

Rogers Park Community Council Minutes
7 PM January 9th, 2017 Meeting
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 7:01 PM. A quorum of 15 members was present at the start of the meeting.

II. Community Council Business

A. Minutes

The minutes from the December 2016 meeting were reviewed. Bob Churchill made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. This was seconded by Jim Richardson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. FCC Report

FCC representative Bob Churchill presented an FCC report. The FCC had received a report from the Mayor's office with some municipal news. There are now 412 police officers with the Municipality. Bettye Davis talked about the School Board.

Agenda item out of order

IV: Legislative Reports

Representative Andy Josephson

As Representative Andy Josephson was scheduled to travel to Juneau that evening to prepare for the upcoming legislative session, we asked him to give his legislative report at the beginning of the meeting.

Representative Josephson informed us that as co-chair of the house resources committee, he was pleased that he had someone with environmental expertise on his staff this session. He had participated in a strategy meeting that day and was pleased with the results. A primary focus this session will be on addressing the budget gap. He has pre-filed a bill regarding providing health care benefits for

widows/widowers and children of first responders who die in the line of duty. This bill would cover the partner until they are eligible for Medicare and children until they reach majority age. He said there was HB 137 that will increase fees related to hunting and fishing. He concluded by saying that he expects the House to propose bold actions to deal with the financial crisis we are facing.

He was asked if there was any way to have a budget bill supporting education as the first item on which the legislature takes action? The response was that there was no practical way to do that, but he assured us he would continue to take action to support funding of education. His personal position is that he does not support any significant cuts to education.

He was asked if UAA could better engage in long term financial planning? It was this individual's opinion that this is something that UAA could take advantage of and improve their fiscal position. Representative Josephson said he would consider that and reminded us that UAA brings in approximately 600 million of their total budget (about 2/3rds).

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C. Treasurer's Report

Although the Clare Boersma, our treasurer, was not present due to the birth of a new baby (Jillian), it was reported that we currently had \$208.01 in funds.

III: Assembly Reports

Elvi Gray-Jackson

Assembly Chair Elvi Gray-Jackson was not available due to travel.

Dick Traini

Dick Traini gave the Assembly report. He informed us that Assembly member Evan's proposal for a sales tax had been turned over to Mayor Berkowitz's office. There are issues that need to be addressed between any Municipal tax and State Tax. He also reminded us that we have a large military population in Anchorage who can shop on the Military base and avoid any taxes. He expressed a concern that a sales tax might have a negative effect on merchants. There are also administrative costs, both the merchants and the municipality to collecting taxes. The assembly currently has 3 or 4 marijuana licenses they are considering. Mr. Traini also informed us that an Assembly member would be proposing an advisory vote to see what community members think about fluoride in the water system. This would not have any force of law, merely information. He concluded by informing us that the Assembly at their

next meeting will be considering the Anchorage School Bond proposals. He added that unlike past school bonds that received financial support from the state, these bonds would be paid for locally.

A question was asked regarding the fees collected to pay off a bond, are those fees still collected after the bond is retired? Mr. Traini said in some cases that is the case.

He was asked about the status of the "Red Light Project" which is a proposal to use cameras to identify individuals running red lights and issue them citations. The president asked for a show of hands if people supported this concept. 13 indicated they supported it and 1 did not.

He was asked about the status of the Spenard Road project and the use of eminent domain. Mr. Traini responded that he has a serious concern with the use of eminent domain.

A comment was made that in our last meeting it had been brought up that the lights were not turned on bordering Northern Lights and that Ms. Gray-Jackson had taken action and got them turned on.

IV: Legislative Reports (continued)

Senator Berta Gardner

Samantha Straus reported for Senator Berta Gardner. Senator Gardner is on the community and regional affairs committee this session. They are working on a bill regarding oil & gas tax credit disclosures but it has not been assigned a number yet. They are hoping to have it numbered and available for public review by the end of February. She also informed us there would be a continuant's meeting this Saturday. They are also planning another meeting in March. When the dates are set, they can be accessed by calling our legislative representatives offices or on the Internet. They are also hoping to do a mailer.

V. Other Business and Announcements

Presentations, Actions items and discussion.

a) GCI Cell phone tower update

Marilyn Pillifant reported she had gone to a planning and zoning department at the Muni. regarding permit (#C-16-1630), a cell tower being placed in our community council area. Bob Parker with GCI submitted the plans on 10/27/16 and had been approved. There will be a 55-foot mono pine tower with an additional eight foot lightening rod on top. There will be a fence compound (18' x 15' x 6') at the base of

the tower that will be landscaped. The 'fall distance' to the nearest house is 155 feet (less than the 55 foot height of the tower). However, there is a garage within the 'fall distance' of the tower.

It was reported that the tower will be camouflaged to make it look like a spruce tree.

b) Tikishla Park

On the Tikishla Park planning process, there had been lots of comments on keeping the greenery in the area. There is supposed to be an open house regarding the project in February, however a date has not been set.

c) Lighting along the alley south of 27th Avenue

Jim Richardson brought up a concern about the lighting on E. 27th alley between LaTouche and Maplewood. He stated he had asked Officer Nave about specifics regarding calls they had received in this area. He stated that he planned to do a one-question survey of people living in this area regarding the lighting. He plans to ask them if they would support pursuing the issue of lighting in there area.

A comment was made that a lot of the trash in this area seemed to be related to alcohol consumption.

There was a vote regarding the RPCC doing a one-question survey to determine resident preference on whether or not to advocate for street lamps to be installed (by the Municipality) on the actions along the 27th Avenue alley from Glenwood to Maplewood. There are 20 homes along this stretch. A vote to support the survey was taken. The result was 15 voted for the survey, no votes against and no abstentions. The results of the survey are to be presented at the February meeting.

d) Tennis Court Update

There was no new information available on Les Sheppard's tennis court proposal at this meeting.

e) Zarvis Street traffic calming

Jim Richardson asked about the status of the traffic calming effort on Zarvis Street. Apparently there won't be any data gathered until spring. The reason is that the traffic patterns and behavior are often different when snow is off the roads and usually presents a more accurate picture of any problems.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 PM.