

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes
7 PM Monday, November 14, 2016
Rogers Park Elementary School Library

Board Members:

Marilyn Pillifant, President
Clare Boersma, Treasurer
Bob Churchill, FCC Representative

I. Welcome.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was present, with at least 27 members attending from the outset.

II. Community Council Business.

A. Minutes: Minutes from the September 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob C moved to approve them. Clare Boersma seconded. Approved by voice vote, with no nays and no corrections.

Minutes from the October 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob Churchill moved to approve. Ric Wilson seconded. Approved with the clarification that we did adjourn at 9pm that evening.

B. FCC Report. The high points of recent FCC meeting were a presentation by Clinton Campion, District Attorney who discussed issues related to Senate Bill 91 (criminal Justice Reform). He expressed the possible impact of certain aspects of it and encouraged us to review it for ourselves. He also said he was available to make presentations to individual community councils.

Kyle Stevens, FCC Vice Chair, reported that he is continuing to do outreach to community councils who are not regularly attending FCC meetings. He asked for volunteers to go to these meetings and discuss the FCC with them. Jared James of the Mayor's Office informed us there were five winners of the mini-grant which are aimed at young Alaskans. Dick Traini reported for the Assembly and said they were working on additional costs that were being transferred from the State of Alaska to the municipalities. He also told us that it appeared the Vote by Mail process would be available in 2018.

C. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Clare Boersma reports that RPCC funds total \$208.

III. Assembly Reports.

Elvi Gray-Jackson *The 2017 Public Hearings have closed.*

In addition to the tax cap, the Anchorage Municipal Code Section 6.10.030 requires an annual spending limit regarding the General Government Operating Budget.

6.10.037 - Spending limitation on general government operating budget.

Per capita expenditures in the general government operating budget for tax-supported services shall be increased over the previous year's budget by amount no more than the percentage increase in the July CPI over the previous July CPI and those additional increases necessary to provide voter and legally mandated services.

(AO No. 83-50(S), 1-1-84)

- AO 2016-130 was introduced by the Mayor and Assembly members Gray-Jackson and Traini to amend Chapter 6.10 to bring Section 6.10.037 into greater alignment with the “tax increase limitation” popularly known as the “tax cap,” in order to provide a limitation on spending in the General Government Operating Budget in the event that the “tax cap” is ever repealed.
- If this ordinance is not approved the Assembly would have no choice but to reduce the budget by another \$9M. The Public Hearing was held on November 1st and action is scheduled for the November 15th meeting.
- In addition to this ordinance, Assembly Member Evans introduced another ordinance that would suspend the requirements of this section of the Code for one year which would also avoid this mandatory reduction in \$9M for the 2017 budget. The Public Hearing will be held at the November 15th meeting.
- At the November 1st meeting, the Assembly approved an increase in the 911 surcharge. The amount per month, which is currently on everyone’s phone bill, went from \$1.50 to \$2.00.
- On November 10th a work session was held to review and discuss the Assembly proposed amendments which include the following:
 - Funding to continue the Assembly’s oversight of the Administration’s SAP implementation – Outside contractor costs - \$48,000
 - Equal Rights Commission – Decrease in the amount of \$38,100
 - Restore funding reduction to the Anchorage and Chugiak Senior Centers - \$42,285
 - Restore funding for Alaska Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Intervention Program - \$36,000
 - Restore Library Funding - \$208,559 or \$150,000
 - Maintain snow removal at 84/hour level - \$552,515
 - Restore Funding for Community Grants - \$210,000, \$50,000, \$36,250 or \$25,000
 - Grant to the Glacier Valley Transit in Girdwood - \$20,000
 - Update Girdwood Comprehensive Plan - \$20,000
 - Reinstate Holiday Bus Service - \$320,498

resolution. David Evans moved to adopt the resolution. Bob Churchill seconded the motion. 27 votes in favor. One abstention. Zero opposed.

GET UPDATED COPY OF RESOLUTION FOR RECORDS.

B. AWWU Rosemary to Arca Water Upgrade Project – Jenny Satterfield, AWWU project engineer presented on the project, which began this summer. Purpose is to rehabilitate the water main that services the neighborhoods near Rosemary and East 20th Avenues, adjacent to Northern Lights Boulevard. There will be some closures next summer. Jennifer.Satterfield@awwu.biz (907)564-2743 or James Armstrong (907)564-2776. Next summer as soon as breakup happens, Northern Lights from Bragaw Street to Wesleyan Drive will be under construction. Expect lane restrictions and some weekend closures. Helen Nienhueser asked a clarifying question regarding where construction will occur and has occurred.

C. Chester Creek Public Safety Working Group update - Marilyn Pillifant reports that the group met on October 25 but did not come to any major conclusions. The group is trying to interface with what the Mayor is doing and be supportive. The group is also somewhat supportive of the “social trails” network proposed by Single Track Advocates.

Elvi Gray-Jackson reminded attendees that the Assembly has a committee of the whole meeting monthly on homelessness. Meetings occur on the third Wednesday of the month at 11am at the City Hall Assembly conference room.

David Lockert pointed out that petty theft and gunshots seem to have increased in the neighborhood. He is wondering what to do about it. Marilyn offered to call Nora Morse in the Mayor’s office to ask what else we can be doing. Elvi Gray-Jackson reminded the council that the City is still behind on hiring officers and still has a depleted police force, but that the new budget should help pay for hiring more officers and improve the situation. Sen. Gardner pointed out that homeless camps are not proven to be connected to petty theft and car break ins. Mr. Lockert disagrees. Marilyn Pillifant suggested the uptick in neighborhood invaders began during the Chester Creek trail rehabilitation in 2015.

Ric Wilson asked about the population living down by the creek. He asks if the homeless population in our area has multiplied or if there is simply a different type of person living in the woods. David Lockert says it is both. Anne Lorber says there seems to be an effort to move the homeless people to midtown.

Pete Mjos asks a question for Elvi if there is any provision for municipal APD bike patrols in the future. Elvi says there is some talk about that. She also clarifies that the downtown bus station is shutting down for reasons—residents should contact Andrew Halcro with questions. Elvi also reminds folks that the City has a homelessness coordinator, Nancy Burke, who is doing a great job. Nancy’s number is (907)343-7119 if residents have questions.

Helen Nienhueser points out that Trail Watch is on an upsurge. Marilyn asks if anyone else would like to participate in Trail Watch.

VII. Announcements.

A. Tikishla Park Master Plan – Survey: There is a meeting of the group scheduled 5:30-7:30pm at the Unitarian Fellowship Church (2824 East 18th) on Wednesday, 11/16/16. Please fill out the survey sent out by email.

B. Merrill Field Representative – Call to Action – Jim R. update (Jim absent and unable to present)

C. Tennis court park – Dave Evans: Gave an update on Les Sheppard's proposal (March, 2015) for a tennis facility in the greenbelt/Tikishla Park near Rogers Park east of Lake Otis Boulevard. There was recently an appearance before assembly members regarding the subject. Assemblymember Starr seemed supportive of the facility. Helen Nienhueser asked if it would be a private facility or a public facility. Dave Evans clarified that under the proposal the facility would be paid for by a private foundation but owned by the City. Elvi Gray-Jackson noted that she approved Mr. Sheppard's request to speak before the assembly, per Assembly protocol and because she encourages everyone to speak to the Assembly. However, nothing will happen without a public process. Karen Ruud asked Dave to clarify the proposed project location, but Dave mentioned the location proposed is not specific. Elvi G-J reminded attendees that she and Dick as Chair and Co-Chair of assembly must approve all committees and they know how we feel about it. Ric Wilson recalls the location where signs were posted last summer. David Evans encouraged attendees to fill out the Tikishla Park survey as soon as possible if they feel strongly about it. Anne Lorber pointed out that the project as proposed may cause traffic trouble in the area.

D. Secretary still needed for RPCC.

Ric Wilson also asked: Re 2013 fall wind storm aftermath, is there any City intention to clean up the downed trees in parks and near paths? Elvi will find out and let Marilyn know.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm