

Russian Jack Community Council

December 13, 2017

32 present including presenters. It's the annual Potluck meeting!

Kendra Kloster: Parks foundation wants to partner with RJCC for annual picnic and park cleanup project. They want ideas on areas to clean up. We will keep this in mind and discuss at the January Council meeting. Kendra will get the local area parks report cards which will help us select an area.

Legislative Report

Senator Bill Wielechowski: Heading back to Juneau soon for regular session. Attended Commonwealth north meeting today downtown. Recent economy reports show that we are slowly starting to come out of this recession. Still need a long term fiscal plan. One idea is a constitutional endowment. New ice skating oval at the new Muldoon park is awesome!

Sen. Tom Begich: Proposing a similar concept/idea for an endowment that is structured slightly different than the one Sen. Wielechowski has. Josh Spring works for Sen. Begich and is working on homelessness issues in Anchorage to make a common and coordinated plan to end homelessness with real results. Will be introducing bill that leads to expungement for those who have committed crimes that are no longer considered crimes, like marijuana related crimes that are no longer crimes. Also introducing repeal to marriage being only between a man and a woman. Working with Geran Tarr on capital projects. Also will be working on energy bills and issues among other things.

Rep. Geran Tarr: SB54 made substantial changes to SB91. During special session deeper discussions occurred than what would have happened during regular session. Supports the expungement bill because it is a barrier to people getting jobs and becoming citizens who contribute to society again. Partners for progress is an organization working on public safety issues. Legislature put more funds into treatment beds but there were delays with the funding and this is being worked on. Tarr will ensure that treatment funds, esp. for opioid epidemic, are being funneled into programs. Untested rape kit issues – SB55 required an audit of untested kits to learn scope of the problem. AK has 3800 untested kits statewide, with Juneau being the worst. There have been changes in processing of these kits already as a result of the audit but still working on it. HB31, includes additional reforms in how victims are able to report and requires police to be trained in sexual assault awareness and requires some policy changes related to testing kits and domestic violence, etc, needs to get through all the way and needs letters of support. AK won't get some of the tested kits back until Feb because the labs are now backlogged. Promoting AK grown products.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholtz staff: Main issues will be healthcare costs and transparency, Jan 6 at Emmanuel Presbyterian church from 2311 Pembroke street at 10am.

Anchorage Assembly Report

- **Pete Peterson:** Assembly is getting lots of reports and complaints about car thefts. APD has made 238 arrests for car theft. The Muni is leasing an electric bus to see how it will work in our climate. SWS is also participating because they might switch to battery operated vehicles as well if it works. Passed operating budget on Nov 21. All depts. Took cuts except APD and IT dept. Passed ordinance that will help clean up homeless camps quicker than before. Once a camp is tagged, they have 15 days to move out, which is proposed to be lowered to 10 days. Passed a 10-cent fuel tax, not on aviation fuel or boat fuel but on other motor vehicles Goes into effect in March. In April will have an opportunity to vote to lower property taxes. Proposing a 2 % alcohol tax that would be dedicated towards treatment facilities, etc.
- **Forest Dunbar:** Worked a lot of budget. Funded an additional 2 police academies for next year. Have heavily invested in police force in last few years. Crime in Anchorage is slightly down from last year and arrests are up. Increased budget for prosecutor's office because they will have more cases to try. Just graduated another police academy last week of 18 officers. Working on new food code with health and human services. This code regulates handling of food in restaurants but it also impacts cottage food industry which is concerned. Will put

in a bill amendment that will exempt community council events since church events and block parties. **Working with Sen. Bill Wielechowski to host a snow removal town hall on Monday, December 18th from 6pm-7:30pm at Wonder Park Elementary. Please attend if you have comments to share about snow removal!**

School Board, Kathleen Plunkett: Will be bonds on the ballot this spring. There is a survey for people to provide input on how the ASD should spend funds. If this interest you, please visit the website to respond.

Principal Report, Sean Murphy: Winter break is coming up. Have high transient rate of students at Wonder park right now. This impacts proficiency of kids when they move around a lot. Struggling with attendance. Has lowest attendance rate in the ASD at wonder park. Has instructional coach, has behavioral coach, has social worker to work with families, students.

FCC report, James Smallwood: Will be getting a new Mayor rep who will attend community council meetings to talk about Mayoral issues. Beans Café was trying to be a shelter again but couldn't get insurance. **Assembly will work with Beans to open them as a shelter.**

Neighbor works AK, Chantel Welch, Dir of Community Development: Community impact measurement survey; interviewed 220 people in RJ neighborhood over the summer. Purpose in 2013: Gather data, do some projects, learn about neighborhood. Purpose in 2017: Measure, re-assess the neighborhood, find out what needs are. Wants to work in a way that will be easily replicated in other communities. David Reamer worked on a history of Russian Jack neighborhood. Traffic and safety were big issues. Positives was that it is quiet, parks. **Key recommendations: Foster winter walkability, advocate for child safety to/from school, initiate community branding. People are becoming more interested to get involved in the community.**

St. Anthony's AFACT group, Pat Hayward: public Meeting about mini traffic circles on Jan 11 from 7pm-8pm at ST Anthony's church to discuss these 6 traffic circles on San Roberto, 2 on Klewin, other areas. The city has funding for these and needs to know that there is community support to build them.

RJCC officer election:

Nominees

Ed Leach for President- Elected without objection

Fred McCleary for Vice President- Elected without objection

Kendra for Treasurer- Elected without objection

James Smallwood for FCC rep- Elected without objection

Sherry Wright for Secretary- Elected without objection

Kathleen Plunkett for Trustee- Elected without objection

Meeting adjourned 8:12pm