONTINUED FROM 8-28-01, 9-25-01, AND 10-23-01)
- F. Ordinance No. AO 2001-180, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 6.20.020.A. by repealing the requirement of dual majority vote for issuance of general obligation bonds in services areas, Assemblymember Traini.  
(CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

- G. Ordinance No. AO 2001-181, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 28.40.010.D. and repealing Anchorage Municipal Code Section 28.40.040 to clarify and simplify ballot language and content to facilitate the use of new electronic voting machines, Assemblymember Traini.  
(CARRIED OVER FROM 12-11-01)

14. **NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND END NO LATER THAN 10:30 P.M.):**

- A. Resolution No. AR 2001-354, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$240,000 anticipated charges to grants to Areawide Fund (101) to provide funding for four projects (Overhaul Grant Financial and Program Reporting Practices and Procedures; Design and Develop a Grants Management Database System for Muniverse Accessible by Agencies and Departments to Manage Grants; Research and Reconcile Grants; Compliance with GASB 33) associated with improving municipal-wide grants management and reporting activities, Finance.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 977-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- B. Resolution No. AR 2001-361, a resolution appropriating \$450,000 from the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Service Area Fund Balance (151) and \$800,000 from the Areawide General Fund Balance (101) as a contribution to the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Department 2001 Operating Budget (151), for police overtime, current employee and retirement medical costs, and contractual services, Anchorage Police Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 996-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- C. Resolution No. AR 2001-340, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,003,214 as a grant to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231), Department of Health and Human Services, from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to fund Community Health Nursing Services, Health and Human Services.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 798-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- D. Resolution No. AR 2001-359, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,722,917 to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231) from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the FY 2002/PY 2001 State Training and Employment Program (STEP) within the Planning Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 983-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- E. Resolution No. AR 2001-355, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$55,000 of anticipated charges to grants to the Finance Department (101) and \$275,000 as a contribution from various sources to the Information Technology Fund (608) for capital costs associated with implementing GASB 34, Finance.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 978-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 11.

- F. Resolution No. AR 2001-324, a resolution of the Anchorage Assembly endorsing the **Downtown Framework Final Report**, Dated June 22-27, 2000, Planning Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 914-2001.
- G. Ordinance No. AO 2001-161, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly repealing AMC 21.55.040(D)(1)(C) relating to submittals required for legalization of nonconforming dimensional yard setback encroachments (Planning and Zoning Commission Case 2001-175), Assemblymembers Shamberg, Tesche, and Clementson.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 931-2001.  
2. Information Memorandum No. AIM 113-2001.
- H. Ordinance No. AO 2001-182, an ordinance amending the zoning map and providing for the rezoning of approximately 9.54 acres from B-3 SL (General Business District with Special Limitations) to B-3 SL (General Business District with Special Limitations) for a portion of Section 24, T13N, R3W, S.M., AK, generally located south of DeBarr Road and on the east side of Muldoon Road, for the purpose of allowing tire repair, wheel alignment and brake service as permitted uses (Northeast Community Council) (Planning and Zoning Commission Case 2001-027), Planning Department.  
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 899-2001.
- I. Ordinance No. AO 2001-187, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code and Code of Regulations to limit the amount by which proposed fees, fines, and penalties are modified, Assemblymembers Taylor, Shamberg, Tesche, and Van Etten.  
a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 1014-2001.

15. **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/ASSEMBLY APPEALS:** None.

16. **SPECIAL ORDERS:**

- A. Resolution No. AR 2001-367, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage setting a hearing to consider protesting the continued operation of the beverage dispensary-tourism liquor license for Spenard Paradise Inn, Assemblymember Von Gemmingen. (LAI D ON THE TABLE)
- B. Resolution No. AR 2001-368, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage reaffirming all conditions imposed by the Assembly upon certain liquor licenses within the Municipality of Anchorage, Assemblymembers Tremaine, Clementson, Fairclough, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Traini, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen. (LAI D ON THE TABLE)
- C. Resolution No. AR 2001-369, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing the proceeds into the MOA Trust and other funds, Legal Department. (LAI D ON THE TABLE) (TO BE SUBMITTED)

17. **UNFINISHED AGENDA:** None.

18. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None.

19. **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS:** None.

20. **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** None.

21. **ADJOURNMENT:**


Ms. Fairclough moved,  
seconded by Mr. Van Etten,  
and it passed without  
objection,

to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 6-11, 2002

GM:cmw

