

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes

7 PM Monday, September 12th, 2016

Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Board Members:

Marilyn Pillifant, President
Jim Richardson, Vice-President
Secretary, vacant
Clare Boersma, Treasurer
Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

I. Welcome.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the new Principal of Rogers Park Elementary, Ms. Nuri Johnsen introduced herself to those present. She is new to the school this year. She is a 50 year resident of Alaska and attended West High.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. A quorum was present, with 22 members present at the start of the meeting.

II. Community Council Business

- A. Minutes:** The minutes from the May 9, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob Churchill moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Bernadette Phillips seconded the motion to adopt. A vote was taken, with 14 votes to approve the minutes, and no nays.
- B. FCC Report:** FCC representative Bob Churchill reported that there had been no meeting of the FCC, so no report was presented.
- C. Treasurer's Report:** Clare Boersma reported that the RPCC funds total \$207.99.

III: Assembly Reports

Assembly Member Elvi Gray-Jackson reported as follows:

- *The Municipality is 58.2% through the 2016 budget year with 56% of the budget expended.*
- *Departments are managing budgets well.*
- *Department have been requested to save 0.5% of the 2016 budget.*
- *The Assembly received a 2017 preliminary budget that is required, by Code, 120 days before the end of the current year. Highlights follows:*
 - *Estimated decrease in revenues - \$2.0M*
 - *\$4.7M decrease in State Revenue Sharing*
 - *\$1.7M decrease in Program Fees and Interest*

- *Due to the State's reduction in the Permanent Fund distribution, there will be a reduction in the MOA's garnishment of PFD revenues. The MOA's collection of traffic and other fines not paid will be reduced by \$1.0M.*
- *Projected decrease in construction.*
- *The Administration must submit the 2017 proposed budget to the Assembly by October 1st.*
- *Public Hearings will be held on October 18th and a special Assembly meeting has been scheduled for October 25th. Public hearings begin after 6:00 p.m.*

The next Assembly meeting will be September 13th.

Assemblyperson Gray-Jackson reminded RPCC members that her term with the Anchorage Assembly is coming up in April 2017. She wishes for her replacement to be a person who will maintain the same level of commitment and effort she has provided over the years. She is supporting Felix Rivera as her replacement with the Assembly.

Mr. Rivera was present at the meeting and stood up to introduce himself to RPCC members.

Another candidate for Elvi Gray-Jackson's seat, Marcus Sanders was also present and also introduced himself to RPCC members.

Dick Traini reported as follows:

- *The Assembly has spent a great deal of time addressing marijuana-related issues in their recent meetings. One of the difficult issues to resolve has been zoning of marijuana businesses.*
- *This coming Friday is the Assembly work session on economic development related to marijuana businesses. Assemblyman Traini reports that the State does not have a limit on the number of licenses or plans for enforcement in place. At the end of September, retail license applications will begin coming in. The Assembly has to have a reason if they wish to say no to a proposed business application.*
- *The Mountain View Development Plan will be coming up soon, addressing such issues as 6-plexes, 8-plexes, etc.*
- *On Friday is the Major's Conference with the quarterly school district budget meeting from 10 AM to 12 PM. This is the meeting that occurs every quarter with the School Board.*

A follow up comment was made by Cheryl Borger relating to the importance of handicapped parking.

Starr Marsett introduced herself and said she will be our Anchorage School District representative.

IV. Legislative Reports

Harriet Drummond reports as follows:

- *There was not a great deal of activity in the legislature with house members running for reelection. She is part of the Legislative Council and reports that Legislators will be moving out of the current Legislative Information Office location to the Wells Fargo building in midtown. It will cost approximately one-third as much as the current LIO. There will be a budget reduction of one-quarter million for legislative affairs, which will result in a reduction of staffing from current levels. Legislative staffers are taking five furlough days (unpaid) per year and the Legislative Information Offices will be closed Friday afternoons.*
- *Ballot measure 1 will tie registering to vote with the PFD application data. This will also update addresses every year to correspond with the PFD data.*
- *Ballot measure 2 will allow loans for State secondary school loans.*
- *The Next Door and Nixle (APD alerts) sites are good sources for neighborhood/safety information.*

Jim Richardson made the comment that speaking of security; he was frustrated with the Legislators authorizing expensive new security systems in Juneau for themselves, while simultaneously promoting legislation to allow guns on University of Alaska campuses.

Andy Josephson reported as follows:

- *With the new voter initiative, there will be 70,000 new voters eligible to vote this November. The tie to Permanent Fund data is a good plan because the PFD files are scrutinized for accuracy.*
- *The legislative session should have been completed April 19th, but it went until May 19th. On May 31st, they went into an extended session. There was a split opinion on how to proceed. Governor Walker requested a fiscal plan to support the budget. There was a motion to reduce the PFD amount but the House was unwilling to approve this approach.*
- *On June 20, Governor Walker called a second special session He set in motion a plan to use earnings of the PFD to help fund state government – which would/will result in a decrease in the PFD amount. The House was unwilling to approve the Governor's motion.*
- *Governor Walker called another special session that began on July 8th. The legislature left with no substantive action on the budget. Governor walker now hopes for formation of a bipartisan group willing to address budget issues after the legislature reconvenes in January.*
- *UAA budget – UAA gets about 550 million outside of State funding. The State will add \$325 million this year.*
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Samantha – Berta Gardner's aide reported on the newsletter sent out – *Berta's Briefings* – that reports on her activities in the legislature. She is also working on the Education Taskforce to make recommendations on improvement in Alaska. They are looking at the experiences of other states for comparative information.

Samantha asked anyone not receiving *Berta's Briefings* to contact her.

V. Other Business and Announcements

Anne Lorber asked about cutbacks at the university and talks about strategic planning. In the discussion, it was mentioned that UAA did not ask for the \$110 million area that was recently completed.

Jim Richardson requested an update on the status of the proposed U-Med road. Josephson responded that Mayor Berkowitz cancelled funding for the project and the Governor vetoed the funding for the project. It is up to the legislature to re-appropriate the \$20 million plus that was set aside for the project. Dick Traini said the Assembly hopes the funds can go towards the Anchorage dock project.

Marilyn Pillifant reported that GCI decided to relocate their proposed monopole to the location of the church on the corner of Latouche and 27th. GCI's application for the pole for this project was submitted to the Municipality. The Municipality required some additional information that needed to be provided to by a date that has already passed. So the status of the monopole is uncertain at this point. Marilyn will try to obtain clarification on the status of GCI's project. Dick Traini suggested contacting Erika McConnell in the Municipality Planning Office.

Zack Fields and Christiana Grande presented an update on the Municipality's actions to address the homeless issue in Anchorage.

They presented a resolution to the RPCC members regarding homelessness and a proposed to develop a singletrack trail system within the Chester Creek Greenbelt to "open up" new trails to homeless camps to public use.

The proposed resolution was tabled until the October meeting to allow RPCC members the opportunity to evaluate the issue and determine whether or not they wished to support the resolution.

Zack clarified the definition of 'singletrack' trails in response to a question. He indicated that it meant narrow trails, meant for foot and bicycle traffic, and not suitable for 4-wheelers or other motorized use.

Mark Butler commented that the proposed system should be done well, otherwise user conflicts could be exacerbated between public users and homeless camp dwellers.

Jim Richardson commented that there are about 23 camps currently in the Chester Creek Greenbelt adjacent to Rogers Park, between Lake Otis and Gambell. We need to be cautious that we don't inadvertently encourage more camps.

Marilyn Pillifant reported that there will be another meeting on the homeless issue in October, and we can get additional input, consider the resolution and then take action.

Gregg Schumacher commented that we want to make sure trails are clean and we don't just relocate these camps.

Annette Cartier said that if these trails were to be built, it would be essential that they be multiuse trails.

David Evans said that he plans to vote for the resolution if it comes up next month, but he would be a little reluctant to use the trails until they are cleaned up.

Georgiana Derek has faith in the system that this can be done.

Nora Morse from the Mayor's office provided the following update on homeless actions by the Municipality:

- They have provided housing for 100 chronic homeless people
- John Thomas building will accommodate couples
- The State will issue housing vouchers and provide a liaison with landlords to facilitate rentals for homeless persons
- Nancy Burke will hold a meeting on Tuesday for a multiagency meeting on homeless issues
- There are currently 12 people on the CAP (Community Action Patrol) team
- Please keep reporting camp locations to the CAP
- There were fewer homeless individuals enumerated in the August count than in January, indicating an improvement.

Jim Richardson asked whether there was any latitude in the position of the ACLU to not require the two-week notice period before being allowed to clean up abandoned camps and garbage. Dick Traini provided the answer that no, ACLU was unwilling to cooperate to any degree.

Zack Fields commented that having a list of (homeless) individuals is helpful for tracking and working with these individuals.

To report a homeless camp – go to muni.org - which goes out to the CAP team. The Municipality must allow 15 day notice (Per the ACLU decision) before any cleanup can occur. The Municipality allows 16 days for safety. Most of the materials left behind are thrown away as trash.

Mark Butler commented on the idea of community patrols. Nunaka Valley has a formal car community patrol. Other community patrols involve walking through the neighborhood.

Such a program would need to be sanctioned /endorsed by the RPCC. It would require background checks for participants. There would be no connection to the Anchorage Police Department.

There is a meeting of Anchorage community patrols that meet on 1st Fridays.

The concept is to help be the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. Marilyn asked for volunteers to form a committee to investigate the concept of a RPCC community patrol.

Cheryl Barker commented that she would like to see a prohibition for a community patrol member to carry firearms.

Re: neighborhood communications.... The neighborhood website could be set up as a closed group (which has been done in Airport Heights) to allow residents to publish photos and information to other RPCC residents.

Berrell Nickerson, new to the area, asked for ideas to have speed bumps installed on Zarvis, near Rogers Park School. Several people suggested ways to make this happen.

Heather Ireland was complimented for completing the compilation of the CIP survey for the RPCC.

A Master plan Redevelopment Plan for Tikishla Park is in the works. It would be good to have a representative from RPCC to follow this plan development.

Jim Richardson reported that the Merrill Field Master plan is still in review and the draft plan (that RPCC commented upon in May) contained some components that were not favorable to RPCC.

In October, there will be emergency locate numbers placed on the lighting poles along the Chester Creek Greenbelt to facilitate emergency response.

The mayor's office is going to offer green dot training – how people can be active and become involved in the community. Meetings will be held at the Spenard Rec center on October 11th and the Fairview Community Center on October 6th.

Information on the program is available at <http://greendotalaska.com>

Marilyn Pillifant commented that the undergrounding program by ML&P conducted over the summer appeared to have been done very well.

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.