

ROGERS PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Marilyn Pillifant at approximately 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established by a show of hands.

In addition to the minutes from the November meeting being distributed via e-mail, additional copies were handed out for review by those present. A change was suggested on page three to read, "emphasizing the maximum out of research monies.". Pete Mjos moved the minutes be accepted as amended and the motion was seconded by Bob Churchill. The minutes were approved without objection.

The FCC report was given by Bob Churchill, the FCC representative.

Clare Boersma, RPCC treasurer, reported we currently have \$208.01 in our account.

Assembly Reports:

Ms. Elvi Gray-Jackson, Assembly Chair, reported that the assembly has approved the annual capital and utility budget. The property tax increase should be minimal per household. She shared that the Anchorage Police Department had graduated another class from the academy and we were progressing on increasing the number of street officers in Anchorage. They are also considering an ordinance to extend the current tax base for a second year. There will also be an effort to add spending limits to the municipal charter. If the assembly approves it, it will go to the voters for approval. Assembly Member Evans has indicated he will introduce motion to create a sales tax for the municipality.

Dick Traini informed us he felt the assembly had dealt with the taxicab ordinance. He also explained that the assembly can not approve an Uber type operation into Anchorage as the issues are controlled by the State of Alaska. He informed us that in order for a sales tax to pass the assembly it will take 8 votes.

President Pillifant thanked Ms. Gray-Jackson for the way she had dealt with the issue regarding the Greg and Malika Jones family. Mr. Jones had asked for time before the assembly as he felt he had been wrongfully linked to Islamic terrorism by one of the members of the assembly.

The question was asked if ML & P were going to have a rate increase. The response was that it appeared likely but would be less than had been reported in the Alaska Daily Dispatch.

Pete Mjos asked if Cogeneration was being considered for the new power plant and the response from Mr. Traini was yes, they were doing some of it.

Legislative Reports:

Representative Andy Josephson informed us that with the level of activity in his office, he felt he was already in Juneau. He had attended a conference in Colorado on how to make government function more effectively. Last week the House had a meeting to discuss the new coalition (which has 22 members currently) and fiscal issues facing this years legislature. They also discussed issues related to the gas and oil industry. He indicated that the feedback they had gotten from the gas and oil industry was they felt they were currently over regulated. The session is scheduled to be “gaveled in” on January 17. He stated that he personally supported the “Red Light” ordinance that assembly member Traini had introduced.

Harriet Drummond added that the new coalition was comprised of 17 democrats, 3 republicans, and 2 independents. The feedback she is getting from continuants is that keeping essential services is critical. She will be on the house resources and transportation committees this year as well as the legislative council.

Jim Richardson asked if they could update him on the status of the lawsuit regarding the former Legislative Information Office (LIO) building and if there had been any fraud issues related to Representative Hawker’s actions in the lease process. The response was that there was no new information at this time. It was shared that Sam Kito is now chairing the Legislative Council and he had demonstrated a very conservative fiscal approach so far.

In closing Representatives Josephson and Representative Drummond announced there would be a constituent’s meeting on Saturday, January 7th at 10:00 a.m. We should receive a flyer in the mail.

Berta Garner was represented by Samantha Harris. Ms. Garder will be the minority leader for the Senate and she is excited about working with the coalition in the House. They plan to make fiscal planning a priority and should have the results on the audit of the new crime lab. Of particular interest and importance is the backlog of the processing of rape kits.

Anchorage School Board

Tam Agosti-Gisler, ASB President, informed us that the Data Dash Board for the Anchorage School District was available on line and provides a great deal of information about both school and student performance. It also includes information on social data. The data is constructed in a way that does not identify individual students. She said that the ASB is focusing on student achievement and performance. They have made student performance a key part of the performance evaluation of the Superintendent of the Anchorage School District. They are planning to close Mt. Iliamna Grade School this year and main stream the students to one of four local grade schools. They are attempting to put the students in the least restrictive environment for the individual student. The next ASB meeting is

scheduled for Monday January 19th. She said there was good news in that they graduation rate was at 80% but our goal for 2020 was 90% and they were going to do what they can to achieve it. She concluded that she feels that we have “admired” problems for years but now aren’t going to admire them any longer, we’re going to fix them.

In response to questions Ms. Agosti-Gisler stated that the bonds were for facility/maintenance projects and included such things as fire suppression systems and maintenance projects that we can’t afford to wait on. If the bonds pass it should result in a \$1.21 increase in cost per \$100,000 in value of our homes. She also addressed the student nutrition program, stating it was currently in “the red” but we hoping that improvements as to food items, adding culturally diverse foods, etc. would improve that. They were seeing a significant increase in participation. Several parents commented there were items that needed improvement and Ms. Agosti-Gisler took note of those items and said she would look into it. There are issues that come with using a central kitchen for all food preparation. She stated that enrollment numbers were steady. She was asked if there was a preference for admittance to the Alaska Native Charter School for Alaska Natives and responded “no there isn’t”. A question was asked if there would be any increasing in staffing for the schools who would be receiving students from Mt. Iliamna. The response was there would be no additional staffing but staff from Mt. Iliamna would be used to support the students in the new locations.

The RPCC executive board had a presentation by Officer Robyn Nave of the Anchorage Police Department CAP team on police activity in our community council area. Officer Nave can be contacted via email at RNave@muni.org.

Jim Richardson was asked by President Pillifant to share the information received by the executive board. Mr. Richardson used the handout provided by Officer Nave. The report covered data from January 1st 2016 through November 30th 2016. There were approximately 1781 calls generated for service from our area which broke down as:

- 215 theft calls/158 police reports generated
- 38 vandalism calls/10 police reports generated
- 61 burglary calls/29 police reports generated
- 381 officer initiated calls (318 of which were traffic stops)

In response to our community survey the top five crime concerns were:

- Homelessness
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Speeding
- Burglary

What APD shows as the most reported issues are:

- Liquor violations (279 calls)
- Disturbances (268 calls)
- Reporting Suspicious Activity (138 calls)
- 911 Hang ups (165 calls)

Officer Nave had stressed that it is very important to crime suspected or actual criminal activity. The better the information from the called the more effective action officers can take. She also stressed that we should not put ourselves in danger, dealing with criminals is best left to the law enforcement professionals.

There are maps available on line that show criminal and police activity in our community council area.

There were a number of suggested things we can do to reduce criminal activity in our neighborhoods such as:

- Improve housing and neighborhood lighting (make in unpredictable or event generated when possible)
- Lock Up (vehicles, doors, garages) and don't leave valuable in vehicles, particularly overnight.
- Social Pressure Groups: these are groups that walk in the neighborhoods and parks so that groups with potential criminal activity do not want to be seen and avoid those places.

Again Officer Nave stressed how important it is to report suspicious activity to law enforcement as soon as possible.

Officer Nave provided a map of high density/frequent occurrences of homeless populations. She had informed us that when a homeless camp is sited that it can be reported on line at:

<http://www.muni.org/anchorageworks/CRM/ServiceRequest/ServiceRequest/APD/HC>.

She said the more specific the information the better it is for the officers.

Officer Nave said that the fence bordering Northern Lights had been constructed and located in such a way that it made it difficult to provide street observations of activities there.

In concluding Officer Nave informed us that there are other agencies that can be helpful that include: Code Enforcement, Traffic Engineers, and Trail Watch.

Nora Morse, from Mayor Berkowitz's office, talked about the survey results which closed on November 27th. One of her responsibilities is to work on safety issues.

She announced that we had 26 new APD officers and the goal included another 56 officers. There were 155 responses from our community council to the survey. The three most often mentioned items were:

- More late night patrols
- Walking and biking patrols
- Increased traffic patrols

The first and third items were already being planned to begin in the near future. The walking and biking patrols will take more time to implement. One of the challenges for them is to balance officers not in vehicles with officers in vehicles to coordinate response times. In many cases it is policy/practice to have two or more officers responding to a call.

Ms. Morse informed us that Beth Nordlund, from the Parks Foundation, is working on trail identification markers. A question was asked if the Muni was working on “smart bridges” and the response was that the Muni didn’t have the funding for them at this time.

She also informed us that the portal for reporting homeless camps had been improved and is much easier to use. The site can be accessed through Muni.org. She encouraged us to visit the site and to offer any suggestions on how to improve it. If the issue is trash only the report goes to community services, however if it involved more it goes to APD.

Nora added that there is also an attachment section on the report so people can add things such as photos of the areas of concern. Once the camp is reported it goes to the CAP team and their objection is to “post” the camp as soon as possible. They are hoping to be back to full staffing in this area by summer.

She also informed us that some of the camps are on Alaska State lands and that is an impediment to them dealing with the camps. They are trying to get the State to sign an agreement that will allow them to deal with the camps.

Jim Richardson did an update on the Merrill Field issue. In our April meeting we submitted an eight page resolution addressing our concerns and that is still on record. Mr. Richardson did not feel that our concerns were being taken seriously and that none of them had been addressed to date. Ms. Gray-Jackson offered to assist us with any of our concerns.

Prior to the close of the meeting President Pillifant read a letter of support from Representative Josephson for the traffic calming device we had requested on Zarvis Place.

The meeting was adjourned by group consensus.

