

- Current minutes may always be found for all Interior Issues Council groups at: www.investfairbanks.com
- Brandon Maitlen announced his resignation from this working group, as he has accepted a position in Washington D.C. with Senator Ted Stevens
- Brandon Maitlen nominated Doug Issacson to be the new secretary of the working group; his motion was seconded by Dan Hoffman. Without objection, Doug Issacson was made secretary
- The minutes from the last meeting were approved (Dan Hoffman moved, Ann Short seconded)
- There was further discussion of the economic inventory website
 - The site is being developed by Michael's team at the borough
 - The website is being patterned after the marketing video developed for the Fairbanks North Star Borough bond sales in D.C.
- Our 4 statements on "why our favorite relative should move to Fairbanks in 2011" for each member were discussed:
 - Ann Short:
 - Fairbanks is a Thriving Community
 - There is affordable housing
 - The economy is thriving
 - There is airline competition
 - Tom Irwin:
 - There is work available, with a career track
 - It is safe here
 - There is a high quality of life
 - It is a place with a bright future
 - Brian Rogers:
 - Lots to do, including soccer fields and youth-friendly activities
 - Schools are great
 - The town is safe for everyone, including youth
 - Michael:
 - What does it mean to be safe?
 - What are the benefits of safety?
 - Dan Hoffman:
 - The housing market is extremely competitive and buyer-friendly, compared to much of the lower-48. Due to a substantial increase in construction of senior-friendly community housing complexes, efficiency condominiums, and energy-efficient starter homes pioneered and facilitated through the Cold Climate Housing Research Center, prospective new home-buyers have a wide variety of affordable, energy-efficient options to choose from.
 - Despite our climate, consumer energy costs in Fairbanks are among the lowest in the nation. After State sponsored gas-line talks stalled in '06, a private-industry consortium moved in to quickly develop the gas reserves of the Nenana basin, piping clean and economical natural gas to Fairbanks, with surpluses routed to southern rail-belt users.

- As an entrepreneur, I know my relative would want to take advantage of our local university's *Fast Track to Success* program, where a prospective investor's capital is matched on a sliding-scale with research dollars, assistance with business-modeling and marketing, and other technical assistance to generate new jobs and industries. Funds are repaid through subsequent business-profits, with discounts afforded to those who lend subsequent in-kind instructional/participatory assistance to the program.
- Fairbanks is a great place for my relative to raise their kids! Our public school system is excellent, with our students performing significantly better on exit-exams than those in other areas of the State. Further, it is a very safe community for children, as public safety needs are now adequately and consistently funded. (Disparities of greater than 20% in comparative Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics automatically trigger an exclusion of public safety budgets from the City revenue-cap, per the City's *Crime Control Ordinance* of 2007.)
- Damian Thomas:
 - Work available for all local residents
 - Community should push for local hire, especially with incoming businesses
 - Once work is available, quality of life issues can be addressed (winter sports, etc.)
- Michael:
 - Hutchison institute of technology is a huge help to train the local workforce
 - Making more training facilities will help with the training of journeyman
- Damian Thomas:
 - Community needs to push incoming businesses to hire local
- Ann Short:
 - Some folks are willing to pay well for small renovation jobs at residences
- Jim Dodson:
 - ANGDA went through a visioning process, looking at what we have today and assessing the steps necessary to move forward
 - We need to move as a group in that direction
- Michael:
 - we can do this after our lists are completed
- Interior Alaska Business board member:
 - There is a clearing house available of trades-people
 - CCHRC has really moved forward with some advanced options
 - We need private builders to work with the unions
 - Sustainability depends on three core themes:
 - People
 - Planet
 - Profit

- The mine in Esther was a great example of what happens when these three things weren't combined: there was no profit, people lost their jobs, and there was a fair bit of environmental damage
- UAF School of Mines rep:
 - Resource development hinges on 4 elements:
 - Is the resource here?
 - Is it competitive to develop?
 - Can it be processed here?
 - Can it be marketed fairly easily?
 - These elements will always be “graded” relative to other potential developments
 - We need to study our mineral deposits, and get a clear “map” of what natural resources we have available to develop, not just concentrate on oil production on the north slope
 - Local legislators are also hard to convince
 - It would cost roughly \$100 million to inventory the state's entire natural resource “stock” - we have not spent the money
 - In five years, we should be able to map our resources and process some of them locally
- Jim Dodson:
 - You'd be surprised by the similarities between our discussion and those of the other groups
 - Our future could be envisioned and executed by us, or it can happen to us
 - What is our vision?
- Brian Rogers:
 - We need to inventory the natural resources and the human resources
 - More than raw materials, we need to develop a value added component of our economy
 - We need to take ownership and control of our economic future
 - We have virtually no manufacturing options
 - There is no tool and dye operation to support a manufacturing infrastructure
- Michael:
 - If the inventory were here, what would it look like in 5 years?
 - The information could drive investment capital
 - A lot of the capital coming in is from Canada – why not more American investors?
- Jim Dodson:
 - There seems to be a significant disconnect between our local economies and state policy
 - Dollar into state government does not build a strong local economy
- Brian Rogers:
 - Don't just look to local exports
 - Look for value added for local consumers

- People seem to be willing to pay a premium for local goods, just look at the Farmers Market
- Lumber is another good example of the local premium
- Outside investment is essential, though import substitution is key
- Tom Irwin:
 - We shouldn't forget our gas hydrates!
 - University is working on gas hydrate funding
 - Capital doesn't just happen; it does need to be sought out
- Bud Fate:
 - We don't have a community vision articulated to our legislators
 - Most of the legislative "power" is in SE/South Central
 - We really do need to communicate a vision
 - The local community is competing, not cooperating
 - People still don't enjoy the cold
 - We haven't been selling this environment the right way – we have a very stable climate, and not major disasters
- Bernard Gatewood:
 - Diversity of Churches
 - School system is decent
 - Not a lot of opportunity for "pickup games" as organized community sports are prevalent
 - Local sports cost money and aren't accessible for all families
- Michael:
 - Education system would be great
 - Kids could live anywhere
 - Economy would be diverse, robust, and even maintain interest
 - Most current medical technology would be available
 - There would be a clean environment