

RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
6:30 PM, Wednesday, September 14, 2016
At Wonder Park Elementary School

20 present, including presenters **(important news and information is highlighted in yellow for your convenience)**

Legislative Report

Rep. Tarr:

- Sept 27 is national voter registration day. The precincts that she works with/for only have a 7% voter rate. We need to work together as a team to make sure folks know about the importance of registering and voting.
- Working on an effort to link PFD with voter registration.
- September is hunger action awareness month. 165 million lbs of food gets thrown away each year in the US. Working with food bank and others on measures to raise awareness about food waste and food security issues.
- Public safety issues have heightened people's interest in getting involved. Working on generating potential solutions, some of which involve emergency funding, alternative funding, downtown partnership, cleaning up unsafe areas in parks and on trails, repair of lights, etc. Mayor's office is interested in partnering and entertaining these ideas.
- Ed Leach brought up the idea of designated "campgrounds" for homeless. Muni said that too much liability but there may be some alternatives to consider. Geran will look into this.
- Gasline efforts that the Governor involved in, stay tuned.
- SB91 got signed- it was about removing the lifetime prohibition for food stamps for those with drug felonies, an idea that came from Ed Leach!

Rep. Andy Josephson

- Passed Medicaid reform, passed crime bill, in last session
- PFD funded tax credits

Assembly Report, Pete Peterson

- 29 officers in academy now for a total of 389 officers total in Anchorage. Recruiting now for another academy. Takes about 6-9 months from time you enter academy until you are on the street as an officer. Lots of attrition though.
- Mayor submitted initial budget. Last year we cut 2% off previous budget. Going to cut .5% from now til end of year.
- Went around town for homeless count with about 120 people recently. Half of people he interviewed were women. None were drug users and/or alcoholics. Sitka place is being filled currently. Looking for additional housing options for the homeless. Assessed individuals, got demographics, to see if they are eligible for services to get them off streets. Progress being made with "housing first" initiative.
- Working on appeal rights for appraisals that people disagree with after a fire or catastrophe through an ordinance.
- Working on revising the loud noise ordinance in Anchorage which is currently set up for stationary loud noise, not moving noise makers, like cars.
- Heroin use is up per Methadone clinic downtown. Calls from those who want treatment are up 200%, but spice calls are down.

Forest Dunbar

- **Public safety town hall on Sept 22 at Begich Middle school 6pm-7:30pm**
- CCT video systems and improved lighting are part of the efforts to improve public safety

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- Reports that FBI often gets involved in crime investigations as backup, but doesn't mean that the recent murders are due to a serial killer
- Right now it's 15 day notice for illegal campers and assembly trying to lower that to 10 days
- Tax exemptions – Looking at ways to remove or alter some of these
- People Mover- going though process to change the route and increase ridership. There may be fewer routes but more frequently.
- Marijuana industry- more approvals happened last night including for testing facilities. So far there are no applications for businesses in east anchorage.

School board, Kathleen Plunkett

- Enrollment 48,000 in ASD, budget issues, 5 year graduation rates went up! Working on data dashboard for how ASD doing on a variety of indicators

Wonder Park, Sean Murphy

- Enrollment numbers are high
- Site improvements were from a bond package
- New bus drop off area working well

AMATS Bike Plan project, Dave Dewar, CRW engineering

Lots of bike related projects occurring! Will be done 2017. Open house on 9/20 at boys and girls club in Mt view at 5-7:30. www.anchoragebikeplan.com

- Pine/Mccary corridor – will add bike lanes
- Peterkin Ave – Meyer to north bunn – shared road/bike boulevard
- Mt view drive- north pine to north lane street – shared road
- 95% federally funded

ML&P, Dave Montieth

- Currently there is a 2% surcharge on your bill to move overhead wires to underground.
- Effort to install LED street lights throughout town using SMART principles
- Removing old cable and replacing it throughout town. Started already.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz

- Concerns about crime throughout the city, upcoming public safety town hall/fair
- Real ID- On Oct 10, if you want to enter a facility that requires ID, AK licenses won't meet the requirements. Will require passport. What does AK need to do to comply with requirements? Legislature made it so no state dollars can be used to create Real ID

Lot of backyard theft and break-ins in Russian Jack lately!

Secure your belongings, tell your neighbors, install motion sensor lights, and report it to the non-emergency APD line.

Picnic report- Had 300-400 people, all food was eaten. Success!

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.