

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes

7 PM Monday, October 10, 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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 PM. A quorum was not present at the start of the meeting and was not achieved by the arrival of members as the meeting progressed. Therefore, no votes were taken at this meeting.

II. Community Council Business

Minutes: The minutes from the September 12th 2016 meeting were reviewed. Several comments and corrections were presented. Revised/corrected minutes from the September meeting will be available for the November meeting.

FCC Report: FCC representative Bob Churchill presented an FCC report on activities since the September RPCC meeting as follows:

There are a lot of new representatives to the Federation of Community Councils (FCC) Board. The Board does not have a secretary and are looking for a volunteer. The budget situation is not clear. The FCC Board has an outreach program to get out to the community council meetings. The goal of the Board is to keep the budget the same as last year.

The FCC is creating a master list of contacts for the different community councils. They have about 15 community councils that responded to their requests for information. The RPCC Our Survey Monkey had more responses than any of the other community councils. We had 228 responses, and the FCC is looking to use RPCC as a model.

The FCC Board suggests that neighborhood residents should report even small-scale crimes that are a nuisance. These data help bolster police services in budget negotiations. The Anchorage Police Department currently has 386 officers, with a target of the mid 400's, once they are fully staffed. They have abbreviated the initial training to get officers on the street as quickly as possible.

At the FCC meeting, Mayor Berkowitz spoke about the capacity of the Municipality to deal with inebriates. They have 14 detox beds in the city now and need to increase the number.

C. Treasurer's Report

Clare Boersma reported that the RPCC funds total \$207.99.

III: Assembly Reports

Elvi Gray-Jackson

Assembly Chair Elvi Gray-Jackson reported on assembly activities as follows:

The Assembly has received the Mayor's proposed 2017 budgets. Highlights follow:

The General Government Operating budget is \$502,346,507.

Total property taxes - \$271,069,413 (taxed to the Cap)

Represents a \$12.67 increase per \$100,000 of a home's assessed valuation or \$46 increase on a \$300,000 home.

Public Safety is increased by \$6.5M that includes funding for two academies that will increase the number of officers by 56.

SAP HR/Financial project will go live in 2017; therefore, a budget increase of \$5.6M is included in the budget for IT support, and depreciation of the capital asset.

2017 Budget Challenges:

Loss in State Revenue:

<i>State Revenue Sharing</i>	<i>\$4.7M</i>	
<i>PFD Garnishments</i>		<i>\$1.8M</i>
<i>ML&P Dividend</i>	<i>\$7.5M</i>	
<i>Public Safety</i>		<i>\$1.4M</i>

Municipality:

<i>Health Care increase</i>	<i>\$1.4M</i>	
<i>Labor</i>	<i>\$7.7M</i>	
<i>SAP</i>		<i>\$6.8M</i>
<i>Police and Fire Retiree Contribution</i>	<i>\$3.3M</i>	

2017 Department budget cuts as follows:

Fire - \$926K
Finance - \$719K
Maintenance and Operations - \$677K
Public Transportation - \$320K
Employee Relations - \$253K
Mayor - \$247K
Development Services - \$200K
Library - \$150K
Municipal Attorney - \$139K
Planning - \$113K
Parks and Recreation - \$100K

*Project Management and Engineering - \$90K
Management and Budget - \$77K
Traffic - \$65K
Purchasing - \$54K
Health and Human Services - \$50K
Real Estate - \$37K
Chief Fiscal Officer - \$9K
Public Works Administration - \$9K*

2017 Capital Budget:

<i>Facilities</i>	<i>\$ 2.04M</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>\$ 2.45M</i>
<i>Parks and Recreation</i>	<i>\$ 3.45M</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>\$ 1.40M</i>
<i>Roads</i>	<i>\$36.79M</i>
<i>Transit</i>	<i>\$ 0.75M</i>

Funding Source: Bonds

*October 25th - 1st Public Hearing
November 1st – Second Public Hearing
November 15th – Assembly amendment process and budget approval
Next meeting – October 18th*

Dick Traini

Vice Chair Dick Traini reported on assembly activities as follows:

Community Councils can receive monthly police reports. The Municipality is planning to provide training on RAIDS to community council presidents in the future – tentatively set for November 17th, 2016.

The Assembly continues to address the many issues associated with marijuana retail sales, particularly relating to new retail outlets. He assured the RPCC that the Assembly was watching the application process closely; including monitoring to ensure any debts owned the municipality would be paid prior to licenses being issued.

The Assembly has received the mayor's 2017 budget. Among the challenges is a loss of revenue from the State, and Municipality health care cost increases. There will be budget cuts in 2017 to:

*fire
maintenance
employee relations
library
planning
Parks and Recreation*

Re: 2017 capital budget

The problem is that there will be no capital budget from state, therefore capital is based solely on Municipal funding.

Anchorage School Board – Starr Marsett

Anchorage School Board member Starr Marsett stated that ASD enrollment was above projection and is approximately 48,036 students at this time. – which is 100 to 200 students below last year’s enrollment. The School Board is looking at the student capacity for all school facilities. Many of the grade schools are under capacity and most of the high schools are at or over capacity. They are looking for sources of funding for capital improvement projects. They are reducing costs by such things as using more energy efficient lights, improving the leases for bus services, etc.

Specific points include:

- *Aurora at 39 percent, so we need to consolidate*
- *Middle schools, none are over capacity*
- *Rogers Park at 107 percent over capacity*
- *High schools... West is at 108 over: Diamond is at 105: East at 95 percent: Chugiak at 69 percent*

The School Board will be looking at changing boundaries, alternative programs to address capacity issues.

No School bonds passed last year, so the School Board needs to figure how to do capital improvements. They may consider borrowing.

The next School Board meeting is an October 17th worksession.

IV: Legislative Reports

Senator Berta Gardner

Senator Gardner reported that her daughter and son have moved into the RPCC neighborhood.

She has an upcoming meeting of the legislative Suicide Council set for October 19th 2016.

She also informed us she is working with other legislatures to establish a training session for newly elected members for the upcoming session. The objection is to give these individuals a better understanding of the parameters of their responsibilities and scope of authority so their time can be used more effectively. Senator Gardner was asked if the legislators were open to information submitted by the public related to issues before them. She responded that they were but that it was best to provide it closer to or during session.

Friday the Civics Education Taskforce will be holding their second meeting at the new Wells Fargo 2nd floor conference room.

Senator Gardner is working with legislative working group to get the new legislature up to speed on fiscal issues. Their debate is whether to meet immediately or wait until after the election. The group will continue in November and December and will be open to the public.

Representative Andy Josephson

Relating to a question regarding legislative priorities (or lack thereof) in the 2016 session, Representative Josephson believes most legislators recognized the basic fiscal issues facing the State, but did not want to address them in 2016.

As a result, we now have a State budget deficit of about \$4.5 billion.. The State revenue from all sources was only about \$1.2 billion.

The legislature has already reduced the budget by 17 percent in the last 2 years.

The Legislature could, for one more year, sit back and exhaust the State's budget reserve and take no action in 2018. Representative Josephson believes this to be poor public policy since this would mean that choices would diminish and the State's credit would also be diminished.

There may (should be) and opportunity for a bipartisan coalition in this year's legislative session to address fiscal issues.

General fund budget at UAA has been cut by 25 million. Representative Josephson attended the UAA research forum... comprised of those people who bring in research dollars to the State (each dollar generates four dollars back in relevant research). Representative Josephson believes we can't afford to do away with the UAA research budget

He reported the good news last week... where new potential oil development projects were found that could add 200,000 barrel/day to North Slope production.

There were several questions on fiscal issues from RPCC members that Representative Josephson answered.

Representative Harriet Drummond

Representative Harriet Drummond commented that even though the possibility of increased oil production was encouraging, it would be 7 or 8 years before any of it would actually be in production. She also spoke about the orientation for new legislators that Senator Gardner spoke to and said it had been very helpful. She also expressed a concern that if we don't address our revenue flow we could see additional reductions in our credit ratings that increase the cost to the state due to us having to pay higher interest rates for money. She also expressed her frustration at the proposal to eliminate the Cooperative Extension Service in Anchorage as we have approximately 40 percent of the state's population.

V. Other Business and Announcements

There was no new business, given the lack of quorum.

Special Visitor – Moira Sullivan

Moira Sullivan, Director of the Live, Work Play program for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation talked to us about several issues related to quality of life in the municipality. She focused on the lack of affordable housing. She said that they are working on diversifying the economic dynamics of the municipality. She also mentioned that the employment dynamics are changing and we need to have affordable housing within the \$200,000 to \$300,000 range to attract and retain people. Employment has changed and people are not as tied to a physical location (city, state) as they are quality of life issues. They have seven committees and said if anyone is interested in being on a committee to let her know. She said that in talking with employers in Anchorage they feel that affordable housing is a key issues in attracting and retaining employees. They are also looking at other infrastructure issues. In addition they are looking at some zoning requirements they feel are unnecessarily burdensome and costly to builders and buyers. One area they are exploring is building housing units that can have up to four units.

Consideration for Speed Bump

We received an update on the possibility of creating a traffic-controlling device within the neighborhood. After discussion, it was agreed that a resolution would be provided for consideration at our next scheduled meeting.